



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

Testimony on SB 653

January 23, 2024

Thank you Chairman Jagler and committee members for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 653, a piece of legislation aimed at increasing the transfer of funds through open enrollment to keep up with education costs. I will add it is additionally appropriate to hear SB 653 during school choice week as open enrollment is Wisconsin's largest educational choice program.

Open enrollment has been around since 1998. It grants flexibility and choices for tens of thousands of Wisconsin families. Any public school district may elect to offer slots to students who reside in the borders of other school districts. Students attending a school via open enrollment are financed through a transfer from their resident school district to their school district of attendance. For the 2023-24 school year, that amount is \$8,618. SB 653 would set that number to \$10,000 for the 2024-25 school year. There is a different transfer amount for open enrolled children with special needs, but SB 653 does not impact that amount.

The open enrollment transfer amount is indexed to changes in the revenue limit, which means as things currently stand, there will be a \$325 per pupil adjustment annually for the foreseeable future. However, as part of the broader education deal with the Governor last year, the Legislature significantly increased support for the low-spending districts in 2023 Act 11. There now exists a substantial gap between the low revenue limit ceiling and the open enrollment amount.

The open enrollment transfer amount, while not expressly tied to it, has generally been comparable to the low revenue limit ceiling. SB 653 will ensure that our policy of increasing funding for public schools does not inadvertently create a disincentive for schools to offer open enrollment slots. School districts accepting open enrollment should be given the statewide minimum accepted funding, not less than that.

In my time as a school board member and in the Legislature I have witnessed broad, bipartisan support for open enrollment. I hope SB 653 will likewise receive broad support because leaving open enrollment funding so far behind all other students will have a negative effect on the program. Thank you.



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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November 14, 2023

TO: Senator Duey Stroebel
Room 18 South, State Capitol

FROM: Russ Kava, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 653: Increasing the Open Enrollment Regular Education Transfer Amount

At your request, I am providing information on Senate Bill 653, which would increase the aid transfer amount for regular education pupils in the open enrollment program.

Current Law

Under the open enrollment program, a pupil may attend a public school located outside his or her school district of residence, if the pupil's parent or guardian complies with certain application dates and procedures. Statutes specify the timelines for various actions by the pupil's parent, the resident district, and the nonresident district and the reasons for which a resident and nonresident district may deny a transfer application.

The resident district counts a pupil transferring to another district under open enrollment in its enrollment for revenue limits and general aids. A specified amount of state aid is transferred from the resident district to the nonresident district for each open enrollment pupil. In 2023-24, the transfer amount is \$8,618 for a regular education pupil and \$13,470 for a special education pupil. Under the 2023-25 biennial budget act, it is estimated that the 2024-25 transfer amounts will be \$8,962 for a regular education pupil and \$13,814 for a special education pupil. The transfer amount for a special education pupil can be adjusted if the nonresident district submits a financial statement showing the actual costs incurred for that pupil.

The per pupil transfer amounts are increased each year by the per pupil revenue limit adjustment for the current year, if positive, plus the change in the amount of statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous year and the current year, if positive.

State aid adjustments are outside of a school district's revenue limit. A district's general aid (and categorical aid, if necessary) is increased or decreased by an amount equal to the per pupil transfer amounts multiplied by the district's net gain or loss of pupils. A district with a net gain in

pupils receives a net positive aid transfer that is not subject to its revenue limit. A district with a net loss of pupils experiences a net negative aid transfer and cannot increase its property tax levy to backfill for the aid loss.

Senate Bill 653

SB 653 would set the open enrollment aid transfer amount for regular education pupils at \$10,000 per pupil in the 2024-25 school year. Under the bill, the current law indexing of the transfer amount would resume in the 2025-26 school year.

Fiscal Effect

Under the provisions of the 2023-25 biennial budget act, the regular education open enrollment transfer amount in 2024-25 is estimated to be \$8,962 per pupil. The bill would set the amount at \$10,000 per pupil, an increase of \$1,038 per pupil.

The most recent year for which open enrollment aid transfer data is available is the 2022-23 school year. In that year, the regular education transfer amount was \$8,224. The following table shows the total amount of aid transferred between school districts under the open enrollment program for regular and special education pupils in 2022-23, and the total amount of aid that would have been transferred if the regular education aid transfer amount had been \$1,038 higher in that year.

**2022-23 Open Enrollment Aid Transfers Under Current Law and With Bill Increase
(\$ in Millions)**

	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Regular Education	\$494.6	\$557.0	\$62.4
Special Education	<u>91.5</u>	<u>91.5</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Total	\$586.1	\$648.5	\$62.4

The attachment shows the 2022-23 total net aid transfer for open enrollment by school district under current law and the total net aid transfer that would have occurred if the regular education aid transfer amount had been \$1,038 higher in that year, and the change compared to current law.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have questions.

