



March 10, 2023

Dear Senator Ballweg:

Thank you for your service to the people of the State of Wisconsin. Legislating is never easy, but in our next state budget, **AEF hopes to see the end of 30 years of revenue limit gaps.**

AEF is a membership organization of 60 public school districts educating almost 100,000 students across the state. Chartered in 1993 when revenue limits were first introduced, we have made it clear that **every state budget since then has made our districts losers** in the funding race. We believe it's unconstitutional. It can and should be changed in the 2023-2025 budget.

Attached to this letter is a map of base revenues for each district in the state. There are 125 districts in red at \$10,000 per student, giving almost 300 districts more funding per pupil. That's right, **almost one in three school districts is stuck at the bottom of the funding ladder.** The highest funded districts get \$18,000 and more...for every student! **The top 14 districts share almost \$71,000,000 to educate just 4300 students. This hurts kids.** Low revenue districts:

- Send a smaller share of their students to college.
- Spend 25% less per student on elementary teachers and have 8% more children per class.
- Make up just 17% of districts that spend more than \$3000 per MS/HS student, while high revenue districts are 50% of the total.
- Spend 30% less, but have 12% **more students for every school counselor.**
- Spend **22% less on nursing care** compared to high revenue districts.
- Make up just one-third of the districts spending the most on Library Media Specialists.

Furthermore, districts at the bottom level of revenues in 1993 are almost all still there today.

Here are **your constituent's** 21-22 revenue limits per pupil, no exemptions (**AEF Members**):

- **Adams-Friendship** \$10,000
- Baraboo \$10,008
- Beaver Dam \$10,026
- Berlin \$10,000
- Cambria-Friesland \$10,028
- Clintonville \$10,000
- DeForest \$11,283
- Green Lake \$12,779
- Iola-Scandinavia \$10,056
- Lodi \$10,000
- **Manawa \$10,000**
- Marion \$10,000
- Markesan \$10,000
- Montello \$10,000
- **New London \$10,000**
- Omro \$10,000
- Pardeeville \$10,000
- **Portage \$10,000**
- Poynette \$10,000
- Princeton \$10,000
- Randolph \$10,540
- Reedsburg \$10,042

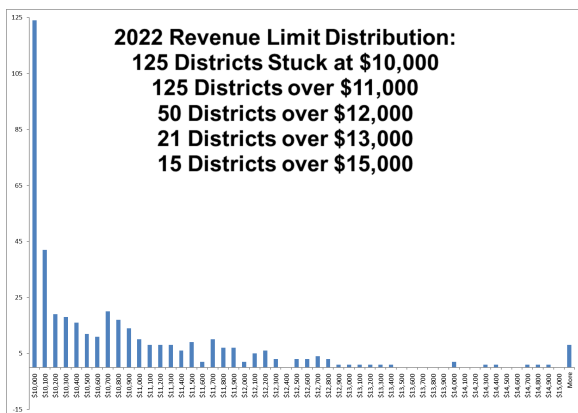
- Rio \$10,005
- Ripon \$10,026
- Rosendale-Brandon \$10,000
- Rosholt \$11,398
- Shiocton \$10,000
- Tigerton \$10,251
- Tomorrow River \$10,000
- Waupaca \$10,784
- Waupun \$10,000
- Wautoma Area \$10,000
- Westfield \$10,011
- Weyauwega-Fremont \$10,000
- Wild Rose \$10,000
- Winneconne \$10,000
- Wisconsin Dells \$10,163

Why should DeForest and Green Lake get 12-17% more funding *per pupil* than so many of your other districts? It's simply not fair. Explain that to parents in low revenue districts.

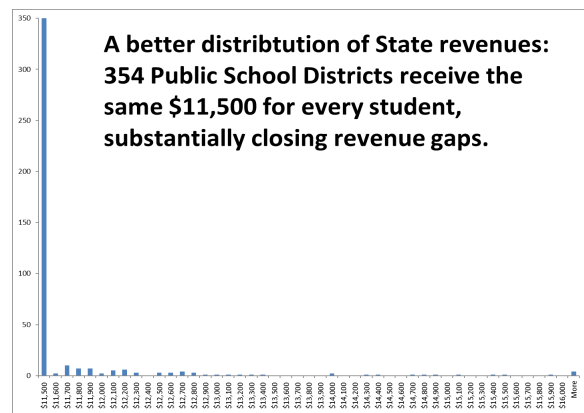
AEF does not propose to take away funding from a few lucky districts at the top. Instead, we hope that the Joint Finance Committee will do the same thing they did 4 years ago—raise the low revenue ceiling and provide additional funding through per pupil categorical aid. DPI wants to raise all revenue limits by \$1000—there would be no gap closure under their plan. Governor Evers proposed to raise all revenue limits by \$1000 with \$200 extra for districts at the bottom. This would have a small impact on equity. **AEF proposes to raise the low revenue ceiling by \$1500**, with other aids provided for all students equally. Here is how the proposals compare.

	Current	DPI	Governor	AEF
Districts at the Minimum	125	125	187	354
Districts Funded Within 10% of the Minimum	74.4%	74.4%	78.2%	93.5%

End this unfair system:



AEF's 2023-2025 Revenue Limit Proposal



AEF also supports significant increases in special education funding. Insufficient special education funding has a major impact on nondisabled students. Below is the amount taken from every child without a disability in Fiscal 2020 to cover unfunded costs in those same districts:

- Adams: \$2216
- New London \$1352
- Portage \$1266

Contact AEF Executive Director John Humphries at (608) 438-6109, or see www.waef.net for historical lawsuit information, background, downloadable maps, and more.