



BRAD PFAFF
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2023

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The Cornerstone of Our Communities

Friday night football games. Homecoming. Marching bands in local parades.

Schools are the cornerstone of our communities. People have pride in their school and understand the importance of a good education. Ensuring that our schools have the resources and tools our children need in a diverse and ever changing world is important.

Education is one of the greatest drivers of long-term economic success.

Further, education safeguards democracy. To quote Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "Democracy cannot succeed, unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely."

The state budget for this biennium must recognize the power and value of education. Our kids deserve an opportunity to succeed, regardless of their zip code.

As many of our schools experience declining enrollment, they face funding challenges that have led to increased class sizes and reduced educational opportunities. This budget must address the growing demographic shift in our communities by providing our schools with the funding they need, and ensuring our school boards and teachers can address their needs locally to help our kids grow and learn.

We must also ensure public schools in Wisconsin have the special education support they desperately need. While the cost of special education has increased over the years, support for special education has remained stagnant, causing Wisconsin schools to lose special education teachers at a faster rate than their peers.

Providing adequate funding to schools while addressing the unique, individual needs of students will eliminate barriers to education and improve the well-being of kids at school.

Students learn best on a full stomach. School breakfasts and school lunches allow kids to be more engaged in solving math problems and learning about the history of our great state.

Similarly, when a student has a strong mental health support system, they are better enabled to learn. As we've seen a recent increase in mental health struggles, it critical that we give students the mental health resources they need now, so that they can succeed and manage these challenges in the future.

The balance of these supports at school with the support of parents at home is critical. Parents play a vital role in education from helping their kid with homework to serving their community on local school boards.

I'm a proud graduate of Wisconsin public schools, and I'll continue to work to help the students of western Wisconsin succeed.

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Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.