



State Senator  
**Rick Gudex**

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### **Another Attack on School Choice**

Democrat tries, fails to hide real motives behind bad numbers

**Fond du Lac**— According to a recent Legislative Fiscal Bureau report, Wisconsin will spend an estimated \$1.1 billion on the School Choice Program between 2012 and 2017, or less than 2% of what Wisconsin spends on public K-12 schools.

According to legislative Democrats, this proves that parents should be stripped of their right to choose an educational path for their children.

“The numbers don’t lie,” said Sen. Rick Gudex (R-Fond du Lac). “Total state spending on K-12 over six years will be more than \$37 billion by 2017. That combined with nearly \$30 billion in property tax revenues, that’s \$67 billion in funding for public schools. But we’re supposed to be outraged by spending less than two percent on Choice schools?”

“Choice schools cost much less than the public schools do, plus we give families options for when the local public school doesn’t work for them,” Gudex said.

Despite this, Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse) used the report to blast School Choice, citing “historic funding cuts” that she blamed on “unaccountable” Choice schools while also noting that “more than fifty” schools had been kicked out of the program for various infractions.

“Sounds like they’re being held accountable, doesn’t it?” Gudex asked.

Wisconsin’s public schools remain among the best in the nation, as evidenced by the state’s no. 2 national ranking on the ACT college readiness exam. But for some students, the public schools simply aren’t the right fit. The School Choice program was created in 1989 to give families more control over where their children went to school.

“I don’t understand why some Democrats hate that so much,” Gudex said. “How can they assume they know what’s best for every child? But that’s what they think. They want control over your children, get rid of any choices at all.”

Gudex said that Shilling left a few facts out of her press release:

- Under GOP control, spending on K-12 schools has grown over \$630 million since 2011.
- The last time Democrats controlled the state government (2009-2011), they cut over \$400 million GPR from public schools in a single budget.

“Instead of wasting time tearing down our Choice program, we should be touting it as a success, giving parents the option to choose, to guide their own children. That’s what some Democrats want to take away.”

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