

TO: Senator Brian Burke, Co-chair Joint Finance Committee
Representative John Gard, Co-chair, Joint Finance Committee

FR: Joe Quick, Legislative Liaison
Madison Metropolitan School District

DA: March 16, 2001

RE: Removal on Non-Fiscal Policy from Biennial Budget Bill

In reviewing Senate Bill 55, the Madison Metropolitan School Districts requests that several policy items be deleted from the budget and reintroduced as separate legislation to provide the scrutiny and discussion that should occur outside the budget deliberations.

Budget Items Introduced as Legislation

- **Chartering Authority**

Sections 2723 and 2726

Last session, Assembly Bill 840 had similar provisions contained in the budget proposal.

- **Scheduling Referenda**

Section 2755-2758

Already introduced as separate legislation (AB 2).

Special Education

- **Rule Making Authority**

Section 2672

This section alters much of the work regarding special education eligibility criteria recently revised. Rules fall under the purview of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules.

- **Report on Range of Severity**

Section 2660

This policy change eliminates state data on the range of disabilities of students being served in Wisconsin.

- **IEP Student Placement**

Section 2661

The repeal of Wisconsin Statutes 115.78 (2) (c) alters the role of the individualized education program (IEP) team to determine student placement.

- **Transition Services**

Section 2666

This section represents a policy change affecting how school districts should transition a child out of special education.

- **Evaluations**

Sections 2662-2665

This section significantly changes how IEP teams deal with evaluations and reevaluations.

- **Federal Aid**

Section 3659

The policy in this section deals with how school districts should use their federal and state aid. The implications of this policy change are unclear, making discussion outside of the budget essential.

Department of Public Instruction

- **Distance Education**

Section 2626

Policy change related to the State Superintendent's authority to promulgate a rule on distance education without the prior approval of the Secretary of Administration, the Technical College System board, and the TEACH board.

- **DPI - Waiver Authority**

Section 2719

Allowing the State Superintendent waiver authority surrounding licensure is clearly policy. Chapter PI 34, the new licensure rules, contain flexibility around licensure through the equivalency licensing provision.

- **Vocational Education**

Section 2623

The statutory change undermines the constitutional authority of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction related to the role of the agency's vocational education consultants.

- **Commission to Review DPI Rules**

Section 9140 (3)

The Legislature's Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules is the proper vehicle to examine rules.

- **Maximum Flow Through of Federal Dollars**

Section 2620

Potential for dramatic change to the DPI's use of federal money for statewide projects, such as assistive technology for disabled students and mediation services for parents of disabled children. Eliminates CESAs as fiscal agents.

- **Board on Educational Evaluation and Accountability**

Section 9140 (6)

Undermines the constitutional authority of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and has no fiscal impact.

Governor's School Start Date Study Commission and Prohibition on Holding Classes the Friday Before Labor Day

Section 9140 (2)

The school calendar should be determined by locally elected school board members.

Alternative Licensure Changes

Section 2692

Licensure issues have been recently revised under PI 34, which includes a section on equivalency licensure allowing for alternative licensure.

Private School Choice – Boundary Changes

Section 2746

Budget item deals specifically with one private school.

Prohibited Subjects of Bargaining – School Districts

Section 2611

Clearly a labor-management policy issue rather than of a fiscal nature.

Subcontracting Educational Programs

Section 2754

Policy that authorizes local school districts to subcontract educational programs with a private school or agency.

School Closing Authority

Section 2745

Significant policy change that has labor-management implications better discussed as separate legislation to understand the statewide impact.

60-Day Layoff Authority

Sections 2612 and 2678

Labor-management issues that are clearly policy changes.

Districts with Expanded Flexibility

Section 2721

This section creates a new type of school district, eliminating the requirement that all schools have reading requirements, bilingual education programs, policies related to truancy, and several other state educational standards. These policy changes should be discussed outside of the budget.

If you have questions, or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 267-3030.

cc: Joint Finance Committee Members
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Senator Rick Grobschmidt
Representative Luther Olsen
Representative Stephen Nass
Art Rainwater, MMSD Superintendent

WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Affiliated with the National Education Association

*Every kid
deserves a
Great School!*

**Testimony on 2001-2003 Budget Bill (SB 55)
To the Senate Education Committee
Wednesday, March 28, 2001**

**By
Bob Burke, Legislative Program Coordinator
Wisconsin Education Association Council**

Thank you chairperson Grobschmidt and members of the Senate Education Committee for this opportunity to speak today about issues contained in Governor McCallum's proposed 2001-2003 budget bill. My name is Bob Burke. I am the Legislative Program Coordinator for the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC).

In Wisconsin, we've achieved great success in building great schools. By virtually every measure, Wisconsin schools rank among the finest in the nation. Students learn here. They graduate here. They go on to get jobs here, keeping our state's employment rate among the highest in the nation and attracting new employers to our communities. Building great schools requires consistent effort and hard work, and we face greater challenges today than ever before. That is why educators across the state are dedicated to working with our elected officials, parents, administrators and communities to create the kind of education that is best for all of Wisconsin's children.

We believe that many provisions contained in Governor McCallum's budget will put our great public schools at risk. Governor McCallum's budget does little to place students in classrooms that work, shows no commitment to develop quality staff through collectively bargained approaches and promotes education schemes that will not benefit everyone in the community.

Governor McCallum's budget ratchets down even harder on revenue caps, makes dramatic cuts in the SAGE K-3 class size reduction program, grabs authority away from the DPI, expands the

Terry Craney, President
Michael A. Butera, Executive Director

scope of the voucher and charter school laws and includes several direct assaults on the bargaining rights of education employees.

WEAC believes great schools place students in classrooms that work. Governor McCallum's budget puts that at risk by:

- Dramatically reducing the SAGE K-3 class size reduction program.
- Ratcheting down even harder on revenue caps.
- Expanding the voucher program in Milwaukee.
- Limiting state funding of special education programs.
- Freezing aid to the WTCS and diminishing the authority of local boards.
- Misusing federal E-rate funds in the TEACH program and charging schools a fee for BadgerLink.
- Folding the Education Communications Board into a nonprofit corporation.

WEAC believes that great schools depend on a great staff. Governor McCallum's budget puts great schools at risk by:

- Expanding alternative certification of teachers.
- Giving school boards power to close schools and reassign staff without regard to seniority or bargaining rights.
- Allowing subcontracting of educational programs statewide.
- Creating a new "pay-for-performance awards" program for schools.
- Eliminating the right to bargain the choice of health care provider.
- Making establishment of the school calendar a prohibited subject of bargaining.
- Redefining the QEO to require that only "substantially similar" benefits be offered.
- Modifying the NBPTS incentive grant program but provide no additional funding.
- Diminish DPI's ability to distribute federal funds and place federally funded departmental positions at risk.

WEAC believes great schools benefit everyone in a community. Governor McCallum's budget puts great schools at risk by:

- Dramatically expanding the charter school law to include the CESAs, UW and WTCS.
- Creating a new Board of Education Evaluation and Accountability outside of DPI.
- Creating a new Rule Review Commission and a new Bureau of School Improvement.
- Creating a new grant program to encourage consolidation of services and districts.

Many of the items contained in the budget bill are very complex and controversial. Several items in the budget represent policy that has no fiscal impact. WEAC has always supported the removal of non-fiscal policy from the budget. Each non-fiscal policy item should be reintroduced as separate legislation where it may be given a full and fair public hearing before this committee. Only then can

we determine whether each policy initiative truly places students in classrooms that work, promotes the recruitment and retention of great staff in our schools and maintains a public school system that benefits everyone.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today.



5250 East Terrace Drive • Madison, WI 53718-8345
(608) 245-3640 • Fax (608) 245-3646
www.wla.lib.wi.us

Senate Education Committee

March 28, 2001

Honorable Members:

My name is Michael Gelhausen, President of the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA). I present testimony to the Committee today on behalf of WLA, an organization representing the needs and interests of all types of libraries, library staff members and library trustees throughout Wisconsin. Because the primary purpose of the Committee's public hearing today is to listen to comments and concerns regarding the proposed biennium budget and its impact on the education of the residents of the State of Wisconsin, I would like to focus on some crucial library issues that are not addressed in the current budget proposal.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AIDS: For over thirty years, the seventeen public library systems have been the backbone of cooperative library operations and the sharing of materials in the state of Wisconsin. State financial support for these systems has been eroding for several years now. Three years ago, the Legislative Council Study Committee on Public Libraries reviewed this issue in depth, and concluded that strong public library service is a partnership between the municipalities, the counties and the State. Legislation was passed that mandated counties fund at least 70% of a library's operating cost to serve the rural library users. Legislation was also passed that the State would provide system aid money at a level of 13% of the expenditures of public library municipalities and the counties. Presently, state system aid funds represent only 9% of these expenditures, and that number will shrink to 8% by the end of this biennium with no additional funding. For a partnership to succeed, all entities need to be involved and abide by their commitment. Municipal library support has been increasing. Counties are now mandated to pay their fair share. The public library systems need the statutory index level of 13% to meet their mandated service areas and to continue the strong tradition of supporting resource sharing and cooperative services. The 13% funding level will also go a long way towards preserving Wisconsin's tradition of open access to local libraries. The Wisconsin Library Association asks to you fund library system aids at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requested amount of \$20,208,400 for FY 01-02, and \$21,420,900 for FY 02-03.

