

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
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- Appointments ... Appt
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NORTHWOODS HI-RIDERS

Snowmobile Club • Speed Run Specialists
Solberg Lake • Phillips, Wisconsin



To Whom It May Concern,

April 8, 1997

We the undersigned members of the Northwoods Hi-Riders of Phillips, WI., see attached, need and want the 1.8 million dollars from the general purpose revenue to help fund our Wisconsin, Price County Included, snowmobile trails. We encourage the legislature to adopt this proposal.



NORTHWOODS HI-RIDERS

Snowmobile Club • Speed Run Specialists
Solberg Lake • Phillips, Wisconsin



FOR 1% SOLUTION

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
Den Redwood	N10531 SOLBERG LK RD PHILLIPS, WI.	715-339-3443
Alan J. Ryski	N9888 Peninsula Dr. Phillips, WI	715-339-3518
Wendy Redwood	N10531 E Solberg Phillips, WI	715-339-3443
Kari Poldoski	W7478 County Rd W Phillips, WI	715-339-6553
Elisabeth Poldoski	W7478 County Rd. W Phillips, WI 54555	715-339-6553
Dan Novotny	W9632 E. Solberg Lk. RD. Phillips, WI.	715-339-3376
JIM GARY	P.O. BOX 1 PHILLIPS, WI. 54555	715-339-4378
Jackie Steary	PO Box 1 Phillips, WI. 54555	715-339-4378
Brett Lake	N8426 Birch Hill Rd Phillips WI 54555	715-339-6746
Tom Polersky	P.O. Box 143 Phillips WI 54555	715-339-4898
Jan Kelly	N7056 Hwy 13 Phillips 54555	715-339-2768
Mike Dwyer	N9575 West View Rd Phillips Wis. 54555	715-339-3535

Northcentral Technical College
Instructional Resources

Response to Joint Finance Committee on 1997-99 Biennium Budget

April 10, 1997
University of Wisconsin - Marathon County

Today I would like to direct my comments in relation to the proposed **Project TEACH - Technology for Educational Achievement In Wisconsin.**

I am Barb Cummings, a Team Leader for Instructional Resources at Northcentral Technical College. For the past 12 years, I have been very involved in the development and coordination of *Distance Education* and *Information Technology* for our college and for the Wisconsin Technical College System. Our college has worked in collaboration with the K-12 schools, University of Wisconsin Campuses, and other technical colleges in the development of Regional Interactive Television (ITV) Distance Education Networks. Each of these networks provide a video system for communicating and sharing instructional resources within a region of the state. Examples are Central Wisconsin Educational Network (CWETN), Wisconsin Overlay Network for Distance Education Resources (WONDER), and Wausau Area Narrowcast Users Consortium (WANUC). Each of these networks have been built to share instructional resources at all levels.

The development of a distance education network requires:

- ◆ extensive planning (an average of three years per network)
- ◆ communication
- ◆ technical expertise
- ◆ resource sharing
- ◆ personnel time

Presently, the Wisconsin Education Communications Board has very successfully provided staff to assist in the planning and development of these regional networks. The WECB staff have facilitated collaboration, technical assistance, internetwork communication, and interagency cooperation. A WECB advisory board, Distance Education Technology Interagency Collaboration (DETIC) has provided a monthly forum to address issues, disseminate information, and employ continuous improvement strategies and techniques for telecommunication technologies. The WECB staff provide leadership for a Technology Standards Forum and a Distance Education Network Directors group that is represented by a cross section of educational entities - UWs, WTCS, K-12, and health care institutions. As an end user of these services, I feel these activities have helped Wisconsin in the development of distance education networks.

Project TEACH is an excellent plan for supporting the integration of Information Technology into the K-12 schools. The project provides the funding component for both the technical planning and implementation and professional development training for the faculty and staff. The staffing positions that have been recommended to support this project will be reallocated from four

positions of the WECB that presently support distance education initiatives in the state. The role and function of the newly created positions will leave a **void** in the state.

The proposed positions will be used to provide technical assistance for the K-12 school and personnel for the allocation of technology funds.

I believe it is an oversight in the development of Project TEACH that staffing has not been identified to provide the continued leadership for collaboration and planning for interconnectivity of regional ITV distance education networks. The strength of the Wisconsin distance education networks has been the interconnectivity and partnering of the educational institutions. In the present format of Project Teach there is no incentive for the K-12 institutions to partner or plan interconnectivity with other educational entities. The Technology Block Grants, Educational Technology Infrastructure Loans, and the Universal Access of Telecommunication Lines apply only to the K-12 system.

There also needs to be clarification between distance education and information technology. They both utilize telecommunication infrastructure but each have different roles in supporting learning. They are not synonymous but support each other in providing access to learning resources.

Project TEACH places emphasis on computer based technology and the related infrastructure for accessing the Internet. Planning and developing an infrastructure to support distance learning is not part of the present Project TEACH package.

I urge the Joint Finance Committee to incorporate a plan to integrate the support staff needed to continue and expand Wisconsin investment in its networks of interactive television (ITV) and videoconferencing networks. We have **28** regional networks up and operating and **8** networks that are in the planning stages. These networks involve **250** school districts, **14** technical colleges, **17** University of Wisconsin campuses, and **89** other organizations (hospitals, DNR, Department of Corrections, etc.). We need to continue to support the sharing of instructional resources planning for interconnectivity, development of technical standards, and interagency cooperation.

Thank-you for this opportunity to address your committee.

April 10, 1997

Testimony Presented at public hearing of the Joint Committee on Finance on the 1997-1998 Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee and Guests:

My name is Robert Greenlaw. My home is in Marshfield, WI. I am a physician, retired from practice of Radiation Oncology, a subspecialty in the field of cancer management..

I am here today on a mission of cancer prevention through tobacco control brought about by a sharp increase in excise tax as proposed by the Legislative Subcommittee on Minors and Tobacco. I shall give you a sound basis for voting for and promoting the suggested increase in excise tax.

During 40 years of my oncology practice I was responsible for the care of over 12,000 patients with cancer. Of this group of patients, over 5,000 had cancer induced and caused by the use of tobacco. The rate of cure of cancer when caused by tobacco is poor. 3,800 of these patients, all people I came to know quite thoroughly, died unnecessarily. Travelling the path from health to death was a miserable and heart wrenching journey for these patients and their families. In Wisconsin, there are over 8,000 people who make this trip each year.

Over and over, in these 40 years, patients with cancer would tell me, *'If only we knew what causes cancer, we could prevent it from occurring.* The fact of the matter is that we do know what causes over 30% of all cancer and what causes about 40% of those cancers which regularly are very difficult to cure. The use of tobacco is the cause, well supported with evidence, agreed to by the Liggett Group(Chesterfields and Lark) recently and known clearly by every one of us. The facts are, non-smokers don't develop these kinds of cancer except under rather unusual circumstances.

Quitting smoking is very difficult to do. The success rate, when the attempt is unassisted, (cold turkey) is on the order of 17%. Alternative systems to deliver nicotine to the addict may enhance the success rate. Essentially everyone I have talked to on this matter, after going through the withdrawal, volunteers that it is better never to start than to wrestle with the terrible problem of addiction. **Don't start.**

This is where the Joint Committee on Finance has an opportunity to spare from premature death up to 8,000 voters and taxpayers a year, human beings with feelings.

