



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**SFN to Joint Finance Committee: “Don’t sell our future”**  
*Proposal to cut schools’ total revenue will have drastic results*

In a letter that was sent to members of the Legislative Joint Finance Committee, the School Finance Network urged leaders to not “sell the future to make it through today.”

In the letter, the School Finance Network explained that the plans being considered by the governor and legislative leadership would have a devastating impact on Wisconsin schools and districts.

“You, our leaders, are considering more and deeper cuts to public school education. The School Finance Network demands that we look to the future of our society as you consider the budget issues of today,” the letter suggests.

“The proposals to cut schools’ total revenue by 5% will have drastic results for the children in school today. If schools have to make such drastic cuts on the heels of reductions already made the last several years, kids get hurt. Nearly every school district in Wisconsin has been reducing expenditures even before the economic downturn. Many have already eliminated school nurses, librarians, psychologists, counselors, and music teachers. Recently, many schools have fewer elementary school teachers and fewer high school teachers as class sizes were increased. Only direct services for kids are left in many instances. If schools are forced to cut even more, expect the cuts to include vocational programs and core classes such as math and English as schools increase class sizes even more to balance budgets.”

The School Finance Network is urging the governor and legislature to protect property tax payers by advancing a balanced solution to the budget crisis that includes revenue increases and other methods to reduce property taxes and increase flexibility at the local level.

“We are asking the governor and legislature to do the hard but right thing,” the letter suggests. “Look to Wisconsin’s future and protect the next generation”.

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The School Finance Network, a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to finding a better way to fund Wisconsin public schools, is made up of the following groups: AFT–Wisconsin, the Fair Aid Coalition, the School Administrators Alliance, the Southeastern Wisconsin Schools Alliance, the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools, the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, the Wisconsin Education Association Council, and the Wisconsin PTA.

**COALITION PARTNERS**

AFT – Wisconsin  
[www.aft-wisconsin.org](http://www.aft-wisconsin.org)

Fair Aid Coalition

School Administrators  
Alliance  
[www.wsaa.org](http://www.wsaa.org)

Southeastern Wisconsin  
Schools Alliance  
[www.schoolsalliance.com](http://www.schoolsalliance.com)

Wisconsin Alliance for  
Excellent Schools  
[www.excellentschools.org](http://www.excellentschools.org)

Wisconsin Association  
of School Boards  
[www.wasb.org](http://www.wasb.org)

Wisconsin Association  
of School District  
Administrators  
[www.wasda.org](http://www.wasda.org)

Wisconsin Education  
Association Council  
[www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org)

Wisconsin Parent Teacher  
Association (PTA)  
[www.wisconsinpta.org](http://www.wisconsinpta.org)

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