



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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March 1, 2021

Governor Tony Evers
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Governor Evers,

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2021 provided over \$20.8 million in additional Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds. These funds are in addition to the original \$46.6 million in GEER funds included in the CARES Act. Wisconsin's additional CRRSA allocation must be awarded by January 2022.

In the first GEER round of awards, you allowed a significant portion of these funds to go to districts that have provided little, to no in-person instruction during the 2020-21 school year. Don't make the same mistake twice.

We are asking you to direct these funds to districts that have been providing full-time, in-person instruction since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. These districts have been spending more to keep their schools open for the betterment of their students. They know that this is the best for the students and families of their districts.

Federal K-12 education funding from COVID relief legislation has predominantly been run through the Title I formula. This formula results in an overwhelming amount going to large districts that have shown little interest in getting students back into the classroom. For example, Milwaukee received \$3,174 per student and Madison \$729 per student from the latest round of funding. These districts had little, to no in-person instruction so far this year. This is compared to \$329 for a district like Lomira or \$77 for Kettle Moraine under the Title I formula. These are districts that have been in person since the beginning of the school year.

Not only are districts like Milwaukee and Madison receiving a disproportionate amount of the federal funds, but also they are incurring significant utility and transportation savings by not having students in the classroom. According to a survey of districts, Milwaukee and Madison saved millions in the 2019-20 school year because of shutting down due to COVID. This doesn't include the savings they are accruing from not having to modify and clean classrooms like the schools that are open to in-person instruction.