Adults rarely make a decision to take up smoking. Smoking is taken up before high school, by youth, in their early teens. Their reasons are fuzzy: it may be an act of daring, the "cool" thing to do, an act of rebellion, augmentation of a poor self image or a desire for a low birth-weight infant (easier labor) in a pregnant teen. Whatever the motivation,

addiction occurs very early and renunciation of smoking is not an easy, voluntary act. The young smoker is hooked, and it only grows worse.

Obviously, the proper course is to prevent the uptake of smoking. The thinking commonly expressed to me has been, do a better job in education and we won't have the problem. *It is not that simple.* Great effort has been made in the curriculum of schools, K-12, and youth are well informed of the hazards of smoking. In spite of this informational background in the brain of every youthful smoker, some 30% of all high school seniors in Wisconsin are regular smokers. Youth have their own sense of time, immortality, and risk-taking.

The one thing that has been shown to have profound impact on the rate of uptake of smoking with youth has been cost. The cash required to get cigarettes. This where the Joint Committee plays such an important role. The 5-cent-a-pack proposal of the Governor may help slightly, but those who understand the scene know it will need to be much greater than this to have the desired impact. In WLCS 0125/2, a draft of a bill recommended by the Sub-Committee on Minors and Tobacco, the recommendation is for an *increase in the tax per pack of cigarettes from 44 cents to 72 cents in July 1997 and to \$1 in July 1998.*

At last, this proposal, strongly supported by the public, together with the three other recommendations of the Sub-Committee, stand a chance of changing the scene. This is a part that can be done only by the Legislature.

The 12,000 patients I saw would have preferred not to have had cancer than to be living with the chance of failure of treatment, after having the diagnosis made. *It is better not to have cancer.*

On behalf of all non-smokers, the former smokers, those who wish to quit smoking, and the new echelons of youth each year who succumb to the dazzling invitations (advertising) to take up smoking, and those who care for cancer patients and their families, I urge you to act favorably on proposal to raise excise tax by 28 cents per pack 1 July 1997 and again 1 July 1998.

I realize quite fully the negative impact this may have in terms of the politics of tobacco in Wisconsin. Tobacco interests are heavily involved with our economy; many of our manufacturing companies are subsidiaries of tobacco conglomerates; many of the products we eat, drink and give to others are produced by these subsidiaries. Political campaigns are supported by these subsidiaries in addition to the support directly from tobacco. We know that money talks. The cynic may say, *we have the best laws money can buy.*

Again, I urge you to support the proposed excise tax for the improvement of health through tobacco control.

I would like to speak on behalf of Wisconsin Public Radio.

We should be proud that our state has the oldest continuously operating radio station in the U.S.A. WHA in Madison has been providing Public Radio programming since 1917! They are celebrating 80 years of service this year!

The men & women of U.W. Physics Lab. started research in radio propagation in 1902! The physics department was the first to make vacuum tubes for broadcasting.

WI was the first state to establish a radio network linking all state residents through instructional programming! And WI was one of the first states to develop an FM public broadcast system network.

Many of the early radio pioneers of radio station WHA worked long hours with little or no pay. We owe it to these early trail blazers to take care of their legacy with our support so that we can pass this treasure on to our children.

On a personal level my family and I enjoy the programming of Wisconsin Public Radio that we are able to hear in our home, at work, and traveling through out the state in our car. Where ever we go we can stay tuned to WPR.

I especially enjoy the classical music that comes to us uninterrupted, with out commercials. I enjoy the news and weather updates given every hour. I especially enjoy Simply Folk with Judy Rose, one can enjoy music and a taste of culture from all over the world. To The Best Of Our Knowledge offers insights into topics that are interesting, informative, educational and entertaining. All Things Considered has the best news programming with in depth reporting and analysis to help me keep up with current events. It is Journalism at its best!

I belong to the WPR association and am an active volunteer. I enjoy working on the pledge drives and the annual auction on the local level. I feel privileged to know and work with Dean Kallenbach, Rick Reyer, Gil Halsted and Allesha their secretary.

I support Public Radio and I think it deserves your support as well. Please do not cut the level of tax support that has been purposed. Wisconsin Public Radio is treasure. It is akin to a national landmark, a monument. It should be preserved and cherished.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Rose". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Bill Rose".

Bill Rose

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FINAL REPORT OF
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN INTERAGENCY LAND USE COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Marathon County has invested valuable time and resources on the implementation of a geographic information system (GIS) and land records modernization; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Interagency Land Use Council (ILUC) has made certain recommendations to improve land use planning in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, these certain recommendations may have fiscal and programmatic impacts to Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) as it currently functions provides a positive benefit to the citizens of Marathon County through providing grant dollars and retained fees for important land records modernization projects, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby ordain as follows:

1. To support the Final Report of the ILUC under the condition that costs associated with implementation of the recommendations of the ILUC be fully funded by the State of Wisconsin independent of the WLIP monies (both grant funds and retained fees).
2. To support the local government focus of the current WLIP which allows Marathon County to fund local projects that are of a high priority.
3. To request that the WLIP Aid to Local Government grant program be assessed and recommendations be made for streamlining the grant process, as well as, the reporting requirements.
4. To direct the Marathon County Administrator to forward a copy of this Resolution to all appropriate State Officials.

Dated this 17th day of December, 1996.

Teri Blaisone

George J. Nell

Dale A. Burkow

Elmer Bush

Les Stewart

Austin Ald

My name is John Young I am the Student Association President here at The University of Wisconsin Marathon County. I would like to thank the Joint Finance Committee for this opportunity to testify on behalf of students.

I would like to stress the fact that I am in favor of the 4% faculty pay plan in the budget. It is imperative that we pay our faculty a competitive wage if we desire to remain a top notch university, however, this pay plan must be entirely funded by the legislature through the budget and not by the Board of Regents through the 105% flexibility. For years Wisconsin has pitted students and faculty against each other by tying pay increases to tuition increases. The students and faculty need to be a force working together, and the 105% flexibility divides the two groups even more. Students now find themselves accepting of the old system where for every 1% of pay increase tuition is raised .7%, only because the alternative is that for every 1% increase in the pay plan under the 105% authority tuition must rise 2%. Students are opposed to granting this authority to the Board of Regents. We cannot balance this budget on the backs of students.

In addition I urge the committee and the legislature to increase funding for the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant at the same rate as tuition is increased. During the last biennium the WHEG grant saw no increase, while tuition was raised 6% in 1995-96 and 5% in 1996-97. In this budget the WHEG increase is slated at 2% in the first year and 3% in the second, once again students are losing ground.

Wisconsin must renew its commitment to higher education by fully funding the University of Wisconsin. We cannot limit access by continually raising tuition and lowering the percentage of available aid. We cannot devalue a University of Wisconsin degree by lowering the expertise of our faculty, which we will do if they are not compensated fairly among their peer groups at other institutions. The Board of Regents Study of the UW System in the 21st Century states "The UW System institutions have been nurtured to maturity by an unflinching faith that education is the best investment the state can make in itself." We cannot waver on this belief now, we cannot overlook the UW System and the investment in Wisconsin's future. Do not change Wisconsin's priorities, I wonder how many budget initiatives are truly an investment in making Wisconsin a better place, but I know that the University is such an investment. I urge the legislature to reward those who have the drive to better themselves by working towards a University education, fully fund the University of Wisconsin, do not limit access, and set Wisconsin in the right direction.