RK/ml
Attachment

ATTACHMENT

2022-23 Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfers Under Current Law and With Bill Increase

<u>School District</u>	<u>Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer</u>		
	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Abbotsford	-\$108,252	-\$117,954	-\$9,702
Adams-Friendship Area	-976,447	-1,081,944	-105,497
Albany	-1,070,756	-1,190,449	-119,693
Algoma	-375,864	-422,378	-46,514
Alma	179,519	184,023	4,504
Alma Center	632,551	707,108	74,557
Almond-Bancroft	-707,934	-765,929	-57,995
Altoona	1,814,314	1,996,041	181,727
Amery	-323,168	-362,775	-39,607
Antigo	-1,180,877	-1,294,183	-113,306
Appleton Area	7,246,988	8,085,777	838,789
Arcadia	-252,898	-267,306	-14,408
Argyle	128,541	141,464	12,923
Arrowhead UHS	1,597,806	1,806,076	208,270
Ashland	-859,849	-943,354	-83,505
Ashwaubenon	8,722,011	9,717,332	995,321
Athens	159,382	176,197	16,815
Auburndale	338,979	370,944	31,965
Augusta	152,877	184,652	31,775
Baldwin-Woodville Area	734,619	810,025	75,406
Bangor	237,238	260,596	23,358
Baraboo	-812,222	-896,813	-84,591
Barneveld	377,488	426,187	48,699
Barron Area	-1,956,777	-2,149,526	-192,749
Bayfield	-201,932	-229,060	-27,128
Beaver Dam	-496,561	-529,442	-32,881
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine	-227,750	-250,096	-22,346
Belleville	-76,864	-83,430	-6,566
Belmont Community	287,644	320,612	32,968
Beloit	-6,169,019	-6,864,990	-695,971
Beloit Turner	3,356,440	3,763,963	407,523
Benton	-291,970	-324,713	-32,743
Berlin Area	-948,433	-1,051,637	-103,204
Big Foot UHS	-150,711	-181,286	-30,575
Birchwood	593,764	647,673	53,909
Black Hawk	-69,962	-87,626	-17,664
Black River Falls	-1,136,092	-1,267,227	-131,135
Blair-Taylor	-141,507	-161,449	-19,942
Bloomer	291,585	322,952	31,367
Bonduel	123,856	129,115	5,259

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Boscobel Area	-\$584,477	-\$629,411	-\$44,934
Bowler	-593,350	-669,890	-76,540
Boyceville Community	-399,078	-445,187	-46,109
Brighton #1	352,153	399,901	47,748
Brillion	552,488	618,655	66,167
Bristol #1	699,992	775,670	75,678
Brodhead	-86,230	-95,687	-9,457
Brown Deer	-1,473,685	-1,625,241	-151,556
Bruce	-573,611	-637,743	-64,132
Burlington Area	-2,680,391	-2,969,365	-288,974
Butternut	403,411	431,222	27,811
Cadott Community	-284,752	-294,486	-9,734
Cambria-Friesland	-294,236	-329,778	-35,542
Cambridge	238,892	243,206	4,314
Cameron	2,178,427	2,419,893	241,466
Campbellsport	-272,822	-308,097	-35,275
Cashton	567,793	623,337	55,544
Cassville	-516,989	-571,576	-54,587
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area	-414,350	-456,745	-42,395
Cedarburg	832,010	914,717	82,707
Central/Westosha UHS	908,471	1,036,503	128,032
Chequamegon	-754,263	-811,964	-57,701
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser	-902,572	-992,945	-90,373
Chilton	212,362	242,279	29,917
Chippewa Falls Area	-1,681,176	-1,868,095	-186,919
Clayton	45,011	52,343	7,332
Clear Lake	-234,959	-258,086	-23,127
Clinton Community	815,907	922,359	106,452
Clintonville	-831,946	-900,710	-68,764
Cochrane-Fountain City	92,620	104,494	11,874
Colby	-559,752	-609,808	-50,056
Coleman	57,555	71,926	14,371
Colfax	-286,173	-322,474	-36,301
Columbus	99,777	101,244	1,467
Cornell	-238,428	-266,229	-27,801
Crandon	-533,441	-597,003	-63,562
Crivitz	-96,532	-107,102	-10,570
Cuba City	418,294	470,165	51,871
Cudahy	-1,510,610	-1,654,210	-143,600
Cumberland	567,727	633,568	65,841
D C Everest Area	694,013	786,678	92,665
Darlington Community	-364,276	-388,955	-24,679
Deerfield Community	-71,729	-91,137	-19,408
DeForest Area	211,007	216,806	5,799
Delavan-Darien	-5,596,907	-6,161,712	-564,805

