

Legislative Updates

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Rep. Kitchens working on bill to prevent \$50 million in funding for early literacy from going into the surplus

State Rep. Joel Kitchens is working on a bill to prevent \$50 million in funding for early literacy from going into the state's surplus if the Legislature fails to release the \$50 million allocated to fund mandated reading changes in Wisconsin schools by June 30. The money has been fought over since February 2024, with Republicans arguing that the Department of Public Instruction cannot be trusted to spend it. Act 20, a bipartisan bill, was approved in summer 2023 and created a separate \$50 million appropriations bill for implementation. Disagreements began over how the money would be used and who would decide how to use it. The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled 6-1 in favor of the GOP, but did not rule on the \$50 million for DPI.