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Finance.
April 10, 1997
Jessica Hussin
2525 College Ave., Stevens Point, WI, 54481

RE: *Opposition to Differential Tuition*

My name is Jessica Hussin and I am a student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. I am also the President of the Student Government Association. I speak to you today on behalf of the students at UWSP. Many of the students at Stevens Point have chosen to attend an institution of higher education within the UW System because it has the tradition of offering quality education that is affordable and accessible. However this accessibility and affordability has been decreasing due to constant tuition hikes. The differential tuition flexibility in the governor's proposal worsens this problem.

The tuition flexibility that the Governor's budget proposes, allows the universities within the UW-System to raise tuition beyond what is mandated. This differential tuition serves as a possible solution for raising funds that are not provided through GPR dollars. For example, differential tuition may be targeted at initiatives such as faculty salary increases and academic advising. Both of these were originally asked for from the state by the UW-System. Both were denied by the governor's proposal. In other words, differential tuition places the burden of funding for our public institutions of higher education on the backs of the students.

This increase in tuition through differential tuition is detrimental to UW students, to our universities, and ultimately the state of Wisconsin for a variety of reasons.

Let me start with how this additional increase hurts students. First of all, any increase in tuition prevents some financially disadvantaged students from receiving a college education. Education is not a privilege reserved for the wealthy; education is a right that should be available to all regardless of the student's financial situation. Secondly, we need to understand how this could disadvantage students in certain areas of the state. If a student with a family lives in Plover and wants to go to college, their choice, due to demographics, would be UW-Stevens Point. However, if the only comprehensive universities they can afford are UW-Green Bay and UW-River Falls, she will probably not be able to go to college. In this realistic scenario, differential tuition would have allowed UW-Stevens Point's tuition to be at such a high level, that this student couldn't afford to go. It is very unlikely that she could move her family to Green Bay or River Falls to go to school there.

Differential tuition allows competition between sister UW-institutions by encouraging tuition wars. We have seen this beginning to happen already. UW-Eau Claire implemented a tuition add on to fund certain incentives on that campus through differential tuition. As soon as other UW campuses heard about this, they began thinking about ways that they could increase their tuition as well to raise funds. UW-Stout was the first to take action. UW-River Falls is currently at the drawing board. This tuition flexibility encourages universities to say, "Come to UW-Stout where for only \$150 extra dollars, we provide you with hands-on learning experience!" and others to reply, "Forget about Stout, For a mere \$250 dollars extra, you as a student can utilize the latest and greatest technology at UW- Stevens Point." This action and reaction will continue and tuition will continue to sky rocket.

By allowing the UW System to grant differential tuition to UW campuses, you are taking the accountability away from those individual universities. Differential tuition allows universities to raise tuition instead of finding other ways of being fiscally responsible. Raising tuition is a quick way to raise funds and may be easier than strategizing other ways to acquire or reallocate money.

Finally, differential tuition hurts Wisconsin. As we all know, an educated population generally brings in more money, and therefore spends more money, which helps the economy of the state. As I stated earlier, further tuition increases prohibit too many students from receiving a higher education. If that student from Plover cannot attend the university that is closest to her, she will not be educated; she will not bring in as much income as she could if she had a college degree. Therefore she could not assist the economy to the extent that she could if universities were not allowed to out-price each other. As we all know, an educated population equals a stable, growing, and flourishing economy. If we do not keep higher education affordable in Wisconsin, our economy will undoubtedly suffer in the future.

I urge you to deny the UW-System the power to grant differential tuition to our state colleges. We need to encourage the UW-System to remain just that- a system of sister institutions that are working together to educate the students of our state and nation, not a hodge-podge of colleges that are competing for students and their money. We also need to keep education affordable for us- the students. We are the future of the state and the nation. We have the desire to be educated, but many of us will not acquire our degrees at the rate tuition is increasing. We simply cannot afford it. We then will be less beneficial to our economy- and that is something that Wisconsin cannot afford.



Wisconsin Valley Library Service

A Multitype Library System

300 First Street • Wausau, WI 54403 • (715) 847-5549

April 10, 1997

TO: Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee
FROM: Linda Orcutt, Technology Consultant, WVLS
RE: Provisions for public library funding in the 1997-1999
proposed Wisconsin budget

I would first like to take this opportunity to welcome this committee to Wausau and thank you for having this hearing here. It is nice to see you in the central part of the state.

The 1997-'99 budget as proposed by Gov. Thompson does not include any increase in public library system funding for the biennium. If that proposal is passed as presented it will mean 5 consecutive years of library system funding at the same dollar amount. In reality it means that systems are losing the ability to provide the services to their member libraries which are mandated by the state. At the same time, there have been reductions of funding and corresponding services at the state level. To compensate for the state level reductions, DLCL has been requiring more services from the systems. Public library systems can neither continue to provide quality services to their members nor can they continue to absorb tasks that used to be done on the state level without funding increases.

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries has proposed increases in state aids to public library systems to equal 11.5% of local and county operating expenditures for public library services for this biennial budget. WVLS supports that proposal and asks that this committee seriously consider this means of increasing system aids and insuring predictable funding increases in the future.

The Governor's proposed budget also transfers the Educational Technology Board (Pioneering Partners program) funding to the TEACH Wisconsin program. Just as Wisconsin librarians were beginning to take advantage of the opportunity for ETB grants, it is proposed that this supplemental source of technology funding for public libraries be eliminated. The corollary to that is that public libraries were not included in the Governor's TEACH Wisconsin proposal. That means that the \$500 million proposal is designated for less than 20% of the population while 80% of the population (including all of the eligible voters) is total ignored. You are sending the message that the technology needs of the general public are of no concern to you.

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries has proposed a supplementary technology improvement aid program for public libraries. State aid under this program could only be used for local library technology systems, site licenses for electronic databases and the linkage of information systems. The cost of this program for the first year of the biennium has been set at \$10,825,000 with an additional \$950,000 in the second year of the biennium. WVLS supports this proposal and urges this committee to seriously consider adopting this proposal.

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries has also proposed a state incentive program for nonresident borrowing. The current library system law states that all libraries which are members of the same library system must serve residents of the system area who have a valid borrowers card from their home library on the same basis as they serve their own residents. In many communities around the state this creates a hardship on the municipal library because a disproportionate number of patrons come from outside of the municipality which has established the library. The libraries are required to serve all of those people without getting any kind of reimbursement. In one case this funding problem was a significant contributing factor to a county withdrawing from one system and joining another. After that was done, the library could charge people walking in to use the library because they were residents of counties in a different library system.

