



March 10, 2023

Dear Representative Zimmerman:

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	Revenue Limit/Pupil	Deficit in 21-22	Deficit 1993-2021
Baldwin-Woodville Area	\$10,000	\$2,040,000	\$25,000,000
Osceola	\$10,000	\$536,000	\$32,000,000

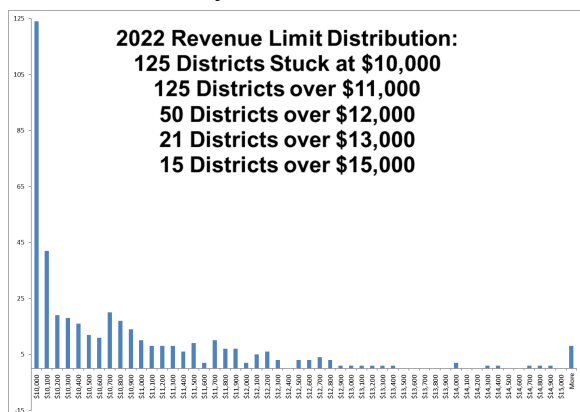
River Falls	\$10,017	\$4,788,000	\$50,000,000
New Richmond	\$10,000	\$4,973,000	\$51,000,000
Saint Croix Central	\$10,000	\$1,723,000	\$16,000,000
Spring Valley	\$10,067	\$724,000	\$3,000,000

Compare those to Hudson: \$11,873; Prescott: \$10,749; and Somerset: \$10,997 per student.

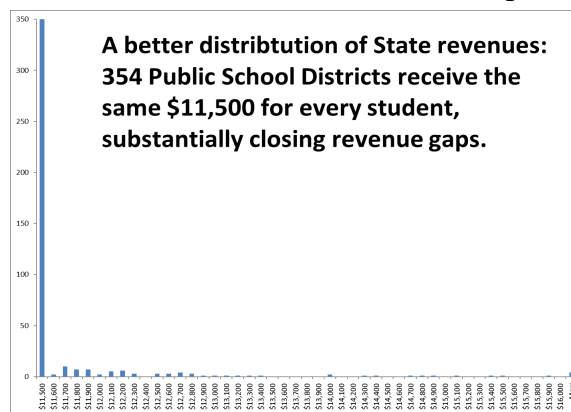
AEF does not propose to take away funding from a few lucky districts at the top. Instead, we hope that the Joint Finance Committee will do the same thing they did 4 years ago—raise the low revenue ceiling and provide additional funding through per pupil categorical aid. DPI wants to raise all revenue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

- Baldwin-Wordville: \$1383
- Osceola: \$1194
- River Falls: \$1116
- New Richmond: \$1384
- Saint Croix Central: \$1341
- Spring Valley: \$894

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