BADGERLINK: Providing statewide Internet access to over 6,000 magazines, journals and newspapers to every library, school, business and home computer certainly was one of the most popular new services funded through the Universal Service Fund (USF). The proposed budget does contain DPI's requested increase of \$73,500 for FY 01-02 and \$150,200 for FY 02-03 to continue the statewide BadgerLink service. However, these increases do not come from the USF. Instead, the Governor has authorized DPI to assess new fees to school districts to cover the additional funding creating an unfair burden on schools that are already saddled with revenue caps limiting other basic school needs. How these fees are to be determined and assessed per school district also puts additional work on a tight DPI staff. Because BadgerLink was developed to be an information and research service for all residents of Wisconsin, it is unfair to single out schools for this added fee. It is the request of the Wisconsin Library Association that all BadgerLink costs continue to come from the Universal Service Fund.

REFERENCE AND LOAN LIBRARY MATERIALS: During the 1980s, the Wisconsin Reference and Loan (R&L) Library had an average materials budget of \$160,000 per year for new titles and information products. With budget reductions throughout the 1990s, the materials budget has now eroded to an annual amount of \$50,000. Libraries throughout the state rely on the R&L Library materials to complement and augment their collections. The additional \$40,000 per year of the biennium for the R&L Library's materials budget requested by DPI is not found in the proposed state budget. The Wisconsin Library Association requests that these additional dollars be added to the Reference and Loan operating budget to enable this library to fulfill one of its main purposes, providing reference backup with current and reliable reference materials and products.

STATEWIDE RESOURCE CONTRACTS: The State of Wisconsin funds four library resource contracts that provide citizens of the state with access to specialized services and materials that their local libraries are unlikely to provide: the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan, the Wisconsin Library Services on the UW-Madison campus, and the Cooperative Children's Book Center, also located on the UW-Madison campus. The requested increase to provide continued access to these specialized resources was \$97,300 for FY 01-02 and \$125,300 for FY 02-03. The Wisconsin Library Association requests that the DPI budget proposal for the four resource contracts be approved to insure current levels of service are retained.

UW SYSTEM LIBRARIES: Wisconsin's university libraries have a great reputation for excellence. To maintain the UW System's goal of making available to students, faculty, the business community and government the most up-to-date and comprehensive collection of various library resources in numerous fields of study, it requires regular incremental increases to the UW library budget. The Board of Regents requested a \$4.7 million increase to base funding during both years of the biennium. However, this increase was not forwarded in the current budget proposal. The Wisconsin Library Association requests that the dollar amount asked for by the Board of Regents be supported by the Legislature to insure that the various UW libraries maintain their standard of excellence for the students, in particular, and additionally, all the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

GPR FUNDING FOR DPI POSITIONS: Many key DPI consultant positions are currently funded wholly or in part by federal dollars, or are being targeted to be solely federally funded. Various positions go unfilled or are eliminated when incumbents retire or leave, or disappear when federal funds are withdrawn. Without these consultants, schools and public libraries would lack the crucial link needed to access and understand DPI programs, policies and technological information. The Wisconsin Library Association joins with the Wisconsin Educational Media Association in asking the Legislature to carefully review the growing dependence on federal dollars to pay for extremely valuable state employees who work with the library community on a regular basis.

COMMON SCHOOL FUND: In many school districts, the only money being used to purchase new materials comes from the Common School Fund. The Governor has included \$5.3 million for FY 02 and \$6.8 million for FY 03 from the DPI request. This money is critical to the survival of many school library media centers. The Wisconsin Library Association applauds the Governor on his support, and asks the Legislature to retain this funding request in the proposed budget.

TEACH WISCONSIN CHANGES: The Governor has included three major revisions to the Teach guidelines which will allow public libraries to borrow funds from the Teach loan program for communication hardware to enable direct connections to the Internet, enable public library branches in cities and counties to be eligible for Teach subsidized T-1 telecommunication lines, and, approve the sharing of T-1 lines between public libraries and other municipal or county government offices. The Wisconsin Library Association supports these changes and asks the Legislature to retain these proposals during the budget process.

NEWSLINE FOR THE BLIND: The Governor has requested funding to expand this telephone information service statewide. The additional funding will expand this current service from three national newspapers to include two state newspapers and a job information service. The Wisconsin Library Association supports this program and asks the Legislature to retain the proposal during the budget process.

TRUST FUND LOANS: The Governor's budget proposes allowing public library systems in two or more counties to borrow funds from the State Trust Fund. This is an important and affordable way for systems to upgrade various forms of technology and equipment within current budget constraints. This proposal, to expand loan procedures, is supported by the Trust Fund's staff and the Wisconsin Library Association.

I want to thank the members of the Senate Education Committee for giving me the opportunity to express the views of the Wisconsin Library Association. The members of our organization hope that you will agree that many of these library-funding issues are extremely important in each of your districts and around the State of Wisconsin. Your Committee and the entire Legislature will be faced with many tough financial decisions across the next few months. I want to conclude by stating that of the many requests for additional funding for various programs that you will receive during the budget debate, libraries will be one of the few areas that cover all citizens of this state regardless of age, educational levels, financial status, race, creed or gender. Every resident of Wisconsin's 72 counties and 33 Senate districts has access to public and school libraries along with various academic libraries. Because of the greatly expanding amount of information now available in various formats coupled with the personal, professional and recreational needs for this information, citizens rely more and more on their libraries to access these materials. An increased state financial investment in libraries is certainly a well-placed investment for the educational needs of the citizens of Wisconsin. Thank you!



Michael J. Gelhausen
President
Wisconsin Library Association

2001-2003 State Budget Items Relating to Libraries

Public Library System Aid

Request funding to achieve a 13% index level to comply with S.43.24(6) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
System funding	\$ 14,749,800	\$ 20,208,400	\$ 21,420,900
DPI Requested Increase		\$ 5,458,600	\$ 6,671,100
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$ 0	\$ 0

Statewide Library Contracts

Cost to continue increases for state contracts with the Milwaukee Public Library for interlibrary loan and operation of the Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Wisconsin Library Services (WILS), and the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC).

Contracts	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
Milwaukee PL ILL	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,400	\$ 69,500
Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped	\$ 736,400	\$ 830,000	\$ 1,012,200 *
WILS	\$ 180,900	\$ 180,900	\$ 180,900
CCBC	\$ 65,000	\$ 68,200	\$ 71,600
Total	\$ 1,047,300	\$ 1,144,600	\$ 1,334,200
DPI Requested Increase		\$ 97,300	\$ 286,900 *
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$ 0	\$ 161,600 *

*Includes \$161,600 for automated system replacement. The Governor recommends that funding for this purpose be taken from the Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunications Foundation fund.

Reference & Loan Library Collection Enhancement

Request for additional funds to reverse long-term decline in buying power.

	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
Materials budget	\$ 60,000	\$ 103,000	\$ 103,000
DPI Requested Increase		\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$ 0	\$ 0

BadgerLink

Cost to maintain current magazine and newspaper databases and to add an encyclopedia.

	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
Databases	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 2,138,600 *	\$ 2,215,100 *
DPI Requested Increase		\$ 438,600 *	\$ 515,300 *
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$ 73,500 **	\$ 150,200**

*Includes \$365,100 to add the Grolier Encyclopedia. Funding for encyclopedia not recommended by the Governor. **Governor recommended authorizing DPI to assess fees to school districts to pay for increased cost of current BadgerLink databases.

Newsline for the Blind

Cost to continue and to provide some enhancements to this service.

Contract	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
Total	\$ 45,500	\$ 68,500	\$ 67,500
DPI Requested Increase		\$ 23,000	\$ 22,000
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$ 23,000	\$ 22,000

Statutory Language Proposal—Intermunicipal Library Lending Compensation

Statutory language that would

- Enable public library systems to adopt an intermunicipal library lending compensation plan and to require participating libraries to agree to the plan, if adopted.
- Enable county boards of supervisors to adopt an intermunicipal library lending compensation provision as part of the countywide plan for public library service.

