

## 2005 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

1     **Relating to:** calling for changes to the state’s public school funding formula to be  
2           enacted by July 1, 2007.

3           Whereas, article X, section 3, of the Wisconsin Constitution, as interpreted by  
4     the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *Vincent v. Voight*, 236 Wis. 2d 588 (2000), requires  
5     the state to provide each child with “an equal opportunity for a sound basic  
6     education”; and

7           Whereas, some school districts are on the brink of dissolution in part due to  
8     declining enrollment and the significant financial restraints imposed by a school aid  
9     formula that determines school district revenue limits on a per pupil basis; and

10          Whereas, some of the lowest income areas in the state are burdened with the  
11     highest property taxes because the state school aid formula is based upon property  
12     values; and

13          Whereas, school districts must seek the approval of the electors at a referendum  
14     in order to comply with state and federal education mandates instead of being able

1 to invest local resources in programs that provide students with optional educational  
2 opportunities beyond the minimum requirements; now, therefore, be it

3 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** a new school  
4 finance system should be in place beginning on July 1, 2007; and, be it further

5 ***Resolved, That*** in order to meet the requirements of the Wisconsin  
6 Constitution and state and federal laws, the new school finance system should have  
7 the following key components:

8 1. Funding levels based on what is needed to operate efficient, effective schools  
9 and classrooms rather than based on arbitrary per pupil measures;

10 2. State resources sufficient to prepare all children, regardless of their  
11 circumstances, for post-secondary education, employment, and citizenship and to  
12 satisfy state and federal mandates;

13 3. Additional resources and flexibility sufficient to meet special circumstances,  
14 including student circumstances such as non-English speaking students; students  
15 with physical, mental, or social health needs; and students from low-income  
16 households, and district circumstances such as large geographic size; low population  
17 density; low family income; and significant changes in enrollment;

18 4. A combination of state funds and a reduced level of local property taxes,  
19 derived and distributed in a manner that treats all taxpayers equitably regardless  
20 of local property wealth and income; and, be it further

21 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint  
22 resolution to the governor of Wisconsin and the cochairs of the joint committee on  
23 finance.

24 (END)