



# Kristin Dassler-Alfheim

STATE SENATOR • SENATE DISTRICT 18

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Sen. Dassler-Alfheim, Legislative Democrats introduce bills to support public schools**

*Package includes funding boost and adds voucher cost transparency to property tax bills*

MADISON, WI – Today, Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim (D-Appleton) joined fellow Legislative Democrats to introduce the “Kids First” bill package addressing key issues with funding for public schools and voucher program cost transparency.

“Adequate funding for our public education system is essential for kids’ growth and the future of our communities and local economy. Kids need teachers and schools that are well equipped to provide them with a safe learning environment and positive formative experiences. Strong public schools benefit the whole community by providing kids with the skills they need to find success in the workforce and beyond,” said Senator Dassler-Alfheim.

LRB-4705 funds our kids and local school districts to the inflationary levels they deserve. The legislation couples an inflationary increase in per pupil revenue limits with an increase in general school aids to cover that increase and avoid a hike in local property taxes. The bill also earmarks \$30 million for school districts that would see their aid reduced under current law to address funding disparities.

“Stagnated per pupil revenue limits ignore the reality of inflation and limit school districts’ ability to respond to the changing needs of our kids. This ensures they have the funds necessary to provide our children with the high-quality education they deserve, while reducing the burden on property taxpayers,” said the Senator.

LRB-4318 requires property tax bills to include a line item stating the taxpayer cost of vouchers in order to educate taxpayers on the public dollars being spent on voucher schools compared to public schools. In the 2024-25 school year, \$22.5 million was diverted from the Appleton Area School District, Menasha Joint School District, Neenah Joint School District, and Oshkosh Area School District and sent to private schools. In total, the state spent over \$342 million on the voucher program. Currently, property tax bills are only required to list the amount going towards public schools. A similar initiative has been taken in Green Bay; this legislation simply extends this requirement statewide.

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“The people of Wisconsin deserve to know just how much of their tax dollars are going to private schools. We already have the cost of public schools on property tax bills. All this does is apply this measure of accountability to private schools as well. Most people have no idea how much is coming out of their taxes and going to private schools, and that’s a problem,” said the Senator.

This isn’t the first attempt Legislative Democrats have made to support students and the work that public schools do. At the start of session, Legislative Democrats introduced [Senate Bill 67](#), which would lower costs for families across the board by providing free, healthy school meals for kids. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education, but has yet to receive a public hearing.

“I’m hopeful that Republicans will join Democrats in giving our children the opportunity to succeed not only as students, but as the future of Wisconsin. As we head back to school this fall, I am looking forward to movement on these bills and securing bipartisan support for our public schools,” concluded the Senator.

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