

(Item 3) Action on a Request to Sign a Letter of Support for Act Now 2 Invest Relative to Dedicating the State Budget Surplus to K-12 Education

What is Act Now 2 Invest?

The Madison Public Schools Foundation has recently launched a statewide communications campaign called Act Now 2 Invest, a coalition for Wisconsin's education and economic success.

Act Now 2 Invest serves a local and statewide purpose. Locally, our goal is to promote partnerships between businesses and schools that help enrich the education of students and provide vocational pathways for those who wish to specialize earlier. Statewide, Act Now 2 Invest will utilize the collective voice of our members to reverse long-term policy trends hurting both schools and businesses.

This is an effort created out of great mutual need. On the education side, state-level K12 funding, which was formerly indexed to inflation, has fallen below inflation-level increases for almost 15 years. Businesses, facing both a declining labor pool and a global pandemic, are struggling to fill jobs- 86% of Wisconsin businesses are currently having trouble hiring. Investment in public education improves individual outcomes across the economic spectrum and helps build a ready for success workforce. Together, we can work to resolve our challenges- investing for success and a stronger Wisconsin.

Call to action

In light of a projected \$5.5B state surplus, Act Now 2 Invest is helping with an effort to rally Wisconsin businesses around an investment proposal letter to the state government. Started by Milwaukee area businesses and educators, the letter has exceeded 180 signatures from businesses, organizations, and school districts across the state, all asking that a modest portion of the surplus be used to invest in Wisconsin K12. The list of signatures includes MMAC, the Bucks, and the Brewers. An investment in schools today, when needs are so dire, will benefit everyone by filling resource gaps, attracting talent, and helping students graduate ready for success.

The letter: <https://fs20.formsite.com/jfdonova/syxjbnllo/index.html>

We ask that you consider signing this letter before **3/2/22**. To learn more about this call to action or Act Now 2 Invest, please contact Joey Grindrod at info@actnow2invest.com.

NOTE: Act Now 2 Invest is a program of Schools Make Madison Advocates, the 501c4 affiliate of the 501c3 Madison Public Schools Foundation, Inc.

Organizations signed on as of 2/18

Acme Nerd Games

Algoma School District

American Printing Company

American Roller

Argyle School District

Ashwaubenon School District

Association of Wisconsin School
Administrators

Baird

Barrett Lo Visionary Development

Bartingale Mechanical

Bartolotta & Associates

Baskerville International Ltd.

Baumgartner's Lumber & Materials,
LLC

Belmont Community Schools

Benton School District

Big Foot Union High School

BioForward

Black Hawk Public Schools

Blair-Taylor

Boscobel Area Schools

Building Our Future

Cambria-Friesland School District

Carmen Schools of Science and
Technology

Cassville Public Schools

Center for Urban Teaching, Inc.

Central City Cyberschool of
Milwaukee

City Forward Collective

Clover Phoenix Capital

Colectivo Coffee Roasters
Columbus School District
Cornell Public Schools
Cornell School District
Cuba City School District
Dependable Solutions, Inc.
Edgewood College
Elcho American Legion Post #377
Elcho School District
Engineered Custom Coatings, LLC
EnRich Financial Partners LLC
Evident Change
EZ Office Products
Fall River School District
Fennimore Community Schools
Fennimore Education Association
FirstPathway Partners
Fond du Lac Area United Way
Fortress Nutrition
Free Bikes 4 Kidz Madison
Generation Growth Capital, Inc.
Glendale-River Hills School District
Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.
Grandparents United for Madison Public Schools (GRUMPS)
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Greendale School District
Greendale Schools
Hal Leonard LLC
Hardin Design & Development
Healthview Eye Care Center
Healthy Kids Collaborative
High Point Christian School
Hilbert School District

Hmong American Peace Academy
Husco and St. Augustine Preparatory Academy
Iola-Scandinavia School District
Jewels Caribbean Restaurant & Bar
Johnson Financial Group
JWS Classics
Kelben Foundation
Kenosha Unified School District
KRIETE Truck Centers
La Causa, Inc.
La Follette Board of Visitors
Leadership By Dr. Jeanette
Lubar & Co.
Luxemburg-Casco School District
M&K Enterprises of Wisconsin, LLC
Madison Children's Museum
Madison Community Foundation
Madison Public Schools Foundation, Inc.
Madison Region Economic Partnership
Madison West Towne-Middleton Rotary Club
Markesan District Schools
Marquette University
Maynard Steel Casting Co.
Mayville Public Schools
Mellen School District
Milwaukee Academy of Science
Milwaukee Bucks & Fiserv Forum
Milwaukee Brewers
Milwaukee College Prep
Milwaukee Downtown, Inc
Milwaukee Excellence Charter School

Milwaukee Math and Science Academy
Milwaukee Public Schools
Milwaukee Succeeds
Milwaukee World Festival Inc.
MMAC
Morgridge Institute for Research
MPS Foundation
Next Door
Northern X-Cape LLC.
Oak Hill Model Railroad Track Supply LLC
One City Schools
Osceola School District
Pabst Theater Group
Pack Logix
Pardeeville Area School District
Pathways High
PAX Holdings, LLC
Pecatonica Area School District
Penfield Childrens Center
Penfield Montessori Academy
Pepin Area Schools
Plum City School District
Portage Community School District
Quandt Berndt & Company, LLC
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.
Reis & Reis LLC
Rio Community School District
Ripon Area School District
River Ridge School District
Riverdale School District
Riverwest Food Pantry
Rocketship Public Schools

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison
Royal Credit Union
Royall School District
Sabljak & Budisch
Safe Families for Children
Safe Families For Children Greater Milwaukee Area
Scholz Nonprofit Law
School District of Abbotsford
School District of Beloit
School District of Crandon
School District of Lodi
School District of Mishicot- High School
School District of Niagara
School District of Poynette
School District of Shiocton
School District of South Milwaukee
School District of Turtle Lake
SecureFutures
Seeds of Health, Inc.
Seidlitz Harvesting
Seneca Area School District
Seton Catholic Schools
Shelley Ramsey DeJongh LLC
Shorewest REALTORS
Shorewood School District
Shullsburg Schools
Skyview Acres LLC
Southwestern Wisconsin Community School District
St. Augustine Preparatory Academy
St. Marcus School
Stevens Point Area Public School District

Sun Prairie Area School District
SysLogic Inc
Taureau Group LLC
Teach For America--Milwaukee
Terry Peters. Logging. Inc
The Bartolotta Restaurants
The Greater Milwaukee Foundation
TransCenter for Youth
United Community Center
United Performing Arts Fund
United Way of Dane County
V.I.P. Construction & Real Estate, LLC
Verona Area School District
Visioneer Enterprizes
VISIT Milwaukee
Vista Global Coaching & Consulting
Waukesha Metal Products
Waupun Area School District
Weston School District
Weyco Group
Winter School District
Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools
Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association
Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance
Yahara Software
Zilber Ltd.