



Shorewood School Board
September 8, 2026

**Resolution Supporting Litigation Seeking Constitutionally Adequate State Funding
for Wisconsin Public Schools**

Whereas, the Shorewood School District is committed to providing every student with an exceptional public education so they may thrive now and in the future they choose; and

Whereas, the Shorewood School District has a long tradition of responsible fiscal stewardship while investing in high-quality academic programs, student services, and opportunities that support the success and well-being of all students; and

Whereas, Article X, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution requires the State of Wisconsin to provide a system of public schools that is "as nearly uniform as practicable" and provides all students with an equal opportunity for a sound basic education; and

Whereas, Wisconsin school districts continue to face increasing costs driven by inflation, rising special education expenses, student mental health needs, and other educational obligations that have not been matched by sustainable increases in state funding; and

Whereas, while the Shorewood School District has worked diligently to manage its resources responsibly and preserve educational opportunities for students, the increasing reliance on local operational referendums to fund core educational services is neither equitable nor a sustainable long-term solution for Wisconsin's public schools; and

Whereas, school districts across Wisconsin have joined together to support efforts to ensure the State fulfills its constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public education; and

Whereas, litigation has been filed in the Eau Claire County Circuit Court seeking a declaration that the current state school finance system fails to satisfy the constitutional obligation to provide adequately and equitably funded public education; and

Whereas, the Shorewood School District has a moral obligation to every Wisconsin student—regardless of community, that they deserve access to a high-quality public education;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Shorewood School District Board of Education formally expresses its support for the litigation seeking to ensure that the State of Wisconsin fulfills its constitutional obligation to adequately and equitably fund public education; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board calls upon the Wisconsin State Legislature to establish a sustainable and equitable school finance system that:

- Provides predictable increases in general school aid that reflect inflation and educational costs;
- Significantly increases state reimbursement for special education services;
- Reduces school districts' reliance on recurring operational referendums to fund educational services; and
- Ensures all Wisconsin students have access to a sound basic education as guaranteed by the Wisconsin Constitution; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Shorewood School District Board of Education directs the District Administrator to transmit this resolution to the Governor of Wisconsin, members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Joint Committee on Finance, the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, and other appropriate stakeholders.

Shorewood School Board

Abby Fowler, President

Mary Theisen, Vice President

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Ellen Eckman, Clerk

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