

The following information is a post on the School District of Amery's Facebook page and it also appeared on the school districts Twitter account: @AmerySchools

On behalf of the School District of Amery you need to know how the proposed state budget will affect your school district. The school district has had to cut \$926,000 from the 2015-16 budget which could impact the quality of education your children could receive. I encourage you to contact your two representatives immediately to let them know your thoughts. Senator Harsdorf: 800-862-1092 and Representative Adam Jarchow: 888- 529-0028

Even though the School District of Amery graduates some of the top students in the nation, our school district will contend with the following facts:

- * For the first time, Wisconsin will fall below the national average in per pupil spending.
- * Since 2008, Wisconsin has seen a 15% decrease in per pupil spending for public education.
- * In the coming budget, public schools will have less state general aid than in 2010
- * Wisconsin is one of only 5 states that have been keeping spending on public education close to flat. All other states have been increasing spending on public education at an average of 4%.
- * Under current statute, public school students can open enroll to other public school districts. A total of \$6,635.00 follows that student to their new school. Under the legislation on the floor in Madison, public school students can also enroll in a voucher school (a non-public school approved by the state and which are currently all religious schools). A voucher of \$7,210.00 for K-8 students and \$7,856.00 for high school students follows that student to their voucher school. Therefore, non-public students are eligible for 18% more funding than public school students.
- * Other items in the budget bill deal with special education vouchers, home school students participating on high school sports teams, "learning portfolios" for graduation credit, licensing teachers without an education degree and a new civics test a student must take and pass before they can graduate.
- * Our neighbors to the west, Minnesota, is considering how to spend an additional \$525 million for public schools.
- * You are urged to contact your representatives so they can hear your voice.