



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OOSTBURG

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Principal  
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Oostburg Middle  
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**AARON WHITE**

Principal  
Oostburg  
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**BRYCE DEROOOS**

Director of Student  
Services

**KRISTIN DE BRUINE**

Director of  
Finance/  
Personnel

Members of the Joint Committee on Finance, thank you for providing an opportunity for today's testimony. My name is Kevin Bruggink, and I have the privilege of serving as Superintendent in the School District of Oostburg.

On behalf of our school board and staff I would like to express our appreciation to the Blue Ribbon Commission for their intentional, thoughtful work. We support the Blue Ribbon Commission's findings particularly related to per pupil increases with associated revenue limit adjustments.

We ask that your budget deliberations protect revenue limit relief to low-spending districts so the next budget does not neutralize the impact of AB 835 which received strong bipartisan support before being signed into law last year.

Sheboygan County school districts have historically been some of the most conservative in Wisconsin. Prioritizing low-spending district revenue limit relief along with inflationary adjustments to the overall revenue limit will allow us to build on our extremely strong business partnerships. Sheboygan County's economic success is dependent on expanding our Youth Apprenticeship and Inspire Sheboygan programming – two areas where funding is critical.

Sheboygan County is on the cutting edge of business and education partnerships. Examples include Red Raider manufacturing through the Sheboygan School District, Plymouth School District's Food Science, Technology, and Agriculture Center, and Oostburg's first in the nation clinic partnership with Prevea Health Care. The examples don't stop there yet it is becoming increasingly difficult to build on these unique models while working with dramatic funding disparities between school districts.

A district similar to Oostburg in size, operating at the state average revenue limit, would realize an additional \$1,500,000 annually to serve their students. This creates inequity that affects students and forces low revenue schools to make decisions that place them at a competitive disadvantage in achieving their goals.

We appreciate the support by Governor Walker and last year's legislature in providing additional support for low revenue districts like Oostburg. Protecting the benefits from that legislation in the next biennium is critical as we move toward funding which is equitable and allows us to ensure all students learn at high levels.

Thank you