

Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

As an experienced leader in Wisconsin public schools, I am grateful for the support provided to education in the last two biennial budgets. The budgets have allowed for predictability and sustainability in long-range planning and our taxpayers have responded favorably to consistent school mil rates even though our enrollment has declined. We have been able to meet the needs of our students and prepare them for future success.

I am deeply concerned about the concept that schools do not need funding because we are receiving Covid 19 aid. As you know, this aid is one time money, and not adding per pupil or categorical aid because we receive Covid 19 aid will set us back budget-wise and it will actually raise taxes in my community.

I respectfully request that the Joint Finance Committee supports:

- An increase in state aid commensurate with previous budgets
- An increase in special education aid reimbursement
- An increase in categorical aid for ELL students

The revenues are there to continue to make a responsible commitment to our children. Please do not penalize every student in the state because of partisan tension regarding Covid 19 and other philosophical issues.

Thank you for willingness to consider my input and thank you for your service to our communities.

Rick Waski
District Administrator
School District of Monroe