



**RESOLUTION OF THE MARSHALL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECEMBER 21, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, voters in Wisconsin communities across the state voluntarily raised property taxes on themselves in 2016 by a record amount to pay for additional investments in local public schools to include:

- \$317 million in increases in per-student spending that expire after a certain number of years;
- \$51 million in increases in per-student spending that continue indefinitely; and
- \$1.4 billion in new borrowing for building and facilities construction or improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, The amount approved locally in 2016 for increases in revenue limits that continue indefinitely was more than the amounts approved in 2009–2015 combined and the amount of new borrowing that voters approved in 2016 was more than the amount approved in 2013 - 2015 combined; and

**WHEREAS**, school referendums in Wisconsin increased dramatically in 2016 demonstrating a significant need for additional funding for K-12 public education. In total, 154 referendum questions were on the ballot across Wisconsin in 2016, representing a 71% increase in referendum ballot questions over 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, voters in Wisconsin successfully passed referendum questions in 2016 at a higher rate than 2015 to demonstrate increased public support for additional funding for K-12 education. Voters successfully passed 122 of 154 referendum ballot questions in 2016 for a 79% success rate. The 79% success rate was 11% higher than in 2015 when voters passed referendums at a 68% rate; and

**WHEREAS**, state spending on education has not kept up with inflation since the passage of Act 10. Since 2012-2013, the Consumer Price Index has increased 5.71% cumulatively whereas Per Pupil increases in Revenue Limits and Per Pupil Aid has only increased 4.5% cumulatively for a deficit of 1.21% since 2012-13; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin has cut state general funding for K-12 schools by 12.7% per student between 2008 and 2016, a cut larger than all but three other states, according to a study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Scott Walker has repeatedly affirmed his plan to make K-12 education funding a top priority in the next state biennial budget. In his 2015 State of the State address, Governor Walker pledged to “commit to investing every penny of savings to the general fund to support public education.” Governor Walker reaffirmed that promise in speech at Fox Valley Technical College on August 23rd as quoted in a story in the *Appleton Post Crescent* he said: “Our No. 1 priority is going to be putting more money into K-12 public education.” Finally again in a tweet on November 23rd, Governor Walker said “we will put additional money into public schools, our technical colleges and the University of Wisconsin system in our budget,” and

**WHEREAS**, leaders of both the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate have said that increasing K-12 education funding will be a priority in the next state biennial budget. In a story in the Wisconsin State Journal on November 10th, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said lawmakers may look at putting more money in K-12 schools saying “Looking ahead, we will invest more to help every child succeed.” Assembly Speaker Robin Vos told the Racine Journal Times in an interview on November 25<sup>th</sup>

“As part of that balanced budget, I have a few priorities. I would like to continue to increase our investment in education, especially public schools and universities,” and

**WHEREAS**, to deliver on the promise of providing additional resources to school districts, the governor and lawmakers must either increase revenue limits (and general aid at the same time to mitigate the property tax impact) or increase the per pupil categorical aid payments to school districts. Additional state funding allocated to general aid without increasing revenue limits or to the school levy tax credit provides no additional spendable resources to school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr Tony Evers has submitted the 2017-19 Department of Public Instruction (DPI) budget request calling for an increase in \$707 million in funding over the biennium. The request includes additional spending authority for all school districts to catch up with inflation in both years, with a 2 percent increase in revenue limits (\$200 and \$204 per pupil, respectively) and increased state aid to hold property taxes flat. It also guarantees a minimum of \$3,000 for every student, a 20 percent weight for impoverished students in the general aid count, and moves funds currently allocated to the School Levy Credit, First Dollar Credit, and High Poverty Aid to general aid so these funds go directly to schools. The request also proposes significant increases in special education categorical aid funding, expanded supports for English learners and targeted resources for rural schools. It also recommends weighting the per pupil categorical aid to account for students in poverty, students learning English, and students in foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, The DPI budget proposal would provide funding through grants and a new categorical aid to support school-based mental health services. This includes funding for mental health professionals and social workers in schools, grants for school-community collaborations, and training of educators and school staff; and

**WHEREAS**, The DPI budget request proposes to create a teacher retention program that would provide funds for rural districts to use for recruiting and retaining staff. New dollars for pupil transportation aid and high-cost transportation aid, which disproportionately impacts small districts with long bus routes, are included as well.

**WHEREAS**, The DPI budget proposal would allow districts, for revenue limit purposes, to count students enrolled in summer school in a similar fashion to regular school year counts and increase the pupil transportation reimbursement for summer learning. Current law, for revenue limit purposes, counts summer school students' enrollment (FTE) at 40% of that of regular year students' FTE; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Public Schools enroll 855,663 students with 40.5% or 346,140 students considered economically disadvantaged according to the latest data from the 2015-16 state of Wisconsin report cards. These students will benefit from the proposals in Dr Evers budget request; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marshall Public School District is a small rural school district that enrolls 1,088 students with 38.1% of students considered economically disadvantaged and 13.3% that are Limited English Proficient. Our students will benefit from the proposals in Dr Evers budget request; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin children have a constitutional right to an “equal opportunity to a sound basic education.” The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in *Vincent v Voight* in 2000 that “Wisconsin students have a fundamental right to an equal opportunity to a sound basic education ... that will equip students for their roles as citizens and enable them to succeed economically and personally.” The Court required that “...districts with disproportionate numbers of disabled students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with limited English language skills...” be taken into account; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Marshall School District Board of Education calls upon Governor Scott Walker, Senator Scott L. Fitzgerald and Representative Joel Kleefisch to listen to the voters of the many Wisconsin communities across the state that who have increasingly supported providing additional funding spendable resources for K-12 public education schools and deliver on the promises of Governor Walker, Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald himself and Assembly Speaker Vos by supporting the budget requests of State Superintendent Tony Evers, particularly those requests that increase spendable resources available to Wisconsin school districts including those that create and target new resources to address the needs of particular types of students, for inclusion in the 2017-2019 state of Wisconsin biennial budget to deliver on our children’s constitutional right to an “equal opportunity to a sound basic education.”

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Marshall School District Board of Education, have executed this resolution this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2016.

***Board of Education:***

  
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School Board President

  
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School Board Vice President

  
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School Board Clerk

  
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School Board Treasurer

  
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School Board Director

  
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School Board Director

  
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