Media Release

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Rep. Shankland: Don’t let Republicans off the hook for failing our public schools

MADISON — Today, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau announced that Wisconsin will be seeing no increase in revenue collections. Legislative Republicans reacted by saying, “Meeting expectations is a good thing.” In response, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement:

“For weeks, Republicans have made false promises of new revenue coming in to help fund our public schools. Now Republican legislators must answer to the people of Wisconsin: Where is the money they promised and why are our public schools last in line?

“Republicans have already cut our neighborhood public schools three budgets in a row. They’ve perpetrated the largest cut to public education in our state’s history while funneling millions of public dollars into unaccountable private schools. Don’t let Republican legislators off the hook for promises of crumbs. Our children’s education should be the legislature’s first priority, not their last.

“Republicans like to talk about their ‘tough’ budget decisions and make excuses for why they won’t fund public education. Let’s be clear: there are plenty of ways that the legislature can reverse the governor’s damaging cuts responsibly, whether it’s bringing our federal Medicaid dollars home or reining in private school tax giveaways. The question is whether Republican legislators will choose to finally put their constituents ahead of their wealthy campaign donors.”

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Rep. Kooyenga: “I’m very confident in May (after spring tax collections are totaled) we’ll see more revenue.” Wisconsin State Journal. February 2, 2015.