This proposal would reimburse libraries \$.50 for each item they circulate to people who reside outside of the library's primary service area. This amount of \$.50 per circ is still far less than the actual cost per circ in libraries throughout the state. The cost of this program in fiscal year 1998 is estimated to be about \$7.5 million and about \$7.7 million in fiscal year 1999. This program would be a beginning step toward recognizing that municipalities should not be expected to cover the costs of serving a significant volume of people from outside of the municipality that supports the library. With that in mind, WVLS supports this proposal. If this proposal or one similar to it is not passed, the alternative solution would be to allow public libraries to charge all non-residents. That would give libraries the flexibility they need to help control costs and not put any additional burden on the state budget. This would be an acceptable temporary alternative to WVLS. Our ultimate goal is for the state to reimburse libraries for serving non-residents because library systems are a creation of the state and any library that wants to remain a system member must serve non-residents, i.e. it is another unfunded mandate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. Are there any questions?

**LAND INFORMATION
ONEIDA COUNTY**

*P.O. Box 400
One Courthouse Square, Room 6
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501-0400*

April 10, 1997

Memo to: Members of the Joint Finance Committee
Brian Burke & Scott Jensen, Co-Chairs
Sheryl Albers, G. Spencer Cogg, Robert Cowle, Russell
Decker, Gary George, Sheila Harsdorf, Robert Jauch, Dean
Kaufert, Barbara Linton, Thomas Ourada, Mary Panzer,
Cloyd Porter, Kevin Shibilski, Joseph Winecke

From: Michael J Romportl
Oneida County Land Information Officer

RE: Budget Bill pertaining to Wisconsin Land Information
Board and Land Council

Oneida County is extremely concerned with the language in the budget bill which creates the Wisconsin Land Council, eliminates the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) and puts the Wisconsin Land Information Program under the Department of Administration (DOA) tied to the Council. We feel this will have detrimental effects on the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) which the WLIB currently oversees.

In Section 97 of the budget bill, 16.023 lists the functions of the Wisconsin Land Council which focuses on issues pertaining to land use. Oneida County is not opposed to land use planning or the Council, however, we view land use as a 'user' of land records and not the 'creator' of land records. The WLIP concentrates on creating a broad set of land records which can be shared and used by many entities and for many purposes.

We feel if the WLIP is placed directly under DOA and tied to the Council, land use will emerge as the priority issue and creation of land records will be severely impacted. This is evidenced by Section 675 of the budget bill 20.505(1)(ie) which allows for funds to be drained away from the WLIP and directs it to the Council.

Oneida County urges the committee to remove all parts of the budget bill which eliminates the WLIP & WLIB and shifts the duties of WLIB to the DOA. We recommend that the WLIP & WLIB remains intact as it is currently defined in the statutes and that the proposed budget bill is amended to insure its independent continuation.

Oneida County does not oppose the creation of an independent land council, but urges the Administration to work with WLIB and the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) to resolve the budget bill language and concentrate on how information from the WLIP can be used to support land use planning in Wisconsin. Land use is a very contentious issue and we do not want to jeopardize the WLIP with the political implications of land use planning.

Wisconsin has the **most successful statewide** effort of land records modernization, integration and cooperation in the nation and has been recognized in several national publications. This is due to bi-partisan legislation passed 7 years ago which provides incentives and funds to local governments for upgrading their land records. Lets keep this program operating as it is.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this very important issue.

cc: Senator Roger Breske
Representative Joe Handrick

School To Work Changes

Good morning. My name is Debbie Meyer from Colby, Wisconsin. I am currently serving as the 1996-97 Wisconsin State FFA Treasurer and a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Today I would like to express my concerns towards two issues:

- the proposed definition of School to Work
- the transfer of an important program, School to Work, from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Work Force Development.

My first concern is the proposed definition of School to Work. This proposed definition creates limitations on the school-based learning and focuses only on the work-based learning. By limiting the school-based learning, we limit students in grades K-8, only high school students will be given this opportunity. The current definition allows school to work opportunities for all students, in all schools, and in all districts.

With the proposed definition funds will be limited to teachers and students in grades K-8. Eventually, teachers will not receive adequate training and updated information about career education. Therefore, in the long run teaching staff in grades K-8 may put less emphasis on this area.

I consider this a disadvantage because I made my career choice in the 6th grade. We were given an assignment in which we had to choose a career that interested us and then interview someone in that related workforce. I did my research on accounting. Actually, from that point on I did all my research and papers on accounting. Today, my goal is to become a Certified Public Accountant. If the resources and training are limited to the teaching staff in grades K-8, I may not have done that report because less emphasis may have been put on career education. I could have entered college with an "undecided major."

As far as the Vocational Student Organizations, they also play a major role in especially the middle school and junior high programs. Under the proposed definition of School to Work, funds will be limited towards these middle school and junior high VSO programs.

As an individual with five years of experience in VSOs, like FFA and FBLA, I find this as a major disadvantage. There is so much leadership gained from these organizations that it cannot be replaced with other solutions. Now I have not had the opportunity to be a part of a

middle school or junior high VSO program. But this year serving as a State FFA Officer has made me aware of schools with these programs. Basically, students in these middle school and junior high programs are offered the same opportunities as the high school level. Now you may ask, why can't we limit these funds and really focus on the high school students? Well, then why can't we start teaching math classes, for example, in high school instead of kindergarten? I consider your leadership skills equally important as your basic math classes. Why? Because that is what employers are looking for. In the fall, I had the opportunity to have a mock interview with a banker. One of the comments he repeated to me several times during the interview was that employers are more concerned with your leadership and people skills than your GPA. You can look up facts and figures, not personal and group leadership skills. This is what the VSOs are teaching young students. Why not start them at an early age as well?

Currently, Wisconsin is the leader in Vocational Student Organizations. All organizations are large and very competitive at the national level. The current membership of the Wisconsin FFA is 16,000 members. At the 69th National FFA Convention in Kansas City last November, there were hundreds of members from the state of Wisconsin competing and participating in contests at the national level. Let's not jeopardize the quality of FFA, of Vocational Student Organizations in the state of Wisconsin.

My second concern was transferring the School to Work program from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Work Forces Development. Even though this change consolidates activities into one agency, it removes leadership, support, and coordination provided by the Department of Public Instruction. The school-based learning will be lost. If businesses are complaining because of poor employee quality, then where will the education of good employees come in? The school-based learning provides students with that education. They are taught those skills necessary to be successful leaders in the workforce. Teacher training, curriculum writing, and student assessment are all components of School to Work, and are education responsibilities, not workforce development responsibilities.

I hope you take into consideration the points I have brought attention to concerning the proposed definition of School to Work and the transfer from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Work Forces Development. Remember, the students are **your** future. How do **you** want to prepare them for the career opportunities they come in contact with?



Wausau School District

Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359
(715) 261-2500 • FAX (715) 261-2580 • T.D.D. (715) 261-2505

Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: April 10, 1997

Berland A. Meyer
Deputy Superintendent /
Assistant Superintendent
Program Development

TO: Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Charles Skurka, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Cherna A. Gorder
Assistant Superintendent
Business

RE: Legislative Finance Committee Hearing - Wausau

Joyce C. Saldana, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on the needs most urgent to the Wausau School District and to other similar school districts throughout the state of Wisconsin. With the baseball season beginning, one can describe public education in the state as being caught in a "squeeze play" between revenue and program demands.

The Wausau School District, like others in the state, prides itself on the successes of its students and faculty. We believe we offer an excellent program that produces outstanding workers for Wisconsin's business and industry. However, it is now come to a point where we believe the quality of our product will be affected by the revenue we are able to generate to support our programs.

