WISCONSIN RURAL SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

ADVOCACY AGENDA

WHAT is Best for Children in Rural Wisconsin

Give students the tools to be successful in life by:

- Maintaining high standards and providing access to a robust curriculum
- Continuing support for research-based educational best practices
- Guaranteeing high quality teachers
- Adequately and equitably financing a uniform P-16 system across Wisconsin

In order to guarantee high quality teachers, the state should support local and regional efforts for:

- Competitive teacher compensation packages
- Appropriate licensure flexibility options
- Mentoring for new teachers and on-going professional development opportunities

In order to guarantee high quality leaders, the state should support local and regional efforts for:

- Innovative leadership models to sustain rural schools

In order to help schools better utilize technology to support students, the state should:

- Implement technology standards for schools and provide funding to erase gaps in school broadband access
- Ensure the quality of distance learning opportunities
- Promote and support online and blended instruction as delivery models in rural schools

An investment in education that works for rural students will provide:

- A stable state funding stream that is indexed to inflation to eliminate reliance on operating referendums
- Full funding of the state's special education formulas
- Direct state funding for court mandated placements
- Funding formula that addresses property tax payers' issues throughout the state
- Increased threshold for districts to qualify for sparsity aide
- Differentiated funding sources for rural schools with declining enrollment

In order to free school districts from unfunded mandates, the state should:

- Repeal unnecessary mandates whenever possible
- Secure funding or provide flexibility to support newly mandated goals, programs or activities
- Ensure that state rules and regulations match federal standards

In order to support new models of delivering education in the 21st Century, the state should:

- Allow school districts to establish a flexible learning year including hours, days, and calendars without restrictions