

Task Force, a follow-up to last year's panel on rural education, issued a dozen recommendations on state funding for four-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education. Green Bay representative says we must do more to give all school children in Wisconsin an equal opportunity at educational success.

MADISON - On Thursday, the state Assembly's Task Force on Urban Education, chaired by Rep. **Jesse Rodriguez** (R - Oak Creek) issued a dozen recommendations, including reviewing state funding for four-year-old kindergarten and other options for early childhood education.



The task force is a follow-up to Assembly Speaker Robin Vos' panel on rural education in a previous session of the legislature. Rodriguez and her colleagues focused on the six largest school districts in the state of Wisconsin, about 20 percent of the state's total student population.

"With limited time and resources, we needed to just look at a few things that we knew we could possibly make a difference," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez also felt student mental health was a major area of concern.

"We were able to look at three different areas that we wanted to focus on," the Milwaukee County Republican said in an interview Thursday. "That was early childhood education, mental health and best practices for truancy and low graduation rates, as well as teacher training, recruitment and retention."