I would like to highlight a few key areas that are being negatively impacted by limits to our revenue generation.

STAFFING

School districts are "people places." About 83% of our funds are expended on personnel costs. The remaining 17% are consumed by many fixed costs including heat, light, phone, insurance, and transportation.

As staff numbers rise due to increased numbers of students, we find ourselves unable to keep up with associated costs. We are seeing class sizes rise year by year. Parents are telling us they are concerned with this trend as it is not atypical to find elementary classes of 25 to 30 students or freshman classes of 35 students. Reducing these ratios is expensive and out of the range of our existing budget.

In addition, the work load of our counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses has increased greatly. A counselor at our high school is responsible for nearly 400 students. The District cannot afford to reduce these ratios at the expense of classroom teachers -- we are caught in the middle and so are the students.

We have tightened our belt over the years. We have eliminated or reduced curriculum coordinators; our same custodial staff services 20% more square footage than it did in 1990; we have grown by over 1100 students since 1990 yet have been able to add only one more psychologist.

Finally, the impact of high cost students (those who are classified as having Exceptional Educational Needs or who are Limited English Proficient) have a doubling impact on our District. These students not only require the support of the regular classroom teacher, but also that of one or more special teachers. Because of the funding formula we are unable to recover these additional costs; thus, the general program for all students must be reduced to meet the needs of these students. It is unfair for this to occur.

We need your assistance to bring about a change in the way high cost students are counted for aid purposes. This single change would greatly help us to continue to provide a high quality program in a cost-effective manner.

PROGRAMMING

Limits on revenue generation have caused difficulties in providing contemporary programming to our students. Recently the state mandated that all students have access to a foreign language at seventh grade. Without any increase in revenue generation, we are unable to comply with that mandate. Our District cannot afford to hire the additional 4.0 teachers that would be needed to implement such a program.

We believe, as a District, in the high worth of early intervention programming for students. Research says that for every dollar invested in the early years, a district can save five dollars later on. Programs like Reading Recovery, Early Reading Intervention, all day kindergarten, etc., work. Yet we are unable to find the funds to ensure that these programs are part of our instructional offerings.

Finally, programming for School-to-Work initiatives is being reduced as competition for scarce resources becomes more acute. Apprentice programs such as Auto Technician and Banking and Finance are in jeopardy. We cannot afford to retain programming for limited numbers of students at the expense of the core curriculum. In an era when we should be expanding vocational/technical opportunities, we and other districts are reducing them.

TECHNOLOGY

The final area I want to highlight is the growing cost for support of technology. We want to be current; we want to provide experiences for our students that business and industry find valuable; we want to be "world class," and we want our children to be technologically literate. However, the truth of the matter is, we cannot afford it.

Our five-year technology plan calls for a yearly expenditure of \$2.5 million dollars for staff, computers, software, Internet access, maintenance, licensing agreements, and staff development. In fact, we spent only \$400,000 last year. While that may sound like a great deal of money it represents only .5% of the District's budget instead of the 3-4% recommended as appropriate.

Each year we fall farther and farther behind. Students complete work at home because they have access to more advanced equipment and current software cannot run on "older" machines, which dominates our computer inventory.

New loans provided by the state are a start, but the repayment is subject to the review cap. Money was provided for technology grants to school districts, but it was taken from the common school funds – out of one pocket and into the other. The cost of Internet connection is high and is rapidly becoming the third utility cost for districts. We have recently considered computerizing our elementary school libraries, but abandoned that idea after we discovered the cost to be over \$50,000 per site.

If the state truly wants its schools to be leaders in the world in the use of technology, then it must relieve us from the limitation of including technology under the revenue caps. Allow those purchases to be outside the cap restrictions.

OTHER CURTAILMENTS

Construction and general repair costs have risen at a rate greater than the CPI. For the past three years, the CPI has been approximately 3% with construction/repair costs increasing 6-7% annually.

LP gas used in three of our rural schools increased 25% this past year. Natural gas prices were 15% higher at the beginning of the recent heating season.

Non-salary benefit items should be left under the discretion of local control with the salary/benefit cap left in place. The revenue cap is not needed. It exacerbates the losses from the non-salary/benefit portion of the budget when salary/benefit caps are at 3.8% with a revenue cap at 3% or lower.

In the Wausau School District, the preliminary 1997-98 budget is in the red by just rolling up 3.8% on salary/benefits for existing positions. We will have difficulty adding the projected, needed new staff due to our increase in enrollment.

SUMMARY

In summary, we are asking that you:

1. provide fiscal relief to school districts for the impact of "high cost" students who enter our classrooms;
2. provide additional support for programs such as School-to-Work and programs that support early intervention for students, provide funding required to implement imposed curricular standards, or eliminate those mandates;
3. allow technology purchases to be outside the revenue caps and allow the District to develop contemporary programming to meet the needs of Wisconsin's business and industry; and
4. remove the revenue caps for districts, but retain the salary/benefit cap.

Thank for the opportunity to present these concerns. Attached is support documentation for each committee member.

Attachments



Wausau School District

Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359
(715) 261-2500 • FAX (715) 261-2580 • T.D.D. (715) 261-2505

Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

April 10, 1997

Berland A. Meyer
Deputy Superintendent /
Assistant Superintendent
Program Development

**TO: Joint Committee on Finance
Legislative Finance Committee Hearing - Wausau**

Cherna A. Gorder
Assistant Superintendent
Business

**FROM: Wausau School District
Dr. Charles Skurka, Superintendent of Schools
Cherna A. Gorder, Assistant Superintendent for Business**

Joyce C. Saldana, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources

Dear Committee Members:

Enclosed is an impact statement on revenue limits for the Wausau School District. The impact statement and supporting documents illustrate how the limits have "eroded" the Wausau School District's revenue base limit.

The three major impacts have been in English as a Second Language, Exceptional Educational Needs, and, the Chapter 220 program. The enclosed summary shows the growth in EEN and ESL expenditures since the revenue limit base year of 1992-93. The expenditures, less the state reimbursement, equals the remaining net growth in costs. These costs were absorbed in our revenue limit base.

The Chapter 220 program began in 1993-94. The DPI disallowed an exemption request, therefore, all costs for this program were absorbed out of our revenue limit base. However, because the Chapter 220 aid is treated as equalization aid, Wausau School District taxpayers did benefit.

The remaining costs are for new buildings and new construction. The estimate was conservative using only utility costs for the new square footage. The projected revenue limit base for 1997-98 is \$60,757,289 with \$3,020,755 representing 4.97% of the base.

Should you have any questions regarding the impact on the Wausau School District, please contact our office at 715-261-2570.