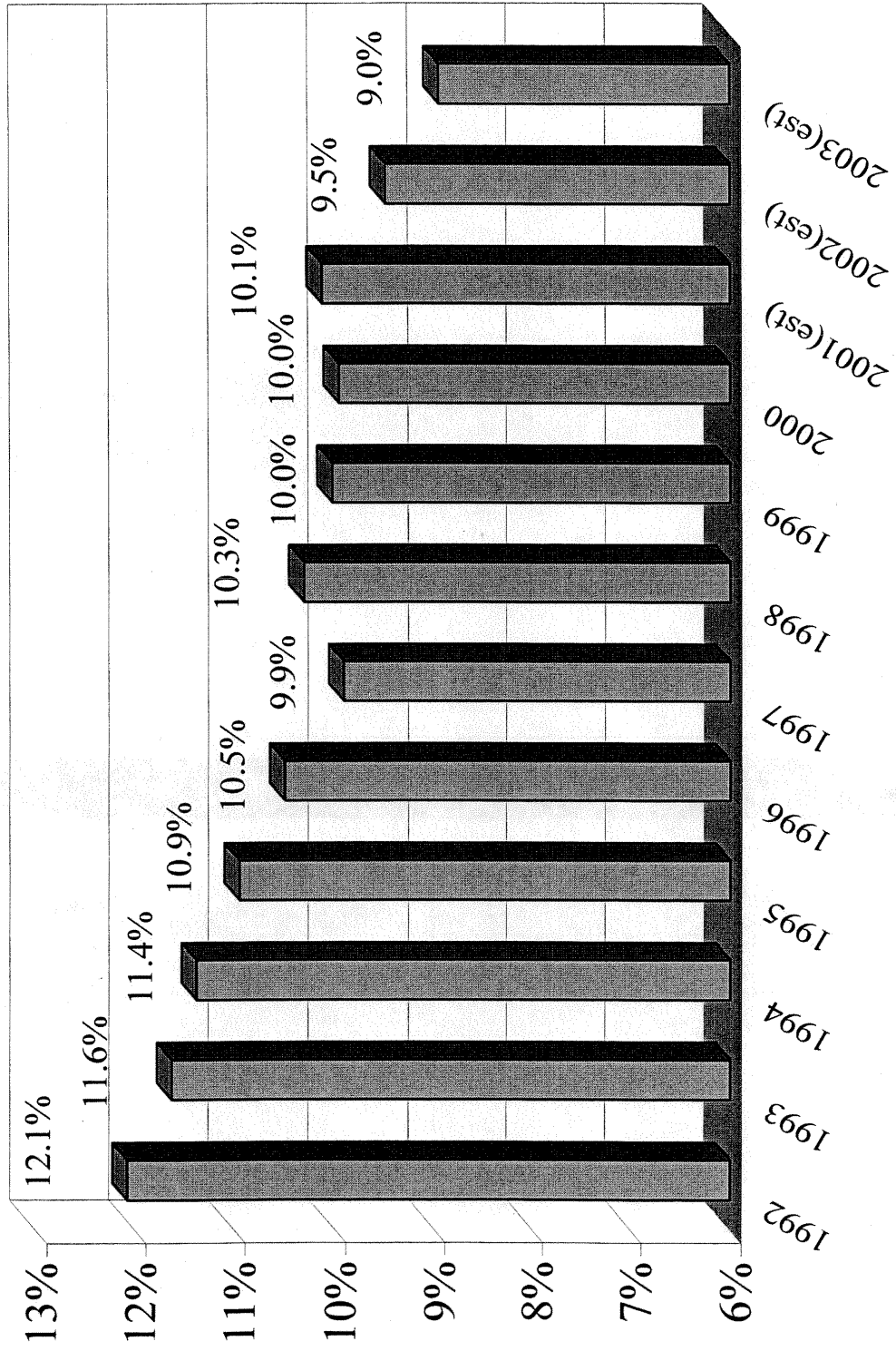
Not included in Governor's recommended budget.

Statutory Language Proposal—Trust Fund Loans to Public Library Systems

Statutory language that would enable public library systems to borrow from the State Trust Fund.

Included in Governor's recommended budget.

Public Library System Aid Index History - Aid as a percent of local and county expenditures



**WTCS-Related Budget Provisions
And Recommended Responses**

**Executive (Governor's) 2001-03 Budget Bill
SB-55 -- AB-144**

March 1, 2001

The following summarizes the Executive (Governor's) budget as introduced (SB-55 and AB-144). It is the bill from which the Joint Finance Committee will work in amending the biennial budget. Please note that this represents our best understanding to date of the 1,800+ page bill.

The "Recommendation" following each provision is the staff's recommendation to the District Boards Association's Legislative Committee and Board of Directors. It is based on the WTCS's official budget requests, discussions with the WTCS Coalition, and the Association's longstanding policy positions and resolutions.

1. General State Aids

The Governor's budget bill provides **no increase** in general state aids above the 2000-01 base level of \$118,415,000 GPR. Therefore, the appropriation would remain at that level in each year of the 2001-03 biennium.

The System had requested that general aids be increased by 4.1% annually to \$123,270,000 in 2001-02 and to \$128,324,100 in 2002-03. The WTCS received a 2.1% per year increase in general aid in the 1999-2001 biennium.

Recommendation: This continues to be an extremely important priority for the WTCS. Continue to seek 4.1% increase per year as essential to WTCS ability to serve state needs, to avoid major reductions in technical college services and staffing, particularly in urban SE Wisconsin, and Western and Southwestern Wisconsin, and to take pressure off large property tax levy increases for WTCS districts currently operating below the levy limit.

*4.1% is
only
1/4 mil*

2. Categorical Aid Programs

A. New Program Initiatives -- The Governor did not approve the System's request to create the following categorical aid programs:

- \$500,000 GPR annually for grants to improve access to assistive technology by WTCS students and workers with disabilities.
- \$4,400,000 GPR over the biennium for pre-technical college programs for middle school students.
- \$1,750,000 GPR over the biennium for a career and educational laddering initiative.
- \$200,000 GPR annually for study abroad grants.

Recommendation: Continue to seek funding as important to meeting the state's need for a highly skilled workforce.

B. Existing Program Initiatives -- The Governor also did not approve the System's request to increase funding for three existing categorical programs:

- Additional course section grants (an additional \$1,300,000 GPR annually requested).
- Faculty development grants (\$416,000 GPR annually).
- Aid for truck driver training programs (\$335,700 GPR biennially).

Funding for all existing state categorical programs remain at their 2000-01 base levels. In other words, the Governor proposes no increase or decrease in funding for categorical aid programs currently administered by the State Board (such as incentive grants and additional course section grants).

Recommendation: At minimum, preserve level funding. Continue to seek increases as requested.

3. Capacity Building Grant Program

The Governor proposes that this program (grants to WTCS districts to create or expand programs in high demand areas) be transferred from the Department of Administration (DOA) to the State Board. In addition, the program's funding level would be reduced from \$5.0 million GPR in 2000-01 to \$3.0 million GPR in 2001-02 and to \$2.0 million GPR in 2002-03. According to the Department of Administration, the reduced funding amounts are based on the DOA grant guidelines issued for 2000-01, which indicated that after initial state funding of 100% of allowable costs in 2000-01, continuation grants would be funded at 60% in 2001-02 and 40% in 2002-03. However, the original program was created as an ongoing

program at \$5 million per year. The guidelines can be seen as intended to make room for new projects to be funded over time as others reached maturity and left grant funding. They were not understood to be a way to phase-out the overall funding and program over time.

Recommendation: Support transfer of program from Department of Administration to WTCS Board. Seek restoration of funding level to current base by increasing 2001-02 funding from \$3.0 million to \$5 million and 2002-03 funding from \$2.0 million to \$5.0 million. This is a critical funding priority along with recommendations for general aid and incentive grants.

4. Incentive Grant Program

The Governor recommends two modifications to the incentive grant program.

A. **Statewide Marketing.** The State Board would be allowed to award incentive grants to district boards for statewide marketing and promotion of the Technical College System. The Governor denied the System's request for additional funding and staff positions for statewide marketing. The budget bill provides no additional funding in the incentive grant appropriation (base funding of \$7,888,100 GPR) for this new purpose.

Recommendation: Acceptable, but does not address need for WTCS marketing efforts. While the expansion of incentive grant purposes provides additional flexibility to the WTCS Board, these funds are already stretched as new allowable purposes have been added without any increase in funding.

B. **Incentive Grant Awards Contingent on State Board Approval of District Budget.** The State Board would not be allowed to award an incentive grant to a WTCS district for any allowable purpose (such as new and expanding programs, adult literacy and statewide marketing) unless the State Board has reviewed and approved the district board's budget. According to the Department of Administration, the term "district board's budget" refers to the total annual budget of the district and not just the amounts budgeted for the incentive grants project.

A policy

Recommendation: This is an inappropriate policy change that creates a possible legal conflict with the WTCS Board's accountability/auditing role of certain district activities. The WTCS Board did not request this and does not likely have current staff resources for this purpose (even without a proposed 5% cut in agency operations as described below).