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Denmark	\$1,019,532	\$1,129,087	\$109,555
DePere	2,482,626	2,738,994	256,368
DeSoto Area	-284,722	-316,258	-31,536
Dodgeland	355,979	389,822	33,843
Dodgeville	-785,092	-871,957	-86,865
Dover #1	49,910	53,440	3,530
Drummond	-433,001	-483,738	-50,737
Durand-Arkansaw	-201,979	-212,646	-10,667
East Troy Community	-1,329,945	-1,482,617	-152,672
Eau Claire Area	-3,594,376	-3,986,174	-391,798
Edgar	110,542	127,456	16,914
Edgerton	-478,340	-538,232	-59,892
Elcho	16,729	23,326	6,597
Eleva-Strum	147,817	161,069	13,252
Elk Mound Area	1,352,255	1,525,104	172,849
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	556,042	610,839	54,797
Elkhorn Area	5,374,125	5,891,250	517,125
Ellsworth Community	-431,312	-475,848	-44,536
Elmbrook	30,253	29,322	-931
Elmwood	194,666	219,236	24,570
Erin	1,064,830	1,192,185	127,355
Evansville Community	57,772	57,165	-607
Fall Creek	1,018,862	1,130,955	112,093
Fall River	-79,248	-85,124	-5,876
Fennimore Community	683,096	729,007	45,911
Flambeau	-561,276	-626,741	-65,465
Florence	-585,618	-646,329	-60,711
Fond du Lac	-4,094,708	-4,509,916	-415,208
Fontana J8	528,323	569,961	41,638
Fort Atkinson	249,984	299,923	49,939
Fox Point J2	213,084	239,979	26,895
Franklin Public	2,648,271	2,947,446	299,175
Frederic	-506,311	-551,521	-45,210
Freedom Area	16,712	11,705	-5,007
Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau	-297,149	-327,300	-30,151
Geneva J4	425,775	475,224	49,449
Genoa City J2	-829,878	-929,218	-99,340
Germantown	-725,852	-806,124	-80,272
Gibraltar Area	72,213	76,376	4,163
Gillett	-406,006	-457,801	-51,795
Gilman	130,522	149,517	18,995
Gilmanton	-110,731	-122,617	-11,886
Glendale-River Hills	96,282	94,406	-1,876
Glenwood City	-564,306	-621,704	-57,398
Goodman-Armstrong	-117,613	-130,807	-13,194

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Grafton	\$658,320	\$736,450	\$78,130
Granton Area	-163,738	-186,569	-22,831
Grantsburg	8,502,235	9,441,770	939,535
Green Bay Area	-14,332,610	-15,894,806	-1,562,196
Green Lake	373,187	413,357	40,170
Greendale	1,437,817	1,632,479	194,662
Greenfield	-611,372	-599,562	11,810
Greenwood	-232,215	-256,406	-24,191
Gresham	161,372	180,227	18,855
Hamilton	-427,587	-488,661	-61,074
Hartford J1	-2,458,890	-2,756,550	-297,660
Hartford UHS	-1,179,919	-1,321,830	-141,911
Hartland-Lakeside J3	-338,086	-370,693	-32,607
Hayward Community	1,521,559	1,707,003	185,444
Herman-Neosho-Rubicon	-291,429	-316,246	-24,817
Highland	-50,202	-58,657	-8,455
Hilbert	133,026	153,116	20,090
Hillsboro	327,727	365,607	37,880
Holmen	-1,942,434	-2,167,916	-225,482
Holy Hill Area	-104,548	-122,695	-18,147
Horicon	-674,369	-736,405	-62,036
Hortonville	1,118,664	1,236,530	117,866
Howards Grove	986,364	1,087,744	101,380
Howard-Suamico	2,873,896	3,174,336	300,440
Hudson	326,395	359,596	33,201
Hurley	-11,059	-12,455	-1,396
Hustisford	-438,720	-493,599	-54,879
Independence	-597,069	-663,645	-66,576
Iola-Scandinavia	-408,962	-449,981	-41,019
Iowa-Grant	-318,669	-344,000	-25,331
Ithaca	884,415	969,017	84,602
Janesville	388,404	436,608	48,204
Jefferson	761,132	814,899	53,767
Johnson Creek	-656,113	-728,273	-72,160
Juda	446,181	485,002	38,821
Kaukauna Area	-6,867,209	-7,632,370	-765,161
Kenosha	-3,704,737	-4,123,137	-418,400
Kettle Moraine	2,078,968	2,306,663	227,695
Kewaskum	-433,273	-493,689	-60,416
Kewaunee	-665,503	-735,949	-70,446
Kickapoo Area	427,090	472,530	45,440
Kiel Area	79,337	104,654	25,317
Kimberly Area	3,766,985	4,184,537	417,552
Kohler	2,063,729	2,314,303	250,574
Lac du Flambeau #1	-406,082	-450,935	-44,853

