



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

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Dr. Kathleen Williams, Superintendent of Schools

February 16, 2015

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Constituents,

Following the Governor's biennial budget address on Tuesday, February 3, many questions have arisen regarding how the Governor's proposals, specifically and financially, would impact the Wausau School District. This message is intended to provide that information to you albeit briefly.

Within the televised context of the Governor's budget address, Governor Walker stated the new budget would provide public schools with roughly the same amount of funding as during the previous year; thus, suggesting that the per pupil revenue limit increase most recently set at \$75.00 would be reduced to zero. This reduction in projected revenue, along with other baseline assumptions, would result in a necessary Wausau School District 2015-2016 budget reduction of \$1,250,000. However, contained within the actual 900+ page executive budget report, verbiage indicates that the same amount of funding will *not* be forthcoming. In fact the budget report clarifies that in addition to the per pupil revenue limit remaining at \$0, the proposal also calls for a categorical aid reduction from \$150.00 per pupil to \$0 thereby increasing necessary budget reductions to a total of \$2,500,000. The Governor also proposed adding approximately \$165 per pupil in categorical aid during the second year of the biennium, but the net effect is a *loss* of approximately \$135 per pupil over the biennium. Further, the \$165 would be a one-time payment which does not add funding to the base.

Additionally, the Governor proposed removing the 1000-student cap on private school vouchers. These vouchers, as proposed, would be funded from public school dollars in which the voucher student resides. Although the financial impact is impossible to calculate at this time, the net result will certainly be less state funding for K-12 public schools in Wisconsin.

As is always the case, however, our State Assembly and Senate legislators are required to vote to approve a budget prior to it becoming official. Should you have questions specific to this budget, you may wish to contact one or more of your legislators:

Representative David Heaton
Room 9 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison WI 53708
608-266-0654
Rep.Heaton@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative John Spiros
Room 15 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison WI 53708
608-266-1182
Rep.Spiros@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Jerry Petrowski
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison WI 53707-7882
Sen.Petrowski@legis.wisconsin.gov

There is no question that should the budget proposal remain unchanged, the financial impact on the Wausau School District will be significant and have ramifications for both short- and long-term planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Kathleen Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kathleen Williams
Superintendent of Schools