5. Virtual Campus (E-Tech College) Initiative

A. The Governor recommends that \$1.0 million in special funding (PR-S) annually and 3.0 positions be provided to the State Board to improve access to technical college courses offered over the Internet. The funds would come from the dissolution of the Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunications Foundation's (WATF) endowment fund. The proposed funding represents 16% of requested funds for eTech College activities.

The State Board would be required to promulgate rules allowing a student enrolled in one district to take a course offered by another district over the Internet without paying additional fees to the district board offering the course. The funds provided by the State Board would be used to establish an Internet site that provides information on all courses offered over the Internet by all district boards and to assist district boards in developing Internet courses.

Recommendation: While this funding and the positions are important to the WTCS, funding must be shifted from WATF proceeds to general revenue (PR-S to GPR). The current source of funds is extremely unstable and will be in contention in the legislature and, possibly, in the courts. The WATF Board was created to distribute certain telecommunications tax revenues for educational technology purposes. It is not clear that the WATF Board had the authority to dissolve itself. By doing so, the fund's entire \$23 million balance was returned to state coffers but is segregated from GPR.

B. The Governor also proposes that \$1,000,000 PR-S in 2001-02 be provided from the WATF endowment fund to support the Wisconsin Advanced Distribution Learning Co-Laboratory, which is a collaborative effort among the UW System, WTCS and Department of Defense to standardize systems for delivering on-line instruction.

Recommendation: Acceptable, but has same funding source problem as item above.

6. TOP Grant Program

The Governor recommends an increase in funding for the TOP grant program from \$6.6 million GPR in 2000-01 to \$7.0 million GPR in 2001-02 and to \$8.1 million in 2002-03. The program eligibility requirements would remain unchanged.

Recommendation: Support. This is the only student aid program receiving an increase in this budget. There may be legislative pressure to delete this program and funding to be used for WTCS general aid, or, worse, to increase other student aid programs (WEAG grants and grants for private college students) or unrelated programs. At minimum, current base funding must be preserved and not shifted to other uses.

7. Applied Technology Centers

The Governor proposes that the sunset date for the WTCS applied technology center provision be extended until July 1, 2003. Under current law, each WTCS district has the authority to incur, without referendum approval, up to \$5.0 million in capital expenditures to construct or purchase an applied technology center provided certain conditions are met (including private sector matching funds). This provision sunsets on December 31, 2001.

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Recommendation: Support.

8. State Board Authority to Direct Program Offerings

The Governor proposes statutory language that would require a WTCS district board to offer or eliminate any program or course of study that the WTCS Board directs the district to offer or eliminate. In addition, the budget bill repeals the current law provision that prohibits the State Board from considering any program or course of study for approval that has not been first approved by the district board.

Recommendation: This is an inappropriate non-fiscal policy change that is antithetical to the WTCS' shared local-state governance model. It would create an environment of unfunded mandates completely removed from local community advisory input and local board governance. The WTCS Board did not request provision.

policy

9. Alternative Certification for WTCS Instructors

The Governor proposes statutory language allowing WTCS district boards to employ an instructor who is not certified by the WTCS Board if the instructor holds a "valid industry certification" that is recognized by the WTCS Board.

Recommendation: This is an inappropriate non-fiscal policy change. Any change to instructor certification should be recommended by the WTCS Board as a result of its analysis working in close cooperation with the college districts.

policy

10. Charter Schools

The Governor recommends that any WTCS district can operate charter schools directly or contract for their operation. Charter schools are K-12 schools that operate with fewer constraints than traditional public schools. Current law permits Milwaukee Area Technical College to operate charter schools within the city of Milwaukee.

policy

Recommendation: This is an inappropriate non-fiscal policy change that was not requested by the WTCS Board. Delete from the budget.

11. Grant to Chippewa Valley Technical College

The Governor recommends that the Department of Commerce may make a grant to Chippewa Valley Technical College of up to \$250,000 in each year of the 2001-03 biennium for a health care education center. Chippewa Valley would have to enter into an agreement with Commerce that specifies the uses for the grant proceeds and reporting and auditing requirements. The funds would come from the gaming economic development and diversification appropriation.

Recommendation: Acceptable as it involves Commerce funding and does not shift GPR funding away from statewide purpose to one district.

12. Manufacturing Extension Center Grants

The Governor proposes that the Department of Commerce provide a grant of \$1,000,000 in each year of the 2001-03 biennium to the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) which provides process improvement and technology transfer services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers. The funds would come from Indian gaming revenues. In the 1999-01 biennium, Commerce provided WMEP a grant of \$1,000,000 annually from the Wisconsin Development Fund.

Recommendation: Acceptable, although the source of funds may well be questioned. The WTCS benefits from WMEP contracting.

13. Wisconsin Higher Education Grants for Technical College Students

The Governor proposes **no increase** in funding for Wisconsin Higher Education Grants (WHEG) for technical college students above the base funding of \$13.2 million GPR. This program provides need-based grants to students who are enrolled at least halftime in a technical college. Under the budget bill, all need-based financial aid programs administered by HEAB (UW, WTCS, and private institutions) are frozen at their 2000-01 base levels.

Recommendation: WTCS students must receive the same level of increase obtained in the budget process for UW or private college/university students. Some increase in student aid programs is warranted and will be a priority for student groups, particularly UW student

organizations. It is not acceptable to have an increase come from shifting current or proposed WTCS TOP grant funding. The TOP grant program is the only state student aid program to receive an increase in the budget bill.

14. Agency Budget Reductions

The Governor recommends a 5% reduction in the WTCS Board's GPR base budget for state operations, which amounts to a cut of \$172,800 GPR annually.

Recommendation: Oppose. The WTCS Board has lost staff resources over past biennia while increasing its level of services. It would be extremely difficult for the WTCS Board staff to meet its agency obligations with any reduction in staff.

15. Public Broadcasting

The Governor proposes the creation of a private, non-profit Educational Broadcasting Corporation to manage public broadcasting operations in Wisconsin, which would replace the Educational Communications Board and the broadcasting division of UW-Extension. A twenty member transitional board would manage the transfer of services to the new corporation and apply to the FCC for the transfer of licenses. The broadcasting services of Milwaukee Area Technical College would not be subject to the proposed restructuring, although MATC does benefit from significant funding through the ECB budget.

Recommendation: Oppose. This is an inappropriate non-fiscal policy item. Several studies and committees have reviewed this issue. No consensus has ever emerged that a change in governance would benefit public broadcasting or the state. While MATC has self-funded the mandated transition to digital broadcast capability, ECB and the UW have not. Digital transition funding has been held-up pending resolution of governance issues.

(end)

WCBVI and WSD 2001-03 Biennial Budget Request

Please see the attached document for details on the status of specific items requested by WCBVI and WSD in the State Superintendent's 2001-03 Budget Request.

General Concerns:

Reduction of DPI's GPR for operations

The Governor's budget reduces DPI's GPR budget by \$2.5 million over the biennium. Approximately half of that reduction would be allocated to the residential schools, possibly affecting about 10 positions. The WCBVI is statutorily required to increase its services to the approximately 1,200 blind and visually impaired students statewide, and WSD is working to improve its services to the approximately 1,400 deaf and hard of hearing students statewide. A cut in its base funding would devastate these efforts. It would also be nearly impossible to maintain its efforts to improve services for the approximately 250 students currently at the residential schools.

Requirement to distribute the maximum amount of federal aids to school districts

Taken literally, this provision would prohibit the State Superintendent from using federal discretionary grants to help the schools. In 2000-01 WSD and its outreach efforts received \$2,164,300 in federal grant dollars. WCBVI received \$1,745,000. The grants fund 40 positions at the schools. It must be noted that the Department of Administration indicates it was not the governor's intent to eliminate federal funding for the residential schools, nor was it the governor's intent to eliminate funding for federally-mandated services. However, under the budget language, grants to DPI or CESAs for mandated and discretionary projects would be eliminated.

No increase in GPR funding for WSD (see attached)

The WSD has functioned without the benefit of cost-to-continue increases to its budget for several years. Amounts budgeted for LTE's, supplies and services and permanent property have become increasingly inadequate to cover actual costs to operate the school. Lack of recognition of these needs will force the schools to decrease, instead of enhance, services to students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

No increase in GPR funding for WCBVI (see attached)

The WCBVI was directed by 1999 WI Act 9 to enhance statewide services to blind and visually impaired students and to continue the operation of a residential school. These include: improved access to high quality information; expanded opportunities for teacher licensing and other professional staff development; expanded availability of specialized curriculum, instructional materials and technology; expanded pupil access to specialized instruction and related services;

and improved coordination of services. In addition, the WCBVI will greatly expand the number of programs and services provided to pupils on a short-term basis.