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
LaCrosse	-\$442,550	-\$473,456	-\$30,906
Ladysmith	280,072	322,079	42,007
LaFarge	41,567	44,506	2,939
Lake Country	943,032	1,059,738	116,706
Lake Geneva J1	357,532	439,064	81,532
Lake Geneva-Genoa UHS	252,422	297,650	45,228
Lake Holcombe	-93,937	-106,564	-12,627
Lake Mills Area	-7,340	7,638	14,978
Lakeland UHS	125,784	147,721	21,937
Lancaster Community	-27,033	-27,420	-387
Laona	233,582	267,566	33,984
Lena	71,808	66,898	-4,910
Linn J4	-48,761	-61,518	-12,757
Linn J6	477,310	534,324	57,014
Little Chute Area	3,176,853	3,517,537	340,684
Lodi	140,879	162,629	21,750
Lomira	136,202	149,512	13,310
Loyal	-117,557	-125,060	-7,503
Luck	-510,241	-565,421	-55,180
Luxemburg-Casco	1,596,364	1,778,688	182,324
Madison Metropolitan	-8,379,026	-9,311,981	-932,955
Manawa	-551,497	-608,438	-56,941
Manitowoc	-1,872,015	-2,075,566	-203,551
Maple	261,968	313,187	51,219
Maple Dale-Indian Hill	220,338	234,945	14,607
Marathon City	514,838	581,469	66,631
Marinette	-1,508,426	-1,672,884	-164,458
Marion	-229,564	-259,190	-29,626
Markesan	-140,613	-147,706	-7,093
Marshall	-48,771	-30,286	18,485
Marshfield	977,787	1,089,884	112,097
Mauston	241,077	277,006	35,929
Mayville	-115,705	-126,302	-10,597
McFarland	34,952,564	38,178,233	3,225,669
Medford Area	9,462,562	10,326,766	864,204
Mellen	-91,638	-99,803	-8,165
Melrose-Mindoro	114,521	129,290	14,769
Menasha	-2,181,474	-2,402,453	-220,979
Menominee Indian	-297,691	-356,138	-58,447
Menomonee Falls	235,546	265,092	29,546
Menomonie Area	-904,738	-994,064	-89,326
Mequon-Thiensville	57,061	76,045	18,984
Mercer	-175,237	-195,375	-20,138
Merrill Area	4,643,839	5,174,764	530,925
Merton Community	430,632	485,306	54,674

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Middleton-Cross Plains	-\$1,185,322	-\$1,306,625	-\$121,303
Milton	-141,757	-155,565	-13,808
Milwaukee	-24,491,132	-27,279,722	-2,788,590
Mineral Point	440,943	488,176	47,233
Minocqua J1	-34,186	-46,047	-11,861
Mishicot	710,586	783,769	73,183
Mondovi	77,421	87,905	10,484
Monona Grove	3,290,795	3,670,626	379,831
Monroe	-667,758	-738,163	-70,405
Montello	-884,087	-972,656	-88,569
Monticello	-248,700	-285,913	-37,213
Mosinee	8,189	-8,026	-16,215
Mount Horeb Area	362,146	404,123	41,977
Mukwonago	2,417,164	2,682,703	265,539
Muskego-Norway	441,477	512,946	71,469
Necedah Area	6,785	3,745	-3,040
Neenah	-3,289,390	-3,604,853	-315,463
Neillsville	-65,931	-72,401	-6,470
Nekoosa	1,751,084	1,966,902	215,818
New Auburn	-69,586	-80,828	-11,242
New Berlin	-417,841	-475,485	-57,644
New Glarus	680,833	766,352	85,519
New Holstein	-1,042,540	-1,158,104	-115,564
New Lisbon	-136,547	-147,198	-10,651
New London	-1,048,030	-1,162,965	-114,935
New Richmond	-989,753	-1,077,121	-87,368
Niagara	718,069	795,498	77,429
Nicolet UHS	-175,618	-195,363	-19,745
Norris	224,399	236,722	12,323
North Cape	-36,059	-49,760	-13,701
North Crawford	-344,692	-382,449	-37,757
North Fond du Lac	1,627,699	1,788,232	160,533
North Lake	705,531	784,677	79,146
North Lakeland	86,408	95,664	9,256
Northern Ozaukee	3,530,016	3,938,425	408,409
Northland Pines	475,593	521,858	46,265
Northwood	-97,303	-115,728	-18,425
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	-237,801	-251,508	-13,707
Norway J7	50,250	58,243	7,993
Oak Creek-Franklin	2,699,530	3,007,263	307,733
Oakfield	634,893	699,733	64,840
Oconomowoc Area	-1,273,856	-1,424,898	-151,042
Oconto	-672,960	-734,117	-61,157
Oconto Falls	-565,117	-639,188	-74,071
Omro	-1,246,664	-1,368,987	-122,323

