



Wisconsin Association of School Boards
“QEO Repeal & Arbitration Changes”
Sample Resolution

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a long tradition of providing high quality public education; and

WHEREAS, school board members are elected from and serve within their school districts and are committed to working with staff, students, parents and their communities to advance student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin public schools are subject to state and federal accountability measures designed to ensure student achievement, and adequate resources are needed to fulfill those expectations; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin public schools are subject to strict state revenue controls which have not kept pace with school district expenses and which have contributed to an on-going loss of educational programs and staff, which threatens student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the governor’s 2007-09 state budget proposes to:

- **repeal the qualified economic offer (QEO)**, which allows school boards to avoid costly arbitration by offering at least a 3.8 percent increase in the teacher compensation package; and
- change the criteria arbitrators use to select final offers by **eliminating** the requirement that arbitrators give **greatest weight to revenue limits** and **greater weight criteria to local economic conditions**—thus giving all factors in the arbitration process equal weight; and
- **allow three-year collective bargaining agreements** for teachers; and

WHEREAS, the QEO exemption to binding arbitration is a cost-control mechanism that must remain in place as long as school districts must comply with the state-mandated revenue limits; and

WHEREAS, even with the QEO law in place, revenue limits are limiting the resources available to school districts, forcing many districts to cut staff, eliminate programs, and forgo school-improvements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ School Board does hereby express its strongest possible support for maintaining and calls upon Gov. Doyle and state lawmakers to **maintain**: the current qualified economic offer (QEO), the current weighting of arbitration factors under the mediation-arbitration law and the current requirement that teacher collective bargaining agreements be required to coincide with the state’s two-year biennial budget cycle, and that the clerk be directed to send copies of this resolution to the Governor and to the appropriate state legislators who represent the _____ School District.

Approved by the School Board of:

Date: _____, 2007

Signed: _____
(Board President)