Lack of additional resources will make it exceedingly difficult to carry out the intent of this legislation and improve services for blind and visually impaired students statewide. Combined with the GPR reductions mentioned above, it creates a critical situation for DPI and the WCBVI.

Support for WCBVI Technology Upgrade (see attached)

The DPI and WCBVI supports the inclusion of funding to upgrade and replace assistive technology devices and related software programs, and upgrade the information technology network at the WCBVI. It is hoped the provision can remain in the budget.

Support for Newsline for the Blind Provision (see attached)

The DPI supports the inclusion of funding to provide an additional \$23,000 in 2002 and \$22,000 in 2003 from the Universal Service Fund to expand Newsline for the Blind Services.

Teacher Licensure Changes

The DPI is concerned about the provisions that allow an unlicensed instructor to teach in Wisconsin classrooms. Both WSD and WCBVI require appropriate teaching certifications and licensed instructors. This proposal undermines the professionalism of teachers, and defeats the work of the education community in developing improved teacher standards, revamping teacher education programs, and providing mentors for beginning teachers.

Contacts:

Jerry Landmark, State Schools Administrator, 608-758-6104 or 608-267-3764
Mark Riccobono, WCBVI Director, 608-728-6121
Alex Slappy, WSD Superintendent, 262-728-7120



State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

MAR 28 2001

March 26, 2001

Senator Richard Grobschmidt
Chairman, Senate Committee on Education
Room 104 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Grobschmidt:

I am writing to inform you that regretfully I will be unable to attend the Senate Education Committee Hearing scheduled for Monday, April 2 in Racine due to scheduling conflicts. For sometime I have had several meetings scheduled in my district which would be difficult to reschedule at a different time.

I would also like to express my disappointment over your scheduling of committee hearings on Mondays and Fridays. It has been a general tradition that committees meet if at all possible on their designated meeting day, typically a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in order to allow legislators time to plan meetings in their districts on Mondays and Fridays. Since this is the second committee meeting that has been scheduled on a Monday or Friday, I would appreciate your consideration of scheduling future hearings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. This enables legislators to plan, without conflict, meetings with constituents in our districts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sheila Harsdorf
State Senator
10th Senate District

Lisa

F.V.

SH/jj

STATE OF WISCONSIN

To _____

Date _____ Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Tom Everett

of or Board Pres.

Phone _____

Telephoned	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please Call	<input type="checkbox"/>
Called to See You	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rush	<input type="checkbox"/>
Returned Your Call	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will Call Again	<input type="checkbox"/>

Message April 2 11:00

Craig HS + Tech Center
Hoi S. Randall



Party Receiving Call

Jackie 743-5137 WJWS
Olson @ Lawrenceville K12.



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

March 26, 2001

TO: Senator Brian Burke, Senate Chair
Representative John Gard, Assembly Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Non-Fiscal Policy Items Contained Within the Governor's 2001-03 Budget Bill

At your request, this office has prepared the attached list of items which are contained within SB 55/AB 144 (the Governor's 2001-03 budget recommendations). The list is comprised of items which are primarily of a non-fiscal policy nature and not closely related to the state's fiscal programs for the next biennium. Included are the page and item number showing where the provisions are described in the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's summary of the Governor's budget.

You will note in reviewing the list that a few of the items have some fiscal effect associated with them. However, in our judgment, the policy impact of these items outweighs any potential fiscal effect of the provision. Examples of these items include the provision to create an agricultural producer security program (Page 104, Item #17). Although this item would have some program and segregated revenue impact, the bill contains over 150 pages of statutory language to implement the provision. Another item (Page 540, Item #12) addresses expanded flexibility for school districts. Although \$2.1 million GPR is included in this item for grants to school districts, the policy implications, in our opinion, outweigh the provision's fiscal effect.

It is important to note that some of the items are policy initiatives that must be dealt with in order to address federal legislation. In some cases, the federal government may impose sanctions if the provisions are not enacted by the state. These items have been included on the list because they do not have an immediate impact upon the state's budget and have policy implications which might warrant scrutiny by legislative standing committees.

Some of the items on the list are marked with an asterisk (*). Those items are of a technical nature and do not raise any policy issues. However, because these matters are typically addressed by the Law Revision Committee, they are included on the list.

Putting such a list together always requires some subjective judgment on which items should be identified. Arguments could be made to expand the list beyond what is presented here or to delete some items from it.

There is one item, which is not on the list, that merits attention. The provision, entitled "Restructure Public Broadcasting," is found on Page 242, Item #9, of the Fiscal Bureau's summary of the budget. A similar provision was included in the Governor's 1999-01 budget bill. Because it addresses the organization of a state government entity, it was not included on our non-fiscal policy list in 1999 and is not on the list which is attached. However, this is a significant policy issue which may merit review and deliberation by legislative committees and the full Legislature outside of the budget process.

If there are questions regarding these items, please contact me.

BL/sas
Attachment

NON-FISCAL POLICY ITEMS

GENERAL FUND TAXES

Excise Taxes and Regulation of Alcohol and Tobacco

- Regulation of Alcoholic Beverages (Page 45, Item #2)
- Regulation of Cigarette Sales (Page 48, Item #3)

ADMINISTRATION

General Agency Provisions

- State and Local Government Policy Coordination (Page 55, Item #10)
- Functions of the Federal-State Relations Office (Page 56, Item #12)
- Study of State Agency Plan Reviews of Nursing Homes, Hospitals and Related Facilities (Page 57, Item #14), (Page 408, Item #11)

Agency Services

- State Procurement Law Modifications (Page 70, Item #11)

Attached Programs

- Elimination of the Council on Health Care Fraud and Abuse (Page 78, Item #8)*

AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Departmentwide and Resource Management

- Drainage District Permitting (Page 94, Item #9)
- Commercial Feed Violations Penalties (Page 95, Item #12)
- Expand DATCP Pest Abatement Authority (Page 96, Item #17)
- Delete Reporting Requirements (Page 98, Item #25)
- Eliminate the World Dairy Center Authority (Page 99, Item #26)*

Trade and Consumer Protection

- Product Safety and Hazardous Substance Violations Penalties (Page 102, Item #11)
- Telemarketing Identification Requirements (Page 102, Item #12)
- Pawnbroker Licensing Forms (Page 103, Item #13)
- Eliminate County and District Fair Report Requirement (Page 103, Item #15)
- Create an Agricultural Producer Security Program (Page 104, Item #17)

CIRCUIT COURTS

- Qualifications, Certification and Expanded Use of Court Interpreters (Page 161, Item #4)

COMMERCE

Departmentwide and Economic Development

- Consolidate Business Development Assistance Center and Entrepreneurial Assistance Networks Reports (Page 183, Item #20)
- Regulatory Flexibility Committee (Page 188, Item #23)

Building and Environmental Regulation

- Eliminate PECFA Council (Page 192, Item #6)*
- Fire Safety and Fire Dues Grant Program (Page 194, Item #9)
- Inspection of Manufactured Dwellings (Page 198, Item #13)
- Inspection of One- and Two-Family Dwellings (Page 198, Item #14)
- Uniform Dwelling Code Council (Page 199, Item #15)

CORRECTIONS

Adult Correctional Facilities

- Conditional Medical Parole and Extended Supervision (Page 216, Item #18)
- Change Obsolete Terminology (Page 220, Item #29)*

Juvenile Corrections

- Serious Juvenile Offender Confinement Limits (Page 231, Item #13)
- Placement of Juveniles in Prison (Page 233, Item #14)
- Criteria for Holding a Juvenile in Custody (Page 234, Item #16)

EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

- Fund-Raising Corporation (Page 242, Item #8)

ELECTIONS BOARD

- Election Law Changes (Page 249, Item #5)

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

- Merit Recruitment and Selection Pilot Programs (Page 281, Item #4)
- Repeal Residency Requirement for LTE and Project Appointments (Page 281, Item #5)
- Delegation of Authority to State Agencies (Page 281, Item #6)
- Implementation of Affirmative Action Plans (Page 282, Item #7)
- Modify Various Reporting Requirements (Page 282, Item #8)
- Leaves of Absence for Adjutant Generals (Page 283, Item #9)

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

- Arbitration Awards Affecting City of Milwaukee Police Officers (Page 285, Item #4)
- Selection by School Districts of Group Health Insurance Providers Made a Permissive Subject of Bargaining under Certain Circumstances (Page 285, Item #5)
- Reassignments Due to Charter School Operations (Page 287, Item #6 -- see Department of Public Instruction for remaining provisions of Item #6 and all of Item #7 on Page 288)

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- Administrative Dissolution of Limited Liability Companies (Page 296, Item #4)
- Interest on Money Being Held for Investment (Page 299, Item #6)
- Investment Advisor Registration and Fees (Page 300, Item #8)
- Regulation of Credit Unions (Page 300, Item #9)
- Universal Banking (Page 305, Item #10)