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Onalaska	\$2,362,852	\$2,650,446	\$287,594
Oostburg	467,833	519,812	51,979
Oregon	2,219,151	2,444,661	225,510
Osceola	544,428	600,506	56,078
Oshkosh Area	-2,285,866	-2,519,668	-233,802
Osseo-Fairchild	-462,326	-514,439	-52,113
Owen-Withee	120,829	131,330	10,501
Palmyra-Eagle Area	-3,166,715	-3,522,675	-355,960
Pardeeville Area	-54,894	-44,512	10,382
Paris J1	878,967	977,837	98,870
Parkview	-460,845	-501,829	-40,984
Pecatonica Area	-261,339	-297,029	-35,690
Pepin Area	-82,158	-90,878	-8,720
Peshtigo	1,084,014	1,217,762	133,748
Pewaukee	1,419,019	1,580,326	161,307
Phelps	-204,559	-224,170	-19,611
Phillips	-47,366	-56,817	-9,451
Pittsville	146,841	163,974	17,133
Platteville	-285,558	-312,614	-27,056
Plum City	-166,099	-193,894	-27,795
Plymouth	-258,786	-281,255	-22,469
Port Edwards	263,777	293,270	29,493
Port Washington-Saukville	-115,660	-130,259	-14,599
Portage Community	-225,479	-245,728	-20,249
Potosi	223,809	237,147	13,338
Poynette	-192,649	-226,224	-33,575
Prairie du Chien Area	298,056	331,948	33,892
Prairie Farm	708,490	777,897	69,407
Prentice	-462,501	-502,712	-40,211
Prescott	-563,709	-630,251	-66,542
Princeton	-282,143	-311,455	-29,312
Pulaski Community	-1,273,766	-1,405,475	-131,709
Racine	-15,484,236	-17,157,984	-1,673,748
Randall J1	234,893	260,214	25,321
Randolph	331,411	372,305	40,894
Random Lake	-582,614	-634,841	-52,227
Raymond #14	940,986	1,033,793	92,807
Reedsburg	-303,406	-354,398	-50,992
Reedsville	-435,291	-483,960	-48,669
Rhineland	-779,997	-871,761	-91,764
Rib Lake	-71,613	-86,006	-14,393
Rice Lake Area	-252,084	-276,638	-24,554
Richland	-1,571,090	-1,729,742	-158,652
Richmond	198,382	221,103	22,721
Rio Community	-240,913	-273,085	-32,172

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Ripon Area	\$1,762,484	\$1,974,886	\$212,402
River Falls	175,817	219,646	43,829
River Ridge	-216,532	-235,665	-19,133
River Valley	-686,446	-758,436	-71,990
Riverdale	-426,268	-460,503	-34,235
Rosendale-Brandon	878,947	986,132	107,185
Rosholt	-191,840	-224,388	-32,548
Royall	-325,348	-363,973	-38,625
Saint Croix Central	2,025,121	2,225,186	200,065
Saint Croix Falls	-183,189	-211,719	-28,530
Saint Francis	2,670,621	2,974,991	304,370
Salem J2	-795,534	-885,187	-89,653
Sauk Prairie	879,859	985,722	105,863
Seneca	28,422	31,703	3,281
Sevastopol	529,550	573,695	44,145
Seymour Community	-1,208,582	-1,333,112	-124,530
Sharon J11	-104,315	-122,038	-17,723
Shawano	-288,589	-288,578	11
Sheboygan Area	-3,153,869	-3,501,131	-347,262
Sheboygan Falls	-849,871	-944,772	-94,901
Shell Lake	280,440	312,929	32,489
Shiocton	110,972	118,111	7,139
Shorewood	1,468,897	1,638,158	169,261
Shullsburg	-140,710	-154,930	-14,220
Silver Lake J1	172,313	193,618	21,305
Siren	-197,614	-227,461	-29,847
Slinger	3,453,036	3,890,341	437,305
Solon Springs	-53,839	-65,585	-11,746
Somerset	-116,291	-140,828	-24,537
South Milwaukee	-66,823	-42,063	24,760
South Shore	-92,035	-116,854	-24,819
Southern Door	-370,848	-410,036	-39,188
Southwestern Wisconsin	-173,891	-206,358	-32,467
Sparta Area	-2,092,694	-2,330,688	-237,994
Spencer	-194,233	-215,071	-20,838
Spooner Area	-1,569,750	-1,738,501	-168,751
Spring Valley	-468,866	-518,371	-49,505
Stanley-Boyd Area	-35,857	-41,433	-5,576
Stevens Point Area	-2,114,979	-2,338,687	-223,708
Stockbridge	-495,913	-560,980	-65,067
Stone Bank	208,548	224,216	15,668
Stoughton Area	-1,117,745	-1,215,664	-97,919
Stratford	-61,250	-70,604	-9,354
Sturgeon Bay	-287,431	-307,150	-19,719
Sun Prairie Area	47,841	64,258	16,417

