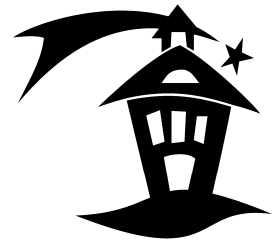


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Wisconsin Alliance  
for Excellent Schools

## State now has options to deep school cuts

“There’s finally some good news about Wisconsin’s budget,” said Tom Beebe, executive director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES). “We know we can limit the devastation proposed for our public school kids around the state.”

Beebe was referring to recent news from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau that Wisconsin’s economy is turning around and state tax collections are expected to be dramatically higher.

“The budget proposed by Governor Scott Walker pushes school districts to the brink. For years, they have been forced to cut programs and services. He can’t seriously suggest snatching away from kids even more opportunities without causing serious damage,” said Jasmine Alinder, member of I Love My Public School and the parent of a fourth grader in Milwaukee.

In March, Gov. Walker proposed a state budget that would slash school funding by more than \$834 million. After two decades of closing school libraries, laying off teachers, shuttering neighborhood schools, and increasing class sizes—all of which are the result of antiquated school funding laws—the cuts proposed by the governor would have a devastating impact.

“Yet, that is what he said he wants to do; he says he has no choice because state revenues are down,” the WAES executive director said. “Well, now we all know there is a better way. Our recovering economy gives Gov. Walker and legislators \$636 million, a chance to do what is right, and the opportunity to limit the damage to more than 800,000 children across Wisconsin.

WAES, a coalition that has long advocated for school-funding reform, said the choice is now in the Governor’s hands: He can make the wrong choice and continue to try and dismantle Wisconsin’s public education system, or he can make the right choice and begin the long-needed reinvestment in the state’s children, schools, communities, and economy.

“Reliable studies, long-standing research, experience from around the world, and just plain common-sense tell us that the best way forward for our economy, society, and communities is through quality educational opportunities for our children,” Beebe said. “The drastic cuts that have been proposed are foolish and fly in the face of everything we know is right for kids and for the future. Now we know we don’t have to go down that road; we know there is a better and we urge Gov. Walker and legislators to follow it.

Beebe says WAES joins students, school board members, educators, and moms and dads across the state in calling on our elected leaders to fix the flawed school-funding system and make meaningful investments in the future of Wisconsin.

WAES is a coalition of school districts, teachers groups, student and parent organizations, other groups and individuals working to change the way Wisconsin invests in its public schools. You can learn more at <http://www.excellentschools.org>.