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Prohibition on Dual Employment by State Agencies (Page 323, Item #1)
- State-Local Fringe Benefits Study Committees (Page 323, Item #2)
- Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (Page 324, Item #3)
- Requirements Pertaining to the Sale of Municipal Utility Property (Page 327, Item #4)
- Register of Deeds Fees for Certifying Copies (Page 328, Item #5)
- Bifurcated Sentencing Structure Modifications (Page 328, Item #6)
- Statute of Limitation in Sexual Assault Cases (Page 332, Item #7)
- Club Drug Penalties (Page 332, Item #8)
- Crimes Related to Computers, Obscenity, Nudity and Pornography (Page 334, Item #9)
- Theft of a Rented or Leased Motor Vehicle (Page 336, Item #10)
- Prisoner Litigation Definition of Correctional Institution (Page 337, Item #11)

HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Departmentwide and Management and Technology

- Required Reports and Plans (Page 345, Item #13)

Health

- Release of Health Care Information (Page 378, Item #14)
- Vital Records -- Miscellaneous Statutory Changes (Page 379, Item #18)

Children and Families

- Guardianship (Page 393, Item #14)
- Petitions for the Transfer of Custody and Guardianship (Page 394, Item #15)
- Permanency Plans for Court-Ordered Placements with a Relative (Page 395, Item #16)
- Court-Ordered Placements -- Agency Recommendations (Page 396, Item #17)
- Searches for Birth Parents (Page 397, Item #20)

Community Aids and Supportive Living

- Health Facility Licensing and Enforcement (Page 403, Item #10)
- Delete Obsolete References (Page 408, Item #12)*

Family Care and Other Community-Based Long-Term Care Programs

- Children's Home and Community-Based Waiver (Page 411, Item #5)
- Family Care -- Referrals to Resource Centers (Page 413, Item #7)
- Family Care -- Services of Resource Centers and Miscellaneous Changes (Page 413, Item #8)
- Family Care -- Exempt CMO Contractors from Home Health Agency Licensure Requirement (Page 414, Item #9)
- Family Care -- Family Care Districts (Page 415, Item #11)
- Family Care -- Hearing Rights (Page 416, Item #13)
- Preadmission Requirement for CBRFs and RCACs in Non-Family Care Counties (Page 416, Item #14)

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

- Rename the Academic Excellence Scholarship Program (Page 419, Item #4)
- Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Report (Page 420, Item #10)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Repeal Historical Society Endowment Fund Council (Page 423, Item #8)*

INSURANCE

- Management Contracts (Page 428, Item #16)

INVESTMENT BOARD

- Revised Depository Selection Board Membership (Page 430, Item #2), (Page 591, Item #14)

LEGISLATURE

- JCLO Review of Kettl Commission Report (Page 443, Item #7)

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Agencywide

- Report on the Effectiveness of the Badger Challenge and the Youth Challenge Programs (Page 450, Item #6)
- Creation of a Wisconsin Naval Militia (Page 450, Item #8)

Emergency Management

- Level A Hazardous Materials Response Team Training and Reporting Requirements (Page 453, Item #2)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Departmentwide

- Rename Division of Land (Page 467, Item #16)*
- Wild Rice License Exemption (Page 468, Item #19)*

Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation

- Elk Hunting (Page 470, Item #6)
- Master Hunter Education Program (Page 472, Item #7)
- Requirements for Permit Issuance (Page 474, Item #13)

Forestry and Parks

- Statewide Trail System (Page 484, Item #20)
- Lease of Land in the Wisconsin Dells Natural Area (Page 485, Item #21)

Water Quality

- Fish Farm Water Usage Exemptions (Page 493, Item #19)
- Water Pollution Discharge Permit Variance to Water Quality Standards (Page 494, Item #20)

Air, Waste and Contaminated Land

- Recycling -- Report to Propose Local Grant Formula Change (Page 497, Item #4)
- Air Management -- General Construction Permits (Page 498, Item #8)
- Brownfields -- Local Government Negotiation and Cost Recovery Process (Page 502, Item #16)
- Local Government Liability Exemption (Page 505, Item #17)
- Brownfields -- Eliminate Interim Liability Exemption for Voluntary Parties (Page 506, Item #18)
- Brownfields -- Natural Attenuation at Voluntary Party Sites (Page 506, Item #19)
- Brownfields -- Voluntary Party Liability Exemption for Former Owners (Page 507, Item #20)
- Brownfields -- Liability Exemption for Sediment (Page 507, Item #21)
- Voluntary Party Liability Exemption for Properties Impacted by Off-Site Contamination (Page 507, Item #22)
- Liability Exemption for Use of Special Waste Under Public Works Contracts (Page 507, Item #23)
- List of Contaminated Sites (Page 509, Item #25)
- Green Tier Program (Page 510, Item #27), (Page 193, Item #8)

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Categorical Aids

- Special Education Requirements (Page 536, Item #2)
- Special Education Rules (Page 537, Item #3)
- Bilingual-Bicultural Educational Program Requirements (Page 539, Item #9)
- Expanded Flexibility for School Districts (Page 540, Item #12), (Page 288, Item #7 in part)
- Performance Improvement Awards for Schools (Page 543, Item #18)

Choice, Charter and Open Enrollment

- Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Administrative Dates and Notifications (Page 545, Item #4)
- Expand Chartering Authority (Page 546, Item #6)

Assessments and Licensing

- Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Pupil Assessment (Page 551, Item #5)
- 4th and 8th Grade Pupil Assessment Modifications (Page 552, Item #7)
- Access to Statewide Examinations (Page 552, Item #8)
- Exceptions to Teacher Licensing Education Requirements (Page 553, Item #9)
- Establish Different Levels of Teacher Licensure (Page 553, Item #10)
- Recognize Out-of-State Teacher Licenses (Page 554, Item #11)
- Teacher Background Checks and License Suspension (Page 554, Item #12)
- Waiver of Teacher Licenses Allowed (Page 555, Item #13)

School District Operations

- Expand Current MPS School Closing Authority Statewide (Page 555, Item #1), (Page 287, Item #6 in part)
- Expand Current MPS School Contracting Authority Statewide (Page 556, Item #2), (Page 287, Item #6 in part)
- School District Referenda Scheduling (Page 557, Item #3)
- School Start Date (Page 559, Item #4), (Page 288, Item #7 in part)
- Layoff or Reassignment of Employees in Consolidated School Districts (Page 559, Item #5), (Page 288, Item #7 in part)
- Low Performance Schools (Page 560, Item #6)
- Prohibit Waivers for School Performance Reports (Page 560, Item #7)

Administrative and Other Funding

- Committee to Review DPI's Rules (Page 565, Item #17)
- Vocational Education Consultants (Page 566, Item #19)
- Distance Education Rule Making (Page 567, Item #21)
- Minority Group Pupil Precollege Scholarships (Page 567, Item #22)
- Division for Libraries and Community Learning (Page 567, Item #23)
- Delete Charter School Audit (Page 568, Item #25)*

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Agencywide

- Public Utilities Exemption from Liability for Stray Voltage Damage (Page 572, Item #6)
- Energy Assessments of Proposed Administrative Rules (Page 574, Item #8)
- Revised Commission Enforcement Authority Over Various Entities Providing Telecommunications Services (Page 575, Item #9)

REGULATION AND LICENSING

- Licensure of Private Security Agencies and Issuances of Private Security Permits (Page 581, Item #6)
- Elimination of Certificates of Good Standing Requirement for Restoration of Funeral Director's Licenses (Page 585, Item #10)

REVENUE

Tax Administration

- Reciprocal State Tax Refund Offset Agreements (Page 591, Item #13)
- Study on Promoting Economic Growth (Page 592, Item #15)
- Biennial Land Information Integration Plan (Page 592, Item #16)

Lottery Administration

- Require a Court Order for Multiple Payees of a Lottery Prize (Page 595, Item #4)

SHARED REVENUE AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Direct Aid Payments

- Use of County Shared Revenue (Page 605, Item #3)

Property Tax Credits

- Farmland Preservation Liens and Conversion Fees (Page 606, Item #3), (Page 93, Item #7)

Property Taxation

- Taxation of Property of Public Utility Holding Companies (Page 609, Item #1)
- Property Tax Exemption for Treatment Plant and Pollution Abatement Equipment (Page 609, Item #2), (Page 39, Item #19)
- Property Tax Exemption for Regional Planning Commissions (Page 610, Item #3)
- Payment of Refunds on Manufacturing Property (Page 610, Item #4)
- Objections to Manufacturing Assessments (Page 611, Item #5)
- Classification of Manufacturing Property (Page 612, Item #6)
- Manufacturing Report Forms (Page 612, Item #7)
- Correcting Assessment Roll Errors (Page 612, Item #8)
- Special Charges for Municipal Services That Are Available (Page 613, Item #9)
- Assignment of Tax Deeds on Brownfield Property (Page 613, Item #10)
- Sale of Tax Delinquent Brownfield Properties (Page 614, Item #11)
- Environmental Remediation Tax Incremental Financing Districts (Page 614, Item #12)

Local Revenue Options

- Municipal Industrial Revenue Bonds (Page 617, Item #2)

STATE TREASURER

- College Savings Program -- Statutory Changes (Page 623, Item #7)
- College Tuition and Expenses Program -- Statutory Changes (Page 624, Item #8)
- Statutory Changes to Escheats Statute (Page 625, Item #12)

TEACH BOARD

- Public Library Boards Telecommunications Access Shared Service Agreements (Page 633, Item #15)
- TEACH Block Grant Reporting Requirement (Page 633, Item #16)

TRANSPORTATION

Local Transportation Aid

- Mass Transit Operating Assistance -- Basis for Aid (Page 655, Item #4) [This provision is included in 2001 Assembly Bill 37, which has been adopted by both houses of the Legislature.]