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Superior	-\$1,111,508	-\$1,225,833	-\$114,325
Suring	-163,438	-181,068	-17,630
Swallow	413,258	465,418	52,160
Thorp	-1,995	-8,247	-6,252
Three Lakes	-77,240	-78,031	-791
Tigerton	-65,578	-76,166	-10,588
Tomah Area	-408,447	-447,252	-38,805
Tomahawk	209,028	217,275	8,247
Tomorrow River	2,779,642	3,086,888	307,246
Trevor-Wilmot	268,714	303,950	35,236
Tri-County Area	-380,381	-424,802	-44,421
Turtle Lake	152,069	163,454	11,385
Twin Lakes #4	-870,865	-965,617	-94,752
Two Rivers	1,041,977	1,185,796	143,819
Union Grove J1	2,280,898	2,529,650	248,752
Union Grove UHS	2,905,740	3,247,991	342,251
Unity	-377,527	-428,506	-50,979
Valders Area	401,641	457,093	55,452
Verona Area	499,028	587,489	88,461
Viroqua Area	-143,349	-157,178	-13,829
Wabeno Area	-118,316	-136,550	-18,234
Walworth J1	213,620	231,408	17,788
Washburn	934,045	1,031,755	97,710
Washington Island	0	0	0
Washington-Caldwell	125,724	133,051	7,327
Waterford J1	483,239	543,902	60,663
Waterford UHS	47,305	47,224	-81
Waterloo	-133,570	-160,097	-26,527
Watertown	-2,062,927	-2,269,662	-206,735
Waukesha	3,259,541	3,532,561	273,020
Waunakee Community	1,609,747	1,775,334	165,587
Waupaca	-90,936	-108,676	-17,740
Waupun	-986,993	-1,107,152	-120,159
Wausau	-2,051,793	-2,271,480	-219,687
Wausaukee	-149,498	-175,235	-25,737
Wautoma Area	-553,062	-603,146	-50,084
Wauwatosa	8,018,998	8,810,536	791,538
Wauzeka-Steuben	111,296	123,712	12,416
Webster	98,660	104,502	5,842
West Allis	-7,010,378	-7,655,566	-645,188
West Bend	-3,129,765	-3,489,400	-359,635
West DePere	-2,272,732	-2,522,903	-250,171
West Salem	912,641	994,850	82,209
Westby Area	-459,582	-509,116	-49,534
Westfield	-967,021	-1,087,414	-120,393

Total Net Open Enrollment Aid Transfer

<u>School District</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>With Bill Increase</u>	<u>Bill Increase Change to Current Law</u>
Weston	-\$99,258	-\$110,090	-\$10,832
Weyauwega-Fremont	-50,569	-51,121	-552
Wheatland J1	1,228,200	1,341,510	113,310
White Lake	-22,095	-19,932	2,163
Whitefish Bay	-350,086	-383,838	-33,752
Whitehall	159,744	182,061	22,317
Whitewater	-1,747,158	-1,935,228	-188,070
Whitnall	1,903,433	2,128,172	224,739
Wild Rose	-6,916	-10,520	-3,604
Williams Bay	1,083,705	1,199,664	115,959
Wilmot UHS	16,462	16,513	51
Winneconne Community	2,436,582	2,680,082	243,500
Winter	-254,740	-279,319	-24,579
Wisconsin Dells	-261,094	-267,527	-6,433
Wisconsin Heights	-141,361	-166,267	-24,906
Wisconsin Rapids	-1,597,305	-1,755,569	-158,264
Wittenberg-Birnamwood	252,090	284,155	32,065
Wonewoc-Union Center	-286,600	-317,239	-30,639
Woodruff J1	431,154	485,920	54,766
Wrightstown Community	-160,271	-171,043	-10,772
Yorkville J2	<u>993,195</u>	<u>1,105,055</u>	<u>111,860</u>
STATEWIDE	\$0	-\$5,136	-\$5,136

yes. every kid.

