



March 10, 2023

Dear Representative Magnafici:

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 about 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 has created winners and losers** in the funding system. We believe it's unconstitutional. It can and should be changed in the 2023-2025 budget.

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.

Here are **examples from your legislative district**. The second column is the 21-22 revenue limit per pupil, no exemptions. The third column compares the 20-21 revenue limit with the state average with exemptions (\$10,859), showing how much higher their revenues would have been in that year. The third column shows the cumulative effect of revenue limits since 1993.

| District (AEF Members) | Revenue Limit/Pupil | Deficit in 21-22 | Deficit 1993-2021 |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Clear Lake | \$10,000 | \$304,000 | \$8,000,000 |

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Grantsburg | \$10,000 | 1,025,000 | \$19,000,000 |
| Luck | \$10,063 | \$280,000 | \$7,000,000 |
| New Richmond | \$10,000 | \$4,973,000 | \$51,000,000 |
| Osceola | \$10,000 | \$536,000 | \$32,000,000 |
| Unity | \$10,607 | \$546,000 | \$9,000,000 |

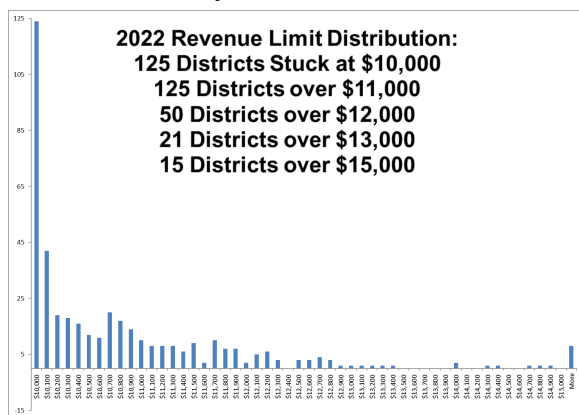
Clayton, Frederic, and Turtle Lake were at or very close to \$10,000 per student.

Compare those to Amery: \$11,174; Cumberland: \$12,144; Somerset: \$10,997 per student.

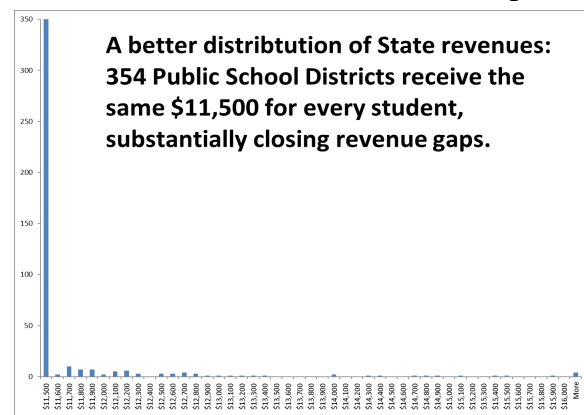
AEF does not propose to take away funding from a few lucky districts at the top. Instead, we hope that the Joint Finance Committee will do the same thing they did 4 years ago—raise the low revenue ceiling and provide additional funding through per pupil categorical aid. DPI wants to raise all revenue 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 area districts:

- Clayton: \$1035
- Clear Lake: \$1019
- Frederic: \$1053
- Grantsburg: \$926
- Luck: \$1136
- N. Richmond: \$1384
- Osceola: \$1194
- Unity: \$1625
- Turtle Lake: \$961

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