

## **THE DEMOCRATIC DIFFERENCE: EDUCATION**

Democrats across Wisconsin are on your side in support of our most cherished values: Freedom, Family, and Fairness. And Democrats are fighting to make life more affordable for our middle class families, so they can pay for their health care, have a good-paying job, and send their kids to college. Despite continued opposition from Republican legislators, Wisconsin's Democrats are fighting successfully to protect our rights, our opportunities, and our way of life.

### **When it comes to Education, who is on your side?**

#### **THE REPUBLICAN RECORD**

Republicans are teaching our kids a real lesson about their lack of concern for our public schools by cutting funding and using our schools as a budget bargaining chip. Democrats intend to teach Republicans a lesson about what priorities matter most to Wisconsinites.

- Republicans in Congress have shortchanged promised funding for so-called “No Child Left Behind” by more than \$400 million in Wisconsin.
- State legislative Republicans have tried to eliminate four-year-old kindergarten, reverse our commitment to smaller class sizes, and gut \$400 million out of our public schools. Governor Jim Doyle and Democrats stopped them.
- The Republican so-called property tax “freeze” would have devastated public education, cutting up to \$716 million out of our public schools.

#### **THE DEMOCRATIC DIFFERENCE**

Wisconsin Democrats recognize how critical our investment in education is, and will continue to make it a top priority to ensure a bright future for our children and students.

- Governor Doyle and legislative Democrats fought to increase funding for our schools by \$800 million to make sure our children continue to receive the best education.
- Despite efforts by Republicans, Governor Doyle and legislative Democrats kept the state's commitment to funding 2/3rds of school costs – taking the burden off of local property taxpayers.
- Smaller class sizes work, and Governor Doyle and legislative Democrats fought for a \$44 million investment in Wisconsin's successful SAGE smaller class size program. While Republicans are trying to slash education funds, Democrats are paving the way to allow even more schools to take advantage of smaller class sizes.
- Governor Doyle and legislative Democrats supported early education in the budget by offering grants to help communities offset the costs of starting a four-year-old kindergarten program.
- Democrats in Congress opposed drastic cuts in Head Start, and are working to make sure the federal government meets its obligation to all of our children.

### **WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATION, WISCONSIN DEMOCRATS ARE ON YOUR SIDE**