January 23, 2024

Senate Committee on Education

Testimony on Senate Bill 653

Chairman Jagler and Members,

On behalf of yes. every kid., thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 653 which increases the transfer amount between districts in the Public School Open Enrollment program. yes. every kid. supports programs that empower parents to find the educational option that best meets the needs of the student and family. In Wisconsin, Public School Open Enrollment is the largest program of its type giving families the option to enroll in a Public School district other than their resident district.

With meager beginnings, the total transfers in 1999 were just 2,464. By last year, 73,280 students took advantage of the option to enroll in a non-resident public school district. On the fiscal side, the original transfer amount was \$4,543 and resulted in \$9.6 million following children to another district. Last year, with a transfer amount of \$8,618, a total \$586 million followed students. The year-end transfer only adjusts state aid between districts in the final state payment.

This very popular program allows families to attend school both in-person and through virtual learning, which started in 2002 under this program. The virtual portion of this program currently enrolls more than 12,000 students.

Following an upward adjustment in the low revenue ceiling for Public School Districts to \$11,000 in the budget, increasing the funding for Open Enrollment to \$10,000 makes sense. It both allows more money to follow the student and assures that no district will have a per-pupil deficit caused by the program.

yes. every kid. supports the increase found in SB 653, and I would be happy to take any questions.

Jim Bender
Wisconsin Lobbyist
yes. every kid.

yes. every kid. Part of the Stand Together community

January 23, 2024

Senate Committee on Education

**Department of Public Instruction Testimony
2023 Senate Bill 653**

Thank you, Chairperson Jagler, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Tom McCarthy, I serve as the Associate Deputy State Superintendent at DPI. We are here to testify for information only regarding 2023 Senate Bill 653 (SB 653).

The open enrollment program, created as part of the 1997-99 biennial budget bill, is the most popular school choice program in Wisconsin. Over 71,000 students use the program to receive a public-school education in a district other than the one they are assigned to by residence. The open enrollment program has seen several changes over its lifetime, yet one key concept remains at the heart of the program: open enrollment allows schools with additional space to accommodate non-residents and the funding levels set by the state disincentivize an attempt to serve entire populations of learners from other districts. To put it into plain language, the program was designed to fill seats, not build schools.

Funding for the program follows the above-described objective. Historically, the open enrollment payment, which is a function of state statute, has increased as public-school spending grows. This function of change was codified into law under 2013 Act 20, which now automatically indexes the open enrollment payment, linking the dollar amount to the change in revenue limits and categorial aids (per pupil), if positive. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, students experiencing a disability qualified for a higher payment under the open enrollment program, which was created to quantify the average special education cost in addition to the regular open enrollment payment. For the 2024-25 school year, the regular open enrollment payment is projected to be \$8,962 and the special education payment is projected at \$13,814. These figures will increase in the 2025-26 school year, regardless of this bill's fate.

All students who take part in the program are counted by their resident school district for revenue limits and aid. The open enrollment payment is lower than all districts' revenue authority per pupil, allowing the resident district to retain revenue authority for a portion of district costs. Again, this is based on the premise of marginal costs, meaning some revenue authority stays with the resident district, but most follows the student to the non-resident district of choice. Districts receive an aid adjustment based on the number of pupils they have, in a net negative or positive fashion, respective to their enrollment. In the 2022-23 school year, the open enrollment program amounted to over \$560 million in transfers between districts.

The open enrollment program has always created winners and losers among school districts. The closer the payment gets to the average revenue limit, the higher those stakes get for districts with a high open enrollment out. On the contrary, districts are always allowed to evaluate whether they can accept or accommodate a new student based on the marginal cost of education. Historic habits around spending play a major role in whether a district believes it can accommodate new students or not. While arguments have been made that the current payment is inhibiting growth in the program, enrollment data shows otherwise.

Finally, I want to clear up some misconceptions about how the program rules are applied that can serve to limit applications. Current law does not permit a school district to deny an open enrollment application from a non-resident pupil for purely financial reasons. Our staff have found that most districts who have filled all open enrollment seats point to capacity with their resident students as well as issues hiring and maintaining staff. This bill does not address one of the biggest policy problems: a lack of seats and funding options for students experiencing a high-cost disability.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.

