



-- State Superintendent Tony Evers warned educators today ongoing “backroom discussions” in Madison lead him to believe more divisive mandates and constrained revenue are on their way.

Addressing the 94th State Education Convention in Milwaukee, Evers said he believed the state had reached a “sweet spot” in the balance between local and state control of education as envisioned by those who wrote the Wisconsin Constitution. But he was fearful of a shift under the guise of reform.

"So let's conserve that good working balance, which includes local control, by hitting the pause button on new mandates coming out of Madison," he said.

After the speech, Evers said the roll out of the new school accountability bill last week was "circus like" and he was disappointed in the lack of communication from GOP lawmakers over the legislation.

"Kind of after the fact they let me know what their plans are and find out where my concerns are," Evers said.

Evers said he has three main concerns in the bill: that it infringes on the state superintendent's authority over public education, that it allows multiple tests instead of one for schools to give students and that sanctions punish schools instead of help them.

Evers also said he is afraid public school will not receive much funding in Governor Walker's next budget.

"I predict that it will be the same or possibly even less so we're going to have to work hard to get every possible penny we can," Evers said. "It's kind of bleak ... there's a point of no return and we're getting there."

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