

MARKESAN DISTRICT SCHOOLS

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May 21, 2021

Dear Rep. Dallman and Sen. Ballweg,

Please consider supporting the following items in the 21-23 biennial budget.

Per Pupil Revenue Increase

A \$200 increase in 2021 and a \$204 increase in 2022 will help offset the cost of expenses for the district. Health Insurance, transportation, and other services will continue to rise with the cost of inflation. The general revenue increase will allow us to continue providing a high quality education for our students.

Low Revenue Ceiling

Setting the low revenue ceiling at 90% of the statewide average maximum revenue limit per student is crucial to ensuring equitable resources for all students. Markesan is a low spending district at \$10,000 per member. We are at 87.3% of the average revenue limit of \$11,450. If the ceiling was at 90% that would be about \$244,000 for Markesan District Schools.

Pupil Count Mitigation

Allowing districts to use the pupil count in 2019/20 if the count was greater than 2020/21. Students and families chose other educational paths during the pandemic. As districts try to rebound after the pandemic and get students back in the building, using the greater number would be a benefit to all districts. In Markesan this would benefit the district about \$350,000-\$400,000.

High Cost Transportation Aid

Consider lowering the threshold to the statewide average. This would benefit more than half of the districts in the state. In rural districts students are on the bus for long periods of time. If districts have to cut bus routes for financial reasons it will negatively impact students. Students do not need to be more crowded and on the bus any longer than they are already.

Special Education Funding

All schools would benefit from an increase in special education reimbursement. The last four years on average Markesan has transferred \$766,000 from Fund 10 (General Fund) to Fund 27 (Special Education Fund). If we were reimbursed at 50% it would reduce our transfer to fund 27 and it would benefit all students.

Sen. Ballweg and Rep. Dallman thank you for your time and for listening to our story. Thank you for your continued support of Markesan District Schools.

Sincerely,



Jason Breaker

District Administrator

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