Following today's hearing, if you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Kevyn Radcliffe, Legislative Liaison, at kevyn.radcliffe@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 264-6716.

Testimony of Rose Fernandez, founder of the Wisconsin Coalition of Virtual School Families
Before the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Education
January 23, 2024

Good morning, Mister Chairman and Senators. My name is Rose Fernandez and I'm on the Board of the Wisconsin Coalition of Virtual School Families.

I and other concerned parents founded our organization nearly twenty years ago to advocate for online options in education. There was a time when our schools' mere existence was not only questioned and mocked, but virtual schools in Wisconsin were quite nearly sued out of existence. 16 years ago last week, 1200 parents, kids, grandparents, and teachers came here on another snowy day to rally on the State Street steps asking lawmakers to work across party lines to save online public schools.

Thankfully those lawmakers did just that and online education remains a viable, popular option in Wisconsin. School districts around our state now offer innovative online learning programs to meet the needs of their students and educators. Every day thousands of kids in our state are learning in online public schools.

But funding for this small group of public school students was unfair from the beginning. Each school year Wisconsin short-changes online public school children investing much less in them than in their neighbors who go to traditional K-12 public schools. It's an injustice and an unfairness that this committee can begin to rectify today. Did you know that my kids who attended online public schools through eighth grade were shortchanged by more than \$125,000 in state aid and only received roughly 62 percent of the state funding other public school students did? This bill doesn't right that wrong, but it gets us closer to equity.

It's a step in the right direction, and long overdue.

Under current law, the home district gets \$5000 or more in state funding each year for students they are not even educating, those who have opted for open enrollment elsewhere. This makes no sense, it's not fiscally responsible, and it shortchanges those open enrolled children who take only the leftovers to the public school that is indeed educating them.

As a state, our responsibility is to the children first. Districts and buildings serve them not the other way around.

I began this new year getting together with my large family to bid farewell to our 94 year old mother. Most of my generation and our family's next generation are graduates or current students of Wisconsin schools and, as in so many extended families, the most popular career choice is teaching.

Our gathering of my parents' children and grandchildren included retired teachers, current teachers and administrators, current education majors, and aspiring teachers as well as children who are today learning in Wisconsin classrooms from kindergarten to college. I'm proud of that. I highly value education and I expect my state to do the same.

For the last 20 years I've been a parent advocate for diverse school options made possible by open enrollment. I am a volunteer. This is MY testimony. I have not been paid to be here or to

express our coalition's support for this bill. In fact, our entire board is comprised of volunteers, and there are no dues for the thousands of families who join and connect online and in person.

We're passionate advocates for our children and for ALL children in Wisconsin. We've needed school options and know others always will, too.

My children benefited from open enrollment as hundreds of thousands of other Wisconsin kids *have and do*. *And for those who celebrate this national School Choice Week, please recognize* that Open Enrollment is the most popular and least controversial school choice program in the nation. It is a true Wisconsin success story. And we can make it better.

One group of students who choose to participate in open enrollment remain undervalued by our arcane school funding formula. I, and the Wisconsin Coalition of Virtual School Families, are glad you are poised to start to fix that.

All students should be funded at similar levels regardless of whether their public school is a brick and mortar building in town or an online charter. Please fix Act 19 which adjusted per pupil funding for all students, except for those who open enroll in another public school.

Our public school system must be smart enough to serve all the boys and girls growing up in our state. Undervaluing the kids who open enroll fails that standard.

And thank you for not belittling our choices by raising some knee jerk concern for profiteering by those who provide the educational and support services we choose. When one school district provides Chromebooks for all their students this committee doesn't whine about Google getting some of this money. When bussing services are provided no legislator gives a speech about the bus company or their drivers getting funding.

This is about educational and support services and resources in Wisconsin public schools for Wisconsin children. Period.

Along with so many other Wisconsin school districts, mine in Mukwonago markets their schools' varied options to families outside their resident boundaries with open enrollment reminders and open houses. Open enrollment is a popular program in districts, school board rooms, and most importantly Wisconsin homes. It's wonderful.

Now we need to strive to make funding equitable.

This bill begins to right that wrong and gets our kids one step closer to equitable funding. One step closer to being valued as much as any other Wisconsin public school student.

The Wisconsin Coalition of Virtual School Families supports **Senate Bill 653**; and, we appreciate the authors and cosponsors who understand the need for fairness. Rather than punish those who choose online options for their children, you are providing more ways to help them excel.

Thank you very much for your time today and your continued support of young learners of all types in Wisconsin.