

Pulaski Community School District

Superintendent's Office

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Dear legislator:

First of all, thank you for your support of public school students across Wisconsin. No matter a child's zip code, they should have an equal access to high-quality education across the state. One of the fiscal items in the last state budget was allowing low-spending districts, like Pulaski, to raise our revenue limit to \$10,000 for the 2020-'21 school year. Thank you for supporting this change to help begin equalizing opportunities for students.

As the interim superintendent of the Pulaski Community School District, I want to provide you with an update to education in the PCSD over this year, especially during the Covid 19 period. First and foremost, our educators have done an outstanding job of changing their approach to education and maintaining a high-quality education for our students during this difficult period. Our educational leaders, our teachers and paraprofessionals have committed themselves to ensuring no child was left without individual attention. Of course, we could not have accomplished this without the cooperation of dedicated parents. Here is just one quote from a parent of multiple-aged children who attend the district in the last week:

"Pulaski has just blown it out of the park with the virtual learning and the staff have continued to be there for my students all these weeks."

I also want you to know we have been tracking our additional expenses during these last few months. The costs continue to rise for items such as: salaries for additional daycare, computer hotspots and iPads, postage, learning materials as well as huge expenses for cleaning materials and providing safe work areas for those essential workers. The largest expense during this time, and it will continue throughout the summer, is additional food and labor costs for our lunch and breakfast program. Our food service personnel have had to overcome their own fears of catching the virus and withstood terrible weather conditions, at times, just to make sure students had quality meals.

It is my hope, as you begin to work on any budget repair bill, or the next state budget, you keep in mind that many districts like Pulaski have been dealing with significantly less revenue than most districts across the state because our district was locked into low spending limits when revenue limits were mandated by the Legislature. While we understand there will be pressure on all of us to maintain fiscal responsibility during these difficult times, if we are going to fully recover economically, our students shouldn't shoulder the brunt of any cuts. They are our future!

Again, thank you for all you do and please contact me with any questions regarding the Pulaski Community School District.

Tony Klaubauf
Interim Superintendent