

# School District of Amery

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**JAMES KUCHTA**, District Administrator  
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April 19, 2017

Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

My name is James Kuchta, District Administrator for the School District of Amery. I am proud to represent the School District of Amery where we teach students to “Learn Like a Warrior.” Amery has consistently scored among the top districts in Northwestern Wisconsin and in the state. We are a good district striving to become great.

In Amery, we have been “Warriors” as our mascot indicates. Our district is supported by a great community who passed a \$1.9 million recurring referendum on April 4 in order to sustain current services and to replace some of the cuts forced in recent years including over \$3 million in cuts the past 5 years alone. Since 2012, the district faced cuts of over \$500,000 in state aid causing the district to reduce staff, defer maintenance, security and technology purchases and freeze instructional purchases.

The tools of Act 10 have changed the face of education in Wisconsin and will have long-lasting effects. Continuation down this path will further discourage the best and the brightest from entering one of the most noble professions – education.

Our district supports the governor’s budget of adding \$200 per pupil of categorical aid in 2017-18 and \$204 per pupil in 2018-19. The impact it will have on the School District of Amery is estimated to be an increase of \$310,000 in the first year of the biennial budget and \$316,000 in the second year. Although this amount will help, we are currently operating with over \$1.1 million less revenue than the district had in 2008-09 (that’s eight years ago). The bottom line is, the amount of per pupil aid proposed will help, but will only be a short term windfall, not an end all solution.

I also am very concerned about the change in educator licensure proposed. Although I support flexibility in licensure, I am very concerned about yet another unfunded mandate placed on school districts with no training or additional aid planned.

On behalf of the School District of Amery, I urge you to maintain the governor’s budget proposal and provide the aid needed to start in the right direction for education in our great state of Wisconsin. Our district has performed well, in spite of the obstacles like staff turn-over and budget cuts. However, we can do better for our students, our community, our state and our future with your support for education!

James Kuchta  
District Administrator

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# School District of Amery Revenue Comparison

**\$16,930,057**

2008-09 School Year

**\$15,786,234**

2016-17 School Year

**\$1,143,823 Less Revenue**

## Reduction in Equalization Aid School District of Amery

