



July 24, 2003

Contact: Jack Norman, 414-384-9094

Wisconsin Alliance
for Excellent Schools

MEDIA ALERT

School-funding reform coalition applauds governor's education vetoes

The Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES), a statewide school-funding reform coalition, applauded Governor Jim Doyle for doing the right thing for kids by using his vetoes to shield Wisconsin's public school children from harm.

WAES had earlier labeled the Legislature's budget "horrible for schools and bad for kids." Its members called on the governor to use his veto power "to protect our children and their schools."

WAES stands with the governor in putting children first and praises him for his use of veto powers. Without his vetoes, the Legislature's budget would have meant "lost opportunities for children," said White Lake School District Superintendent Peter Kososki.

In particular, the coalition complimented Gov. Doyle for restoring funding to four-year-old kindergarten, keeping intact the intent of Wisconsin's SAGE small-class-size legislation, and restoring revenue limits to current law. If not vetoed, lower revenue limits would have slashed school spending by hundreds of millions of dollars over the next two years.

The Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES) is a statewide network of educators, school board members, parents, community leaders, and researchers. Its Wisconsin Adequacy Plan—a proposal for school-finance reform—is the result of research into the cost of educating children to meet state proficiency standards.

For more information, contact Jack Norman at the Institute for Wisconsin's Future, 414-384-9094.

The Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools website is <http://www.excellentschools.org>