

Property Taxpayer Costs Triple Under GOP Voucher Plan

Written by Joint Finance Committee Democrats

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<http://newiprgressive.com/images/stories/S5/school-meeting-crowd-s5.jpg>



Budget proposal sticks local taxpayers with the tab for expanded program.

MADISON – The latest Republican budget proposal would nearly triple local property taxpayer costs for the statewide school voucher program, four legislative Democrats announced today. New figures from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau show that local costs for the state-mandated voucher program will balloon to \$120.3 million, up from \$43.1 million in one budget alone.

"The last state budget shifted the costs of the unaccountable voucher program onto local taxpayers," Rep. **Sondy Pope** (D-Mt. Horeb) said. "This budget triples the cost of that mandate with no opportunity for local taxpayers to weigh in."

The Democrats noted taxpayers have no local oversight of voucher spending that takes state aid out of their districts -- at a much higher rate per student -- leaving property taxpayers to make up the difference if it's made up at all. The Fiscal Bureau memo showed that payouts to voucher operators would exceed all state aid per student by \$1000-\$1700 per student after diversions to the voucher and charter programs are factored in.

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