



March 10, 2023

Dear Representative Moses:

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
Baldwin-Woodville Area	\$10,000	\$2,040,000	\$25,000,000
Boyceville Community	\$10,000	\$897,000	\$12,000,000
Colfax	\$10,000	\$643,000	\$17,000,000

Elk Mound	\$10,000	\$1,361,000	\$21,000,000
Glenwood City	\$10,000	\$870,000	\$10,000,000
Menomonie Area	\$10,148	\$3,790,000	\$30,000,000
New Richmond	\$10,000	\$4,973,000	\$51,000,000
Saint Croix Central	\$10,000	\$1,723,000	\$16,000,000

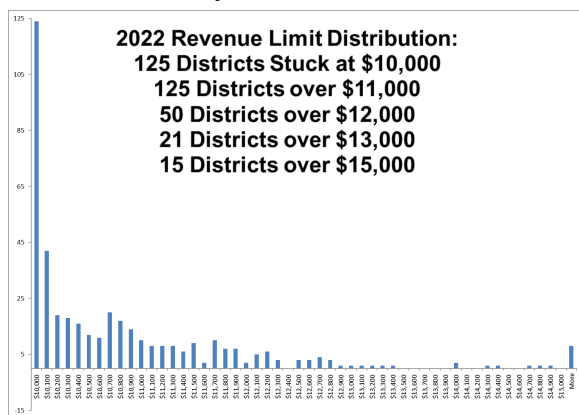
Clear Lake, **Prairie Farm**, and Spring Valley were at or very close to \$10,000 per student.

Compare those to Amery: \$11,174; Barron: \$11,221; Elmwood: \$13,971 per student.

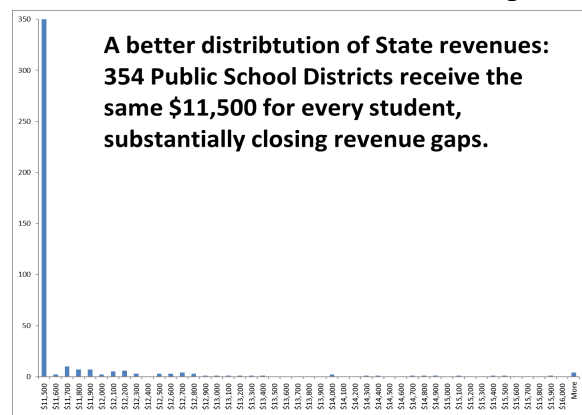
AEF does not propose to take away funding from a few lucky districts at the top. Instead, we hope that the Joint Finance Committee will do the same thing they did 4 years ago—raise the low revenue ceiling and provide additional funding through per pupil categorical aid. DPI wants to raise all revenue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

- Baldwin: \$1383
- Boyceville: \$1657
- Clear Lake: \$1019
- Colfax: \$1071
- Elk Mound: \$909
- Glenwood: \$1346
- Menomonie: \$1338
- Prairie Farm: \$1471
- St. Croix Ctl.: \$1341

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