



FACT SHEET

Changing the formula

Wisconsin's current system of school funding is not sustainable. The School Finance Network identified flaws in the current system, including the fact that students with disabilities, special needs and low incomes receive the same amount of new money as other students when in reality they need more. SFN determined that overall annual increases in allowable funding fail to keep pace with real world costs over which school districts have little to no control, such as utilities and transportation. By crafting proposals to fix these flaws, the SFN proposal will allow school districts around the state to maintain coursework in art, music, foreign language, business, and vocational training, all of which are now being cut, providing children with high quality education for which this state has a proud tradition.

Targeting categorical aid

The School Finance Network proposes increasing categorical aid for children with disabilities and special needs, for small, rural school districts, and for low income students — making the system more equitable while ensuring that all children have the opportunity to learn. The proposal also reconfigures how annual per pupil increases are calculated, moving them from \$264 to \$350 in year one, and then tying future increases to overall statewide economic growth. The new system is more effective in aligning school district revenue with annual costs.

Investing for the future

Research consistently shows what common sense tells Americans: that education has a positive effect on economic growth. Education is a permanent asset for the state that benefits individual earnings, local communities and overall economic development. Continued tax cuts will harm education, while investments will expand opportunity. Investing in education will prevent students from dropping out of school, create a well-trained work force and increase local home values.

Getting more funds for every district

No district loses money under this plan because it builds on existing funding levels and does not reshuffle money within the current system. The SFN plan controls local property taxes by increasing general aid from the state and reducing local burdens. Most districts would see a reduction in local tax money used to run the schools.