



CHIPPEWA FALLS
AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 21, 2021

Jeff Holmes
Superintendent of Schools

Senator Kathleen Bernier
Senate District 23
Sen.Bernier@legis.wisconsin.gov

Christine McMasters
Executive Director
Student Services

Dear Senator Bernier,

Michelle Golden
Executive Director
Human Resources &
Public Relations

Thank you for your continued efforts to do right by all of your constituents, particularly during exceptionally trying times. The purpose of this letter is for our school district to seek your support and for you to encourage others in your caucus to support the inclusion of the following items in the 2021-23 biennial budget. We humbly ask that you consider the following and stand strong with public schools as a public servant:

Susan Kern
Executive Director
Curriculum &
Instruction

1. Provide a per pupil general revenue increase in each year of the biennium of at least \$200, but preferably \$250 or higher.
2. Support the inclusion of comprehensive pupil count mitigation by:
 - a. Allowing districts to use the greater of the 2019-20 or 2020-21 pupil count from revenue limit calculations;
 - b. Increase special adjustment aid from 85% to 90% of prior general aid each year of the biennium;
 - c. Treat non-recurring declining enrollment exemption and base revenue hold harmless as recurring adjustment for one year only.
3. Increase special education aid to 50% of aidable cost by the end of the biennium.
4. Support High-Cost Transportation to lower the aid threshold to 100% of the statewide average cost.

Chad Trowbridge
Executive Director
Business Services &
Finance

Sarah Radcliffe
Executive Director
Educational Technology

These budget items provide needed support to our district and other districts you represent. Our district has experienced declining enrollment in recent years, and have cut \$1.6 million in preparation for next year's budget. Lack of support for the above mentioned priorities will further increase our deficit. ESSER funds are earmarked for COVID mitigation strategies and learning recovery. The ESSER funds should only supplement our COVID-related efforts and not supplant the state's responsibility in funding the above priorities.

Respectfully,

Jeff Holmes
Superintendent

Chad Trowbridge
Executive Director of Business and Finance