



Governor Walker,
School budget cuts
break my ♥

INFORMATION & TALKING POINTS

**Senate Bills 20, 34 and 22,
which will be discussed at the
Senate Committee on Education Public Hearing
March 23, 2011, 10am, 411 South Capitol, Madison**

Stand up to these assaults on public education!

Be in the Wisconsin Senate Chambers this Wednesday when the Senate Education Committee takes up three controversial education bills:

SB 20: authorizes the City of Milwaukee to sell city-owned property used for school purposes

SB 22: creates a Charter School Authorizing Board; provides additional charter school authorizers; eliminates the limit on the number of pupils who may attend virtual charter schools; **modifies teacher licensure requirements; & eliminates the limit on the reduction in general school aid used to fund independent charter schools**

SB 34: prohibits MPS from imposing residency requirements on teachers

WE need your voice, your testimony, & your letters NOW

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Make it to Madison for the 10 a.m. Senate Education Committee Hearing this Wednesday. These bills are not good for our public schools, particularly in Milwaukee.
- ILMPS is organizing car pools. Email us at ilovemypublicschool@gmail.com if you'd like a ride or can give a ride.
- Have oral testimony of 1-2 minutes prepared, plus if you can, two written or typed copies of your testimony in letter form, addressed to: Your state senator and member of the Senate Education Committee.
- All Senators' contact info can be found here: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Information about the bills and the Hearing notice can be found here: <http://committeeschedule.legis.wisconsin.gov/files/HearingNotices/11-03-23-1000-2011SEDU-15220.html>

MORE DETAILS:

All three bills under discussion at the March 23 public hearing are complex pieces of legislation that erode public education statewide, and will be particularly devastating for Milwaukee.

SB 20 forces MPS schools to sell unused or underutilized properties at a price below market value.

- This is a triple-whammy to taxpayers – we get less than the properties are worth, we get charged more in property taxes to support school funding diversions towards unfair subsidies to wealthy families, and our schools lose needed resources to educate the kids who need it the most.
- Non-profit charter management organizations operate as many charters as they want, with limited oversight and licensing requirements and money from your school district – under the advisory board appointed by Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald & Walker.

SB 22 opens Wisconsin school districts and education funds to Charter Management Organizations, with oversight from Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald & Walker:

- The enrollment cap is lifted on internet schools – pulling more students and more funding from school districts statewide
- Charter school and internet school per-pupil costs will be taken from general school aid paid to all school districts – that's a \$57 million cut from statewide public education funds in 2010-11.
- The demolition crew of Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald and Walker has authority to appoint a nine-person charter advisory board accountable only to them.

ILMPS wants to know WHY DOES THE WALKER ADMINISTRATION WANT TO EXPAND THE 2R, Independent CHARTER SCHOOL SYSTEM? Are 2R Charter Schools better than public schools? NO! A recent comprehensive Stanford University study found that fewer than 20 percent of charter schools nationally offered a better education than comparable local schools, nearly 50 percent offered an equivalent education and more than a third, 37 percent, were “significantly worse.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/02/education/02charters.html>

SB 34 removes the residency requirements on teachers in MPS (and, soon, fire fighters and police)

- This removes an entire segment of tax-paying, middle class Milwaukeeans from a city already losing population and tax revenue at an alarming rate. ILMPS values teachers in our classrooms and in our community.