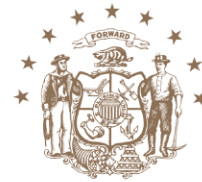




SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



For Immediate Release
January 30, 2013

Contact: Rep. Sondy Pope
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REP. POPE: LET'S FOCUS ON IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR ALL

(MADISON) Over the past two years, no single issue has received as much attention as the future of Wisconsin's public schools. The last budget cycle saw the largest cuts to public education funding in the state's history and those types of funding reductions have an impact on the quality of our education and the inequity that exists across our state.

"Last session Republicans chose to protect and expand private school vouchers and that came at the expense of public education," said Rep. Pope. "As a result the vast majority of our public school students are receiving *less* state support than their private voucher peers."

A recent memo from the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau shows the overall effect that reduced state aid has had on the amount of state general aid each district receives per student. Statewide, the average student receives roughly \$4,900 of state general aid while choice students are guaranteed \$6,442 in state aid. Over 80% of school districts now receive *less* than the voucher guaranteed amount. Shrinking state support only further stresses local property taxpayers who are asked to pick up more of the cost to educate students.

"We need to get serious about investing in public education to see the real results that Republicans and Democrats alike have called for from our students and educators," Rep. Pope said. "Superintendent Tony Evers has presented the legislature with a funding reform plan that I hope we have the opportunity to consider and debate. Until we bring every student onto an equal footing, I do not think it is appropriate to risk any additional resources on expanding unproven and unaccountable voucher schools."

The referenced LFB memo has been included along with this release and can also be obtained by contacting Rep. Pope's office.