Local Transportation Projects

- Transportation Economic Assistance Program -- Rename Program (Page 657, Item #2)
- Civil Immunity for Owners of Property Containing a Rails-With-Trails Trail (Page 661, Item #12)

State Highway Program

- Intelligent Transportation Systems (Page 668, Item #13)
- Confidentiality of Certain Information Collected for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (Page 668, Item #14)

Motor Vehicles

- Occupational License Restrictions for Repeat OWI Offenders (Page 672, Item #10)
- Vehicle Sanctions for Repeat OWI Offenders (Page 673, Item #11)
- Suspension of a Juvenile's Driver's License for Failure to Pay a Nondriving Forfeiture (Page 674, Item #12)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

- Modify Membership of WSLH Board (Page 690, Item #31)
- Course Offerings During Evenings, Weekends or by Electronic Means (Page 691, Item #32)
- Tuition Remissions for State Science Fair Champion (Page 691, Item #33)
- Auxiliary Reserve Fund Report Filing Date (Page 692, Item #35)
- UW-Madison Medical School Statutory Language Modifications (Page 692, Item #36)*
- Repeal Medical Education Review Committee (Page 692, Item #37)*

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Trust Fund Programs and Veterans Benefits

- Veterans Personal Loan Program Administrative Rules (Page 706, Item #10)

WISCONSIN HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

- Definition of an Educational Facility (Page 709, Item #1)
- Authority to Use Out-of-State Trust Companies and Banks (Page 709, Item #2)

WISCONSIN HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- Delete Obsolete Drought Assistance Loan Guarantee Program (Page 711, Item #4)*

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

- WTCS Board Course Approval and Elimination (Page 714, Item #7)
- Modification of Incentive Grant Program (Page 714, Item #8)
- Applied Technology Center Capital Expenditures (Page 714, Item #9)
- Emergency Extrication Training Program (Page 715, Item #10)
- Alternative Certification for Instructors (Page 715, Item #11)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Departmentwide

- Eliminate the Division of Workforce Excellence (Page 720, Item #9)

Economic Support and Child Care

- W-2 Community Steering Committees (Page 737, Item #9)
- Study of Transferring Food Stamp Program to DHFS (Page 752, Item #46)
- Delete Obsolete AFDC Provisions (Page 754, Item #50)*

Child Support

- Study of Operating the CR&D System with State Staff (Page 756, Item #3)

1999-2000

PRESIDENT

Delores Heiden
300F Morris Hall
UW-La Crosse
La Crosse, WI 54601
H: 608-781-5497 W: 608-785-8149

PRESIDENT ELECT

Luann Dreifuerst
9062 N. Fielding Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53217
H: 414-352-4682 W: 414-789-6575

VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Champeau
1221 Seitz Dr.
Waukesha, WI 53186
H: 414-521-3336 W: 414-679-1666

COORDINATING SECRETARY

Katherine Liddell
1809 Covered Bridge Rd.
Cedarburg, WI 53012
H: 414-377-6681 W: 414-377-6609

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ernestine Tisdell-Lawrence
4524 N. 73rd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53218-5426
H: 414-527-3432 W: 414-263-8285

TREASURER

Kathy Kippers
W221 S7535 Sunrise Circle
Muskego, WI 53150
H: 414-662-3451 W: 414-363-6250

COMMITTEE LIAISON

Tom Lueschow
236 E. Riverwood Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-4248
H: 414-567-0553 W: 920-674-7044

PUBLIC RELATIONS LIAISON

Kristine Michell
1265 Reed St.
Green Bay, WI 54303-3024
H: 920-498-3749 W: 920-434-4010

DPI LIAISON

Jacqueline Karbon
Department of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841
H: 608-831-5552 W: 608-267-9268

IRA STATE COORDINATOR

Patricia Sowls
404 Lawrence St.
New London, WI 54961-1461
H: 920-982-7394 W: 715-752-4003

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Judy Majerle
4809 Sternberg Avenue
Schofield, WI 54476-2835
Home/Work: (715) 359-6703

To: Members of the Senate Education Committee
From: Wisconsin State Reading Association
Ron Hermes – Lobbyist (255-5522)
Date: March 28, 2001
Subject: Governor's DPI budget proposal



Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the entire meeting of the Senate Committee on Education on Wednesday, March 28. Printed below is a copy of the comments relating to Governor McCallum's Department of Public Instruction budget proposal. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

The Wisconsin State Reading Association represents almost 4,000 educators whose mission is to "promote excellence in reading throughout the state." Our organization has reviewed the governor's proposed budget for DPI, comparing it to research that helps us understand how we, as a state, can help all children become competent, skilled readers and writers. We believe that policies that benefit some children while leaving the needs of others unaddressed will fall short of the goal of helping all children become competent readers and writers.

Our specific concerns are addressed in the following research-based policies which are outlined by the International Reading Association's position statement, "Making a Difference Means Making It Different - Honoring Children's Rights to Excellent Reading Instruction."

1. Changes to the teacher licensing requirements.

We were very pleased to see that the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has identified the changes to teacher licensing as non-fiscal items and is recommending they be removed from the budget.

Children have a right to well-prepared teachers who keep up to date through effective professional development.

We believe that it is ill-advised to retain the proposal for issuing a temporary licenses to persons who have either a bachelor's degree, practical experience, or five years of service in the U.S. Armed Forces. These achievements, while laudable, do not prepare a person to teach reading to young children and also, do not prepare a person to teach the essential learning and reading strategies necessary for young people in high school who are asked to deal with highly technical or challenging reading material.

It is our contention that all persons receiving a teacher license should meet the same standards as those set for individuals who are educated to teach. After having passed PI 34, to insure quality within the ranks of teachers, allowing initial licenses to persons who have no training that would allow them to meet the standards set for teachers seems contradictory.

2. Public Library Funding and Books for Success

Children have a right to access a wide variety of books and other reading materials in classrooms, schools and community libraries.

Research continues to demonstrate that children who read more, read better. **Therefore, we find it shortsighted to continue to inadequately fund our Public Libraries.** As you know, the state is not meeting its 13% funding commitment for public library services. Currently, the rate is 10% and under the governor's proposal the state's commitment falls to 9.5% in the first year and a mere 9% in the second year of the biennium.

With such a high emphasis being place on children being able to read effectively and efficiently by grade 3, it seems the state must provide adequate support to help us reach this goal. We urge the following actions with regard to this budget item:

- **At a minimum continue to fund at the current rate of 10%. We strongly encourage the state meet its obligation to provide 13% funding for public libraries**
- **Include funding for the Books for Success initiative in the budget.** This proposal, introduced by Sen. Shibilski, passed this committee, Joint Finance and the Senate last session. It will provide increased amounts of appropriate reading materials (classroom libraries) to assist schools where young readers have been struggling with the 3rd grade reading test.

3. The Board of Education, Evaluation and Accountability

Children have a right to reading assessment that identifies their strengths as well as their needs and involves them in making decisions about their own learning.

Assessment must provide information for instructional decision making as well as for public accountability. **Placing the assessment of students in the hands of a Board of Education Evaluation and Accountability stresses only the public accountability portion of the purpose for assessment.** Pulling assessment responsibility from DPI increases the potential for transforming schools into places that teach to a state test instead of teaching the literacy skills needed for a full, well-rounded education. It insures that state tests become even more high stakes and lessens the likelihood that the results will be used for instructional decision making. It increases the likelihood that business-style decisions will take precedence over decisions made on the basis of good assessment design. It increases the possibility that results will be misinterpreted and misused in relation to students and school districts.

Placing the assessment of students in the hands of a Board of Education Evaluation and Accountability provides a detrimental separation between assessment and the state standards that are supposed to be assessed. There needs to be a clear link between the two. By having standards set by one department and using another department to control assessment, the public will be unable to see the clear link that should exist between the two.

