

Michael Gerlach  
Director of Business Services

January 25, 2018

Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Gerlach and I am the Director of Business Services for the Fond du Lac School District. I appreciate your efforts to address school district funding through Assembly Bill 835. This legislation addresses a particular concern within the school funding formula for the Fond du Lac School District, by increasing the base revenue per pupil over the current statute of \$9,100. Fond du Lac has historically been a low spending school district since the implementation of revenue limits in 1993.

Using the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's most recent impact analysis of Assembly Bill 835, with a base revenue per pupil of \$9,264, the Fond du Lac School District could realize an estimated \$1,001,640 in additional revenue authority in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The annual indexing of increases to the low revenue threshold under this proposed legislation could provide significant relief to low spending school districts such as Fond du Lac over the next 5 years.

This additional revenue authority would provide the District with the opportunity to maintain ongoing student programming and meet operational expenses that continue to rise with inflation. The District has a history of fiscal responsibility under revenue limits and has not sought an operational or debt issue referendum since 2006. The District is committed to maintaining high levels of student achievement as demonstrated by achieving an Exceeds Expectations rating on the most recent state report card.

The District supports the efforts of this Committee and we urge you to support Assembly Bill 835 to address an ongoing concern within the school funding formula for low revenue school districts like Fond du Lac.

Thank you for your time today and thank you for your service to the students and the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Michael Gerlach  
Director of Business Services  
Fond du Lac School District



*The mission of the Fond du Lac School District, in partnership with the family and the community, is to promote high achievement and foster the continuous growth of the whole child, so that each becomes a creative, contributing citizen in a global society by providing personalized learning opportunities in a safe, nurturing environment.*