

In freeing school boards from bargaining with employees over anything but inflation-capped wage increases, Wisconsin lawmakers might have opened the floodgates for districts seeking to drop coverage by the state's dominant, and highly controversial, health insurance provider for teachers. And it seems folks in the West Salem School District took notice real quick.

Superintendent Troy Gunderson says health insurance language was written into recently signed contracts for teachers and support staff. And he claims it will save a lot of money for the district.

WEA Trust, the nonprofit company started 40 years ago by the state's largest teachers union, currently insures employees in about two-thirds of Wisconsin school districts. The company's market dominance has dropped in recent years, although not as much as some school officials who complain about the company's costs would like.