



## **ACLU of WI Calls Governor Walker's Fantastic Math Part of National Attempt to Privatize Public Education**

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MILWAUKEE, WI – Today, the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin challenged Governor Scott Walker's fantastic math regarding his 2011-12 biennium budget and revenue reductions for K-12 public education in Wisconsin.

The Governor claimed in a media conference, which was closed to the public yesterday, that projected revenue losses for local public school districts could be made up in most cases from employee benefit concessions. In reaction, educators immediately pointed out to the media that his figures are misleading because they fail to take into account a variety of factors, including inflation, existing contractual obligations, and disparities in wealth among districts.

"The Governor's privatization ideology appears to have blinded him to the stark realities Wisconsin school children will face if a budget is passed with a \$834 million cut in school aids over the course of the biennium," said ACLU of Wisconsin Executive Director Christopher Ahmuty. "Walker's de-funding scheme coupled with a costly and wasteful expansion of the failed private school voucher program in Milwaukee and independent charter schools statewide will privatize public education in Wisconsin.

"The failed privatization effort in Milwaukee has reduced resources for public schools statewide. Even though the private schools in the Milwaukee have resisted meaningful accountability and evaluation, it is clear that they do not, in most cases, achieve better outcomes for students than public schools."

Wisconsin is not the only state where public schools are facing privatization. Ohio Governor John Kasich's recently released budget also includes deep cuts and an expansion of vouchers. It appears that national proponents of privatizing public education have found more than one receptive Governor to defund public schools.

"The ACLU of Wisconsin calls on Governor Walker to stop serving national special interests and listen to the people of Wisconsin who are served by strong public schools," said Ahmuty. "The ACLU of Wisconsin remains open to working with legislative leaders to bring sanity into efforts to reform education funding."

The ACLU of Wisconsin has approximately 7,000 members who support its efforts to defend the civil liberties and civil rights of all Wisconsin residents. For more on the work of the ACLU of Wisconsin, visit our [webpage](#). You can also get news and opinion on civil liberties in Wisconsin on our [Cap City Liberty blog](#). Find us on [Facebook and Twitter at ACLUMadison and ACLUofWisconsin](#).

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