



April 28, 2021

Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

Hello, my name is Stephen Murley and I have the honor of serving as the Superintendent of Schools for the Green Bay Area Public School District. Beginning a new superintendent position during a global pandemic in the fourth largest school district in the state of Wisconsin definitely posed some challenges - but it also has provided some wonderful opportunities for us to reimagine school.

With the first Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES, funding that was provided, GBAPS was able to address our most urgent needs which included hand sanitizer, disinfectant, personal protective equipment, professional development, and more than a million dollars in laptops and hotspots. Through the additional allocation of one-time federal COVID relief funds, GBAPS will have approximately \$72.5 million which will be used to address accelerated learning, provide a multi-year, robust Summer School program, facility improvements, and so much more for 19,000 students across 43 schools.

However, COVID relief funds do not provide the necessary funding support for a school district that has been negatively impacted by a low revenue limit since 1993 and has become incredibly diverse racially, ethnically, and socio-economically since that time.

I encourage the Legislature to support Governor Evers' proposed biennium budget. Increasing per pupil funding, raising the low revenue limit, reimbursing Special Education and English Learning services at a higher percentage, and providing more resources for mental health will all have a positive impact on the students in GBAPS.

As we recover from this pandemic, we are called upon to meet this moment with a commensurate response. Governor Evers' budget, along with the federal funding, provides Wisconsin school districts with the resources to address the needs created by COVID-19, but also to retool our education systems to address long-standing systemic issues to ensure all students can be successful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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