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Programs Impacting Revenue Limits

February 24, 1997

ESL	ESL Expenditures	ESL Reim	NET COST Deduct Rev Limit
1995-96	2,587,282	654,637	
1992-93	1,517,468	502,889	
Diff	1,069,814	151,748	918,066

EEN	EEN Expenditures	EEN Reim	
1995-96	6,827,796	2,953,557	
1992-93	5,037,803	2,423,913	
Diff	1,789,993	529,644	1,260,349

Chapter 220 Costs** **579,838**

** received as equalization aid (property tax relief)
but not allowed to increase revenue limit.

New Construction - Utility costs only:

Horace Mann	141,834	
John Muir	38,466	
G.D. Jones	16,900	
Jefferson	27,302	
South Mountain	38,000	
Subtotal		262,502
Grand Total		3,020,755

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

HANDICAPPED ENROLLMENT HISTORY

DECEMBER 1, 1996

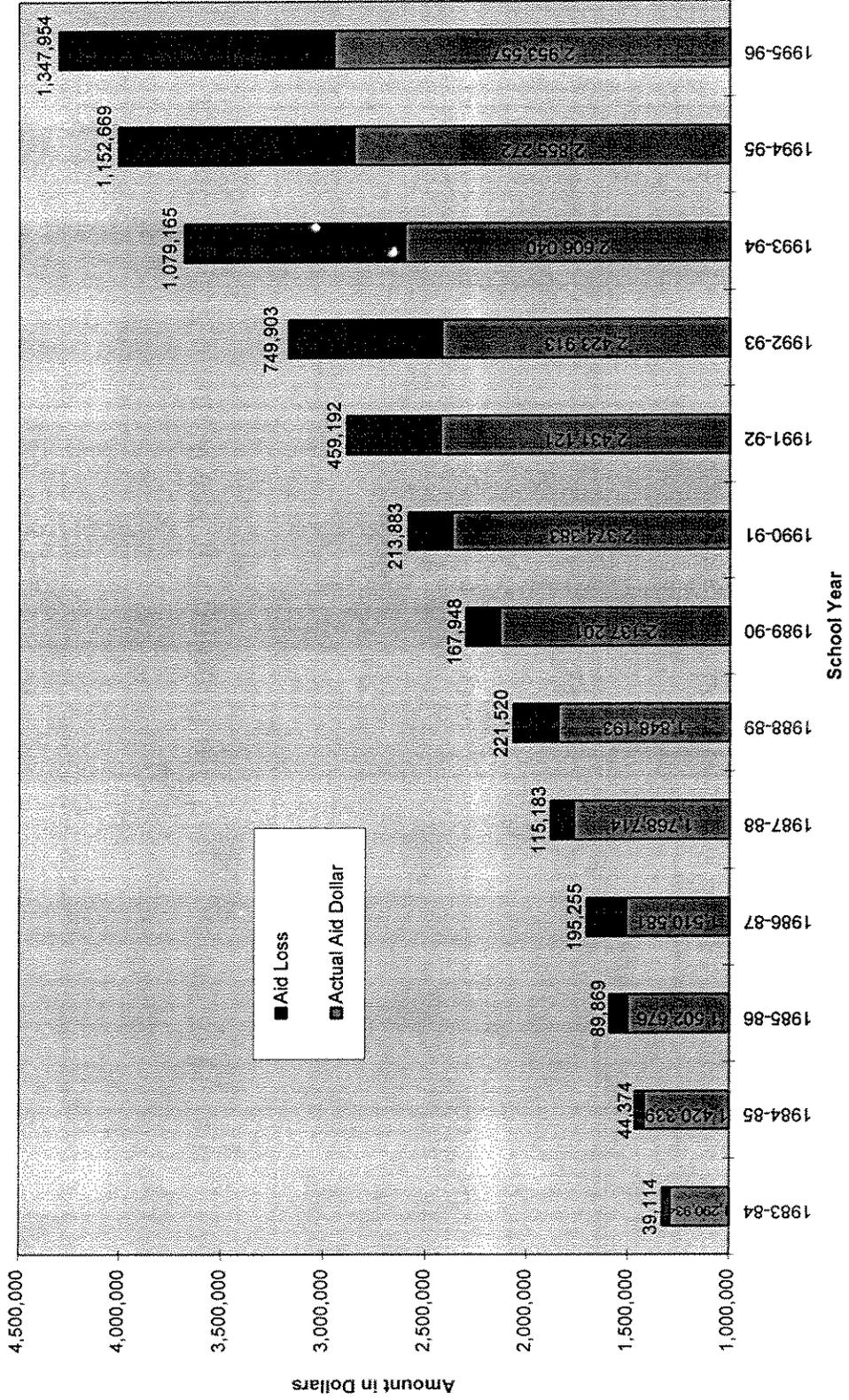
YEAR	*NUMBER STUDENTS	INCREASE PER YEAR	PERCENT INCREASE	DISTRICT ENROLLMENT	EEN PERCENT
1984-85	619	6	0.98%	7,444	8.32%
1985-86	664	45	7.27%	7,478	8.88%
1986-87	612	-52	-7.83%	7,556	8.10%
1987-88	632	20	3.27%	7,731	8.17%
1988-89	697	65	10.28%	7,813	8.92%
1989-90	691	-6	-0.86%	7,949	8.69%
1990-91	687	-4	-0.58%	8,229	8.35%
1991-92	753	66	9.61%	8,449	8.91%
1992-93	865	112	14.87%	8,773	9.86%
1993-94	913	48	5.55%	8,791	10.38%
1994-95	975	62	6.79%	8,917	10.93%
1995-96	971	-4	-0.41%	9,060	10.71%
1996-97	1,026	55	5.66%	9,196	11.15%

66% - Increase in handicapped enrollment over twelve years

23.5% - Increase in district enrollment over twelve years

*Number of students with disabilities includes students from private schools and early childhood EEN students.

