



# School Administrators Alliance

Representing the interests of Wisconsin school children

## Summary of Major Education Provisions Joint Finance Committee 2005-07 State Budget Proposal

**State Equalization Aid.** Increase state equalization aid by \$141.4 million in 2005-06 and \$230.2 million in 2006-07. Total increase of \$371.6 million. Reduces Governor Doyle's proposed increase by \$328.4 million over the biennium.

**School Levy Credit.** Increase of \$50 million for 2006-07 and thereafter, with the additional money distributed under the current law method of distribution.

**Revenue Limits.** Reduce the revenue limit per pupil adjustment to \$120 in 2005-06 and \$100 in 2006-07 and thereafter. Governor Doyle had proposed retaining the current law estimates of \$248 per pupil in 2005-06 and \$252 in 2006-07. This action results in approximately \$350 million reduction in school revenue cap authority over the biennium.

**Transportation Aid.** Increase from current \$17.7 million to \$20.9 million in 2005-06 and \$27.25 million in 2006-07. Total increase of \$12.75 million over the biennium. Reimbursement increases would be concentrated on routes of 8 miles or more, where rates would double (up to a maximum \$180 per student).

**Special Education Categorical Aid.** Modifies Doyle proposal. No increase in 2005-06; \$12 million increase in 2006-07. Guidance counselors and school nurses become personnel eligible for reimbursement. In addition, the provision requires DPI to conduct a study on special education categorical aid distribution on a census basis, rather than the cost reimbursement basis under law. Further, request the Legislative Council to conduct a study concerning the effectiveness of Wisconsin's current special education policy and funding.

**High Cost Special Education Initiative.** Adopt Doyle proposal to create a new grant program in 2006-07 to provide \$3.5 million to help offset the costs of educating students with high-cost special needs. The grants will reimburse 90 percent of costs in excess of \$30,000 per special education student.

**Bilingual-Bicultural Education Aid.** Adopt Doyle proposal to increase aid by \$2.4 million over the biennium, enough to keep the reimbursement ratio at its current level of 12%. No funds for currently ineligible students.

**SAGE.** Provide \$6.14 million over the biennium to fully fund estimated SAGE enrollments under current law. Modify current law to allow participating school districts to forego aid for any school, for grade 2, grade 3, or both, and to elect not to reduce class sizes in those grades, beginning in the 2005-06 school year (any unexpended portion of the SAGE appropriation would lapse to the general fund at the end of each year). Also authorize participating schools in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to use SAGE funding to comply with SAGE requirements, comply with current P-5 requirements or any combination of pupil-teacher ratios between 1 to 15 and 1 to 25 within grades preschool to five.

**Four-Year-Old Kindergarten:** Maintain current level of state funding. Delete Doyle creation of a new grant program with \$3 million in 2006-07 expenditure authority for four-year-old kindergarten start-up grants.

**Declining Enrollment Districts.** Delete the Governor's recommendation to allow districts to set revenue limits at the greater amount determined by using either a 3-year or 5-year rolling average of pupil enrollment.

**Low Revenue Ceiling.** Adopt the Governor's recommendation to increase the low revenue ceiling exemption from \$7,800 in 2004-05 to \$8,100 in 2005-06 and \$8,400 in 2006-07.

**Carryover of Unused Revenue Limit Authority.** Adopt the Governor's recommendation to allow school districts to carry forward to the next school year 100 percent of any unused revenue limit authority in the current year.

**School Breakfast.** Delete the Governor's \$1.3 million increase over the biennium.

**Advanced Placement and Gifted and Talented Grants.** Modify the Governor's recommendation to provide an additional \$91,000 annually for gifted and talented middle school pupils and include the Governor's recommendation to provide \$100,000 annually to partially reimburse school district costs for offering advanced placement courses in high schools that are not offering such courses.