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Senator Rob Hutton Expresses Concern and Disappointment Over Wauwatosa's Decision to Close STEM School

WAUWATOSA – Senator Rob Hutton today voiced concern regarding the Wauwatosa School District's recent decision to close its STEM school, WSTEM, located inside Wilson Elementary School.

The closure <u>was announced this week</u> and was the culmination of months of concern among many community members and students who value the specialized education that caters to students with a special interest and aptitude in science, technology, engineering and math.

"The decision to close WSTEM is a significant setback for future cohorts of exceptional and aspirational students who want a STEM-focused program but will no longer have access to one," said Senator Hutton. "STEM education is crucial in preparing our students for a future in which those knowledge, skills and abilities will be sought after and desperately needed by employers. This decision most importantly undermines many great opportunities for students who choose to pursue those fields of study."

Senator Hutton emphasized the importance of supporting STEM programs, highlighting their role in fostering innovation and equipping students with the skills needed in a rapidly evolving job market. He called on the school district to explore solutions to keep STEM-specific programming available to students who want that focused education.

"I urge the district to work with all stakeholders to find a viable path forward. Our students deserve access to the educational resources that best set them up for a future of unlimited opportunities, prosperity and fulfillment," Hutton said.

"I've been consistently impressed with the students and teachers of Wauwatosa, who have led the way to great heights in both academic and athletic performance. But other individuals who collaborated for many months to support this decision seem to be unserious about getting our kids a truly great education," Hutton concluded.

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About Rob Hutton

Rob Hutton represents Wisconsin's 5th District in the State Senate, covering Brookfield, Elm Grove, Pewaukee and portions of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, and West Allis. Hutton previously served eight years in the State Assembly and seven years on the Waukesha County Board.