History of Handicapped Aid Funding For The Wausau School District

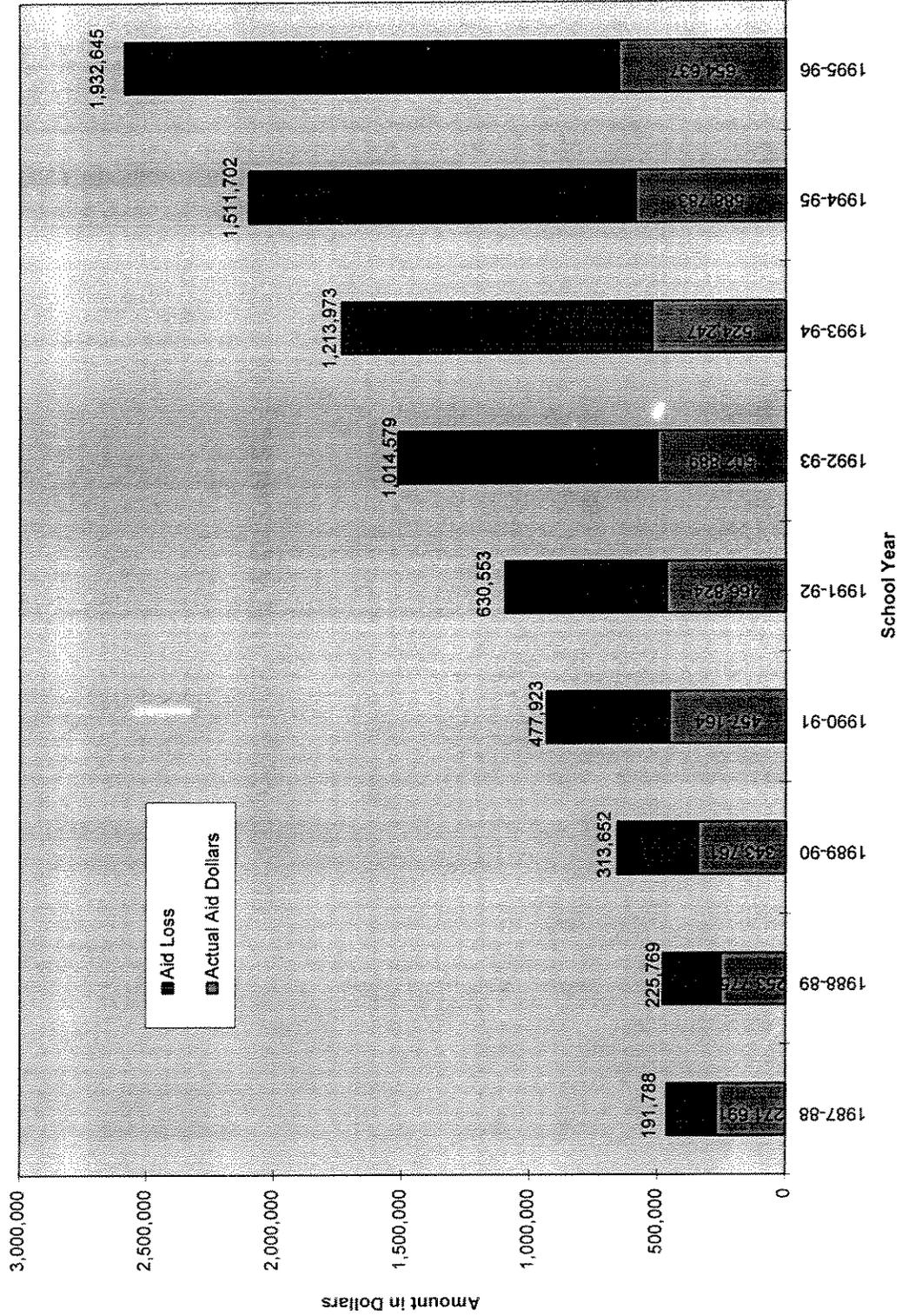


ESL FUNDING FOR THE WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 17, 1997

YEAR	ESL PROGRAM COSTS	PERCENT REIMBURSEMENT	STATE REIMBURSEMENT	UNFUNDED PROGRAM COSTS
1987-88	463,479	58.62%	271,691	191,788
1988-89	479,544	52.92%	253,775	225,769
1989-90	657,413	52.29%	343,761	313,652
1990-91	935,087	48.89%	457,164	477,923
1991-92	1,097,377	42.54%	466,824	630,553
1992-93	1,517,468	33.14%	502,889	1,014,579
1993-94	1,738,220	30.16%	524,247	1,213,973
1994-95	2,100,485	28.03%	588,783	1,511,702
1995-96	2,587,282	25.30%	654,637	1,932,645
TOTALS	11,576,355		4,063,771	7,512,584

ESL FUNDING FOR THE WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT



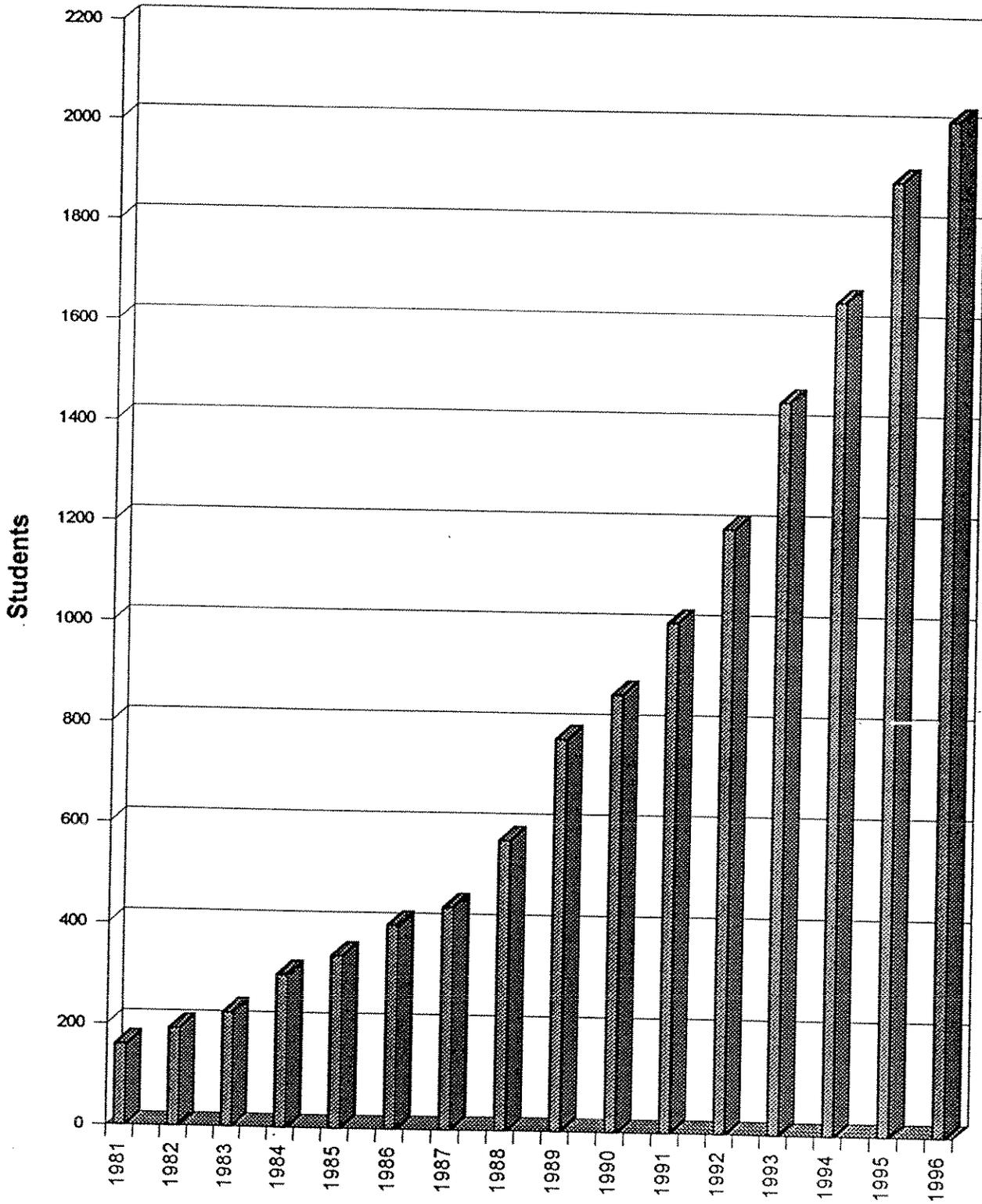
EEN AID & COSTS - WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 17, 1996

