



Effects of Revenue Controls on Programs and Services Highlights from 15 Consecutive Studies

Since the 1993-94 school year, WEAC has worked with the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators to survey superintendents about the effects of the revenue controls.

- Law was based on the premise that property taxes needed to be controlled and that districts were inefficient and bureaucratic. It was not intended to improve educational quality.
- Revenue controls have been especially harmful to districts with declining enrollments (about 60% are declining).
- More than one-quarter (26%) of Wisconsin's school districts reported that their district had held discussions about consolidation or dissolution. (The vast majority (80%) considered only consolidation, while 20% included dissolution in their conversations).
- Initially, districts were more likely to make cuts in areas that did not directly affect student instruction, including areas related to maintenance and improvement of buildings and grounds.
- In the past few years, there have been cuts in areas that directly affect the instructional program. In each of these areas there has been an increase in the number of districts reporting cuts since the law went into effect.
- Examples of actions taken in 2007-08:
 - 78% offered fewer staff development opportunities for teachers
 - 74% did not replace departing staff
 - 69% increased class sizes
 - 69% increased teacher workload
 - 69% reduced purchase of consumable supplies, such as paper
 - 68% increased student fees
 - 66% laid off teacher aides or other support staff
 - 64% laid off teachers
 - 63% offered fewer courses
 - 59% reduced programs for gifted and talented students
 - 54% reduced programs for students who are at risk
 - 52% reduced courses in art, music, theater, vocational, etc.
- All content areas have been affected, but cuts have occurred primarily in art; business education; music, band, orchestra; family and consumer education; foreign languages; and technology/vocational education.
- Areas least likely to be cut: mathematics, English/language arts, science, and social studies. These are the subjects tested on the Wisconsin Knowledge & Concepts Examinations.
- 78% of superintendents say that the revenue controls have caused a decline in their district's quality of education.

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