“LOOK FOR THE HELPERS”
How Wisconsin public education advocates can help solve our funding crisis

Heather DuBois Bourenane

Wisconsin Constitution, Article X, Section 3

“The legislature shall provide by law for the establishment of district schools, which shall be as nearly uniform as practicable; and such schools shall be free and without charge for tuition to all children between the ages of 4 and 20 years; and no sectarian instruction shall be allowed therein.”

Every child deserves an equally excellent public school.

No exceptions.

Who we are

We are an inclusive, non-partisan coalition connecting ALL public education supporters to information, actions, and each other.
The people who know and care the most about our students and schools should be HEARD the LOUDEST and RESPECTED the MOST.

PUBLIC OPINION:
Strong bipartisan support

2016: Record referenda passed statewide (80% of 155)
2017: 80% favor increase to public school funding

Wisconsin is $709 million/year below 2009 funding levels

Wisconsin School Funding Still Below 2011 Levels
State General Purpose Revenue budgeted funding for K-12 school aids compared to 2011 amount, in millions. Amounts are adjusted for inflation and shown by fiscal year.

$2.9 billion: Cumulative decrease over 6 years

Wisconsin is $709 million/year below 2009 funding levels

Policy & local control
Major issues in 2017

- Voucher Accountability Bills
- REFERENDA Bills
- Limit local control
- Community Schools Bill
- BATHROOM BILL
- Federal funds, AHCA changes
- Guns in schools
- Special education funding

Real challenges
- Teacher Shortages / morale
- Testing and “School Report Cards”
- Accountability debates
- Local conflicts – State conflicts
- Special education needs
- Urban and rural issues

What do public education advocates want?
1. Full and fair funding
2. Local control of local schools
3. A voice in decision-making
4. Policy that helps kids
5. Moratorium on voucher expansion + accountability
6. No more political games
How can we get there?
Public input. Public policy. #MakeItLocal

Stay informed

Take time to build relationships

Get involved

Focus on what matters: children

Every election matters
From school board to referenda, state to national.
Focus on issues and values.

Be an everyday ambassador for public schools!
Speak up. We are the voice of our children.

The SNOWBALL effect
Courage is contagious

Come together & get organized.

2017-2019 BUDGET ACTION PLAN
Making an impact
Local action works

Thank you
Heather DuBois Bourenane
hdb@WisconsinNetwork.org
WisconsinNetwork.org