YEAR	TOTAL PROGRAM \$	% REIMBURSEMENT	ACTUAL AID DOLLARS	STATUTORY AID-63%	AID LOSS
1982-83	1,542,483	63.93%	986,115	971,764	-14,351
1983-84	2,111,187	61.15%	1,290,934	1,330,048	39,114
1984-85	2,324,941	61.09%	1,420,339	1,464,713	44,374
1985-86	2,527,849	59.44%	1,502,676	1,592,545	89,869
1986-87	2,707,676	55.79%	1,510,581	1,705,836	195,255
1987-88	2,990,312	59.15%	1,768,714	1,883,897	115,183
1988-89	3,285,259	56.26%	1,848,193	2,069,713	221,520
1989-90	3,658,967	58.41%	2,137,201	2,305,149	167,948
1990-91	4,108,358	57.79%	2,374,383	2,588,266	213,883
1991-92	4,587,798	52.99%	2,431,121	2,890,313	459,192
1992-93	5,037,803	48.11%	2,423,913	3,173,816	749,903
1993-94	5,849,532	44.55%	2,606,040	3,685,205	1,079,165
1994-95	6,361,811	44.88%	2,855,272	4,007,941	1,152,669
1995-96	6,827,796	43.26%	2,953,557	4,301,511	1,347,954
TOTALS	53,921,772		28,109,039	33,970,716	5,861,677

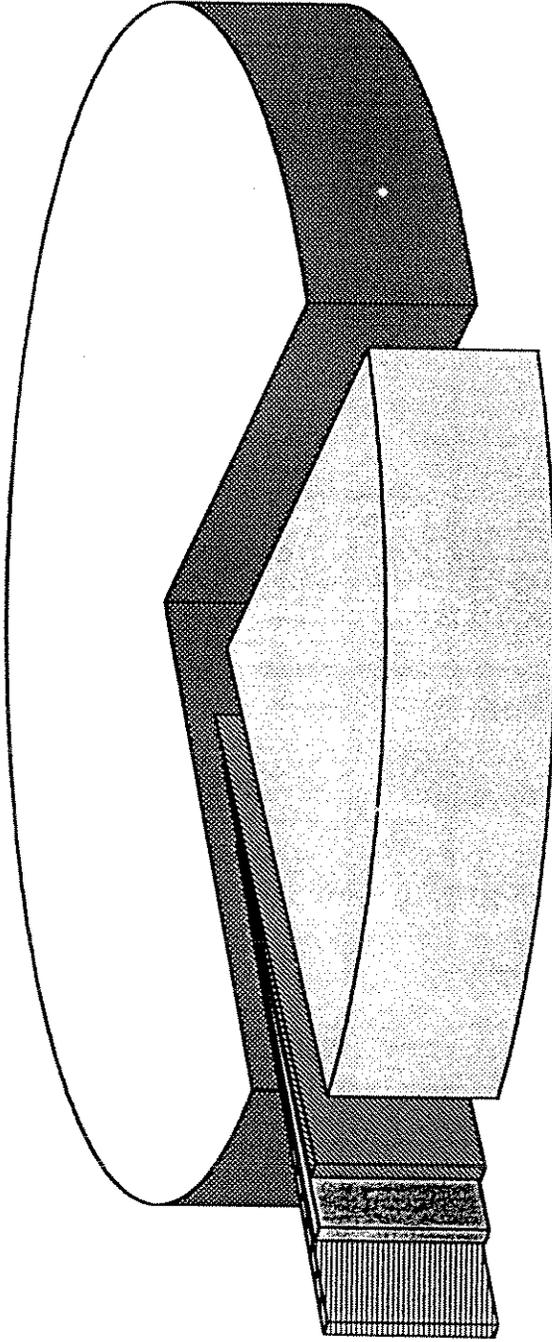
342.65% - Increase in handicapped expenditures since 1982-83

Southeast Asian Enrollments in the Wausau School District



WSD ETHNIC ENROLLMENTS

9/20/96



ASIAN BLACK HISPANIC NATIVE AMERICAN WHITE

County of Wood \ OFFICE OF PLANNING & ZONING

GARY F. POPELKA, AICP

Director

Courthouse-400 Market Street

P. O. Box 8095

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095

Telephone: (715) 421-8466

FAX: (715) 421-8808

April 10, 1997

Joint Finance Committee
C/O Sen. Kevin Shibilski
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Honorable Chair, and Committee Members:

Having reviewed the language in the biennial budget, I have a number of concerns with the current legislative proposal to abolish the Wisconsin Land Information Board and give program responsibilities to the Department of Administration. My testimony will focus on suggestions to strengthen the bill as it pertains to the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) and the Wisconsin Land Council (WLC).

Specific Actions

I am requesting that the Joint Finance Committee remove from the Budget Bill all references that eliminate the Wisconsin Land Information Board and transfer the governance and funding of the Wisconsin Land Information Program to the Department of Administration. These issues are defined in the Governor's Budget in sections 44, 51, 133 through 142, 669, 672 and 673, 682 through 684, 774 and 775, 1156, 1164, 2164, 2175 through 2178.

As a County Planner, I am in full support of the Wisconsin Land Council and would support modification to the existing WLIB and land information program that assist WLC. Specifically I support adding one (1) seat on the WLIB representing the WLC, adding land use mapping as a foundational element to the program, and supporting parallel sunsets and evaluations for the WLC and WLIB so that their relationship can be monitored and improved over time.

Background

Over the past six months, the proposed legislative changes I'm addressing have been presented to the land information community by the Department of Administration as a positive step forward to move the governance responsibilities of the WLIB to the proposed WLC. However the language included in the budget bill pertaining to the WLC's duties and responsibilities, fails to include any reference to land information related activities currently addressed by the WLIB. Thus the promises of program administration by a representative body have not carried through.

We have asked the drafters of this legislation to include the positive aspects of the land information program that have made it the success it is. These points included:

Maintain the functional integrity of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP), including:

- Preserving the legislative charges of the program.
- Maintain the strong connection between the land information community and the policy body managing the program.

Maintain the segregated funding that supports the activities of the WLIP.

Maintain the dedicated staff and staff positions assigned to administer the WLIP.

- Ensure the transfer of incumbent employees.
- Ensure the transfer of position descriptions.

Preserve the body of expertise governing the WLIP. For example;

- an independent representative body for the WLIP,
- "what" the WLIP represents,
- advisory positions currently supporting the WLIP,
- Wisconsin Land Information Association involvement, and
- participation by local interests.

We do not see in this budget bill, the language that ensure all of these request have been considered. These issues are vital to the continuation of a successful, ground up, approach to modernizing land information throughout Wisconsin. Without support for the items listed above, I will not be able to support this legislative effort.

The land information responsibilities of the WLIP are broad and designed to serve all levels and program areas of Wisconsin government. For example, the WLIP was specifically designed to support activities like the WLC (i.e., laying the information foundation for land use planning), along with supporting other programs such as parcel map development, surveying, and property records management. It is likely that placing land information responsibilities under a program-specific area will favor the modernization of one type of information over others or interrupt activities already underway under the current WLIP program.

The Land Information Program, under the direction of the WLIP has been a very positive addition in Wood County. The Land Information Board has been instrumental in creating an atmosphere of change for land records at the County. In the six years the program has been in place, Wood County has invested nearly \$300,000 in modernized land records, including new parcel maps, E-911 address mapping for emergency dispatch, and multiple map layers used by Planning & Zoning, Land Conservation, Park & Forestry, and many others.

This is not a money issue, we are not asking for dollars. Our program is self sufficient and we are satisfied with our current level of funding. This issue is related to continuing a successful modernization program, and does not belong in a budget bill. Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Hansen, Planner, Wood County

Past President, Wisconsin Land Information Association