4. SAGE

Children have a right to classrooms that optimize learning opportunities. We recognize and support the benefits that children receive through the SAGE program. These benefits and the learning gains that children make in this program continue to be demonstrated through nationally recognized research. The most appropriate student-teacher ratios for teaching reading/language arts and math are achieved in this program and benefit children in grades k-3. Further, research is showing that in order to establish long-lasting gains by reducing class size, students must experience this smaller class size for at least 3 to 4 years.

National and state expectations of reading achievement by the end of grade 3 are best accomplished in the kinds of classroom situations that the SAGE program provides. Continuing a state expectation of accomplished reading skills by the end of grade 3 does not coincide with cutting back on a proven means of accomplishing this expectation. The state must continue its obligation to SAGE if teachers and students are going to continue to be held to meet high standards in reading achievement.

5. SUMMER SCHOOL SUPPORT

We are opposed to the governor's proposal to count only 25% of summer school enrollment for determining a school district's revenue limit. School district's are struggling with fitting under the caps. This will only enhance this struggles.

We acknowledge that this biennium finds the state with fewer resources than in the past and that the budget must reflect this fact. We also note that funding must be assigned in different ways than currently proposed in order to meet the recommendations outlined in this testimony. One suggestion we have is for the state legislature to rethink the amount of allotted funding for vouchers in the Milwaukee area in relationship to the amount of allotted funding for the SAGE program. One program (vouchers) serves only 10,500 students while the other program (SAGE) potentially serves over 60,000. The current totals allotted in the budget for these programs are almost equal in amount. **We believe that policies that benefit some children while leaving the needs of others unaddressed will fall short of the goal of helping all children become competent readers and writers.**

We believe that efforts to improve children's reading and writing achievement must begin by recognizing the right of any child to receive the best possible reading and writing instruction. As we evaluate this proposed budget in light of the rights of children, we believe that the changes we have suggested will lead to the improvement of instructional opportunities that will benefit all Wisconsin students.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ALLIANCE

4797 Hayes Road • 2nd Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53704
(608) 242-1370 • FAX (608) 242-1290
E-Mail: kammerud@wasda.org

Jennifer A. Kammerud
Director of
Government Relations

TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Jennifer Kammerud
DATE: March 28, 2001
RE: **2001-03 Budget Bill (SB 55/AB 144)**

An Alliance of:

Association of
Wisconsin School
Administrators

Wisconsin Association
of School District
Administrators

Wisconsin Association
of School Business
Officials

Wisconsin Council for
Administrators of
Special Services

The Governor's 2001-03 budget contains a number of fiscal, and in our opinion non-fiscal, items that would negatively impact public education in this state.

The non-fiscal items of concern are outline in the attached memo and are, for the most part, included in the March 26, 2001 Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo, which lists the non-fiscal policy items contained within the budget bill.

The fiscal items of greatest concern to the SAA are listed below.

- *SAGE*
The Governor's budget changes the SAGE program from a K-3 program to a K-1 program for those schools that entered the program last year. Those schools with a poverty rate of 50 percent or more are then allowed to expand SAGE to grades two and three.

The SAA would like to see SAGE maintained as a K-3 program due to the significant benefits administrators see for the children in the program. SAGE is also about more than class sizes; it focuses on reading, accountability, and greater parent and community involvement. If the Governor's budget provisions were to go into effect only 117 out of the 510 schools admitted to the program last year would have SAGE in grades 2-3.

- *Summer School*
The Governor's budget reduces the reimbursement for summer school programs from 40 percent to 25 percent.

The SAA feels it is important that that reimbursement be maintained at 40 percent. If the reimbursement is reduced many school districts around the state will discontinue their summer school programs. This would be unfortunate, as these programs are needed for remediation purposes. In fact, it was for that very reason that the reimbursement was increased in the last budget bill to 40 percent.

- *Per Pupil Adjustment Aid*
The Governor's budget eliminates the inflationary adjustment and freezes it at \$220.29 per pupil.

The freezing of this aid represents a redefinition of the two-thirds commitment in a manner that benefits the state. This redefinition will mean that the state will save \$3.3 million in the first year of the biennium and \$10.8 million in the second year. This will have a large effect on school districts across the state by exacerbating the problems many school districts, especially those with large changes in enrollment, are experiencing under revenue limits.

- *Special Education*

The Governor's budget allocates \$10 million additional dollars for special education in the first year of the biennium and \$15 million in the second year. It also places in statute a new way to distribute special education dollars and recognition of high-cost, low-incident students.

The SAA has three major concerns with the special education funding provisions in this budget. They are:

- 1) The \$25 million additional dollars over the biennium will not keep us close to our current reimbursement rate. The SAA would like to see additional dollars put in to special education.
- 2) The new method to distribute special education dollars called census-based funding will hurt small school districts. Under this method, \$10 million in the first year of the biennium and 5 percent of the total handicapped aid appropriation in the second year and 10 percent in the third will be distributed based on general student population (85 percent) and the number of low income students (15 percent). This means that larger school districts would get most of the new money in special education leaving smaller districts to slide back even farther in their reimbursement rates. The SAA would like to ensure that before the state embarks upon this method of funding, that care is taken to make sure it does not worsen how school districts fare.
- 3) The high-cost, low-incident definition is inadequate. The Governor's budget defines a high-cost student as costing \$50,000. There are very few students who fall into this category. Instead, the SAA proposes to define high-cost as three times the state average and would prefer the state reimburse for at least 90 percent of those costs instead of the 50 percent contained in the budget. Moreover, we would like to see funding for this proposal be in addition to any handicapped aid appropriation so that we are not just redistributing money.

- *Open Enrollment*

The Governor's budget increases the amount of money that a sending school district gives to a receiving district under open enrollment. The amount of money coming from the sending district will increase from \$4,858 to \$5,700. This will significantly impact large net senders under open enrollment to the detriment of students who remain in those districts.

- *Milwaukee Private School Choice Program*

The Governor's budget not only changes the income eligibility requirements, but also the boundaries of the program. The amount of money going into the program also rises dramatically with an additional \$8.9 million in the first year of the biennium and \$18.56 million in the second year.

The SAA is concerned not only with the changing nature of the program via the boundary changes and the income eligibility requirements, but also with the monetary impact such dramatic increases in the choice program will have on districts in the rest of the state.

- *Board on Education Evaluation and Accountability*

The Governor's budget creates this board and attaches it to Department of Administration to oversee assessments, adopt and approve tests, create and publish the school performance report, evaluate SAGE, and identify low-performing school districts.

The SAA opposes this move. We feel these duties should be maintained where they are constitutionally assigned, at the Department of Public Instruction.

- *Badgerlink Funding*

The Governor's budget requires a fee to be paid by school districts for the use of badgerlink.

Since all citizens in the state of Wisconsin have access to Badgerlink, the SAA feels this is a universal service issue. School districts should not be forced to pay for this service, but moreover should not be the only entities singled out for that payment.

Finally, it should be pointed out that one very large item is not in the Governor's budget, revenue flexibility. The SAA feels very strongly that some type of revenue flexibility, such as a two percent solution, should be placed in statute to allow school districts to deal with some of the many fiscal issues that come up unexpectedly over the course of a year. The two percent solution would allow districts to raise an addition two percent of revenue per child via board decision on a yearly basis.

If you have any questions about these or any other items, please feel free to contact me

L. ANNE REID

Information Services Supervisor

Maude Shunk Public Library

W156N8446 Pilgrim Road

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

(262) 532-8910

Fax (262) 532-8949

1516 Ridgewood Dr

West Bend, WI 53095

Home (262) 334-4352

E-mail: areid@hnet.net

Fax (262) 334-0551

SEP 25 2001

1516 Ridgewood Drive
West Bend, WI 53095

September 23, 2001

Senator Richard Grobschmidt, Chair
Senate Education Committee
Wisconsin Senate
P. O. Box 7882
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Grobschmidt:

This is a follow-up of my letter to you in June regarding my nomination by Governor Scott McCallum to the Wisconsin Technical College System Board. I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with the members of the Senate Education Committee on October 9, 2001.

I have served on the WTCS Board for the past six years, and I am committed to the mission of our colleges to provide a skilled labor force for Wisconsin. Our State Board members as well as the District Board members, the Presidents of our colleges, and other technical college advocates have worked hard over the past few years to promote this mission to the citizens of the state.

The process of selecting a new State Director is a major focus of the Board agenda in the next few months, and I believe that it is important for our Board members to select a State Director with an understanding of our technical college system and a vision for the future of technical education in our state.

I would be happy to discuss with you any concerns or issues relating to the Board either now or in the future. I would very much appreciate your support of my nomination and thank you again for the opportunity to appear before your committee.

Sincerely,



L. Anne Reid