



Wisconsin Educational Media Association  
2006-2007 Legislative Session  
Issue: 65%/70% Solutions

The Wisconsin Educational Media Association believes that a strong public educational system is an essential component of our American democracy, and we believe local control is an essential part of a strong public educational system. WEMA does not support legislative actions that limit local decision making or restrict funding options for local school districts. AFT-Wisconsin writes "Local government is in the best position to understand the needs of its communities."

65%/70% Solutions decrease both local decision making and restrict funding options for local school districts. These legislative efforts provide an overly simplistic approach to school financing issues. Standard & Poor's analysis of spending percentages for education indicates, "no minimum spending allocation is a silver bullet for student achievement."

WEMA supports school reform proposals that are research-driven and effective. Research studies in 15 states have shown that student achievement, particularly in reading, increases when professional school librarians collaborate with classroom teachers for instruction. Studies by Dr. Stephen Krashen have shown the role of independent reading in improving reading proficiency and motivation.

WEMA joins everyone who is concerned for the quality of education and the need to invest education tax dollars wisely, and welcomes vigorous debate of issues facing the educational community. WEMA supports research-based solutions, including, but not limited to, decreasing elementary class-size, increasing parental and community involvement in schools, and expanding professional development opportunities.