



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359 • 715-261-0500 • Fax 715-261-2503 • www.wausauschools.org

Robert Tess, Chief Finance and Business Services Officer

May 20, 2021

Representative Patrick Synder
Wisconsin Assembly District 85
Rep.Snyder@legis.wisconsin.gov

Dear Representative Snyder,

With the Joint Finance Committee scheduled to take up the education portion of the State biennial budget next week, I would like to call your attention to a few areas where students of the Wausau School District would greatly benefit from your support. Please do your best to encourage others to support these ideas as well.

- Revenue limits are the single biggest factor putting stress on the Wausau School District's operational budget and ability to fund student learning. Please help to ensure per pupil revenue limit increases of at least \$200 in each year of the biennium.
- Like most school districts in the State, the past year saw a noticeable decrease in pupil count in the Wausau School District, with limited ability to correspondingly reduce costs. Please support pupil count mitigation efforts in the next budget by allowing districts to use the greater of the pupil counts from the previous two years for revenue limit calculations. Furthermore, allow both the declining enrollment exemption and the hold harmless exemption to become recurring in nature for this year only, thus limiting the fiscal damage the enrollment decrease would otherwise continue to do over time.
- Each year the Wausau School District transfers over \$10 million from the general fund to the special education fund, thus limiting opportunities for all students. Please consider a gradual increase in special education aid from the current 30% of aidable costs up to 50% of aidable costs by the end of the biennium.

While Federal relief funds have been made available to fund pandemic preparedness and recovery, we need the State to provide fiscal resources to fund ongoing operational needs of the districts you represent. Without the support of the legislature in providing sustainable and predictable funding, districts will find themselves in a position where they are forced to use one-time relief money to fund recurring costs. This will only make the funding challenges greater in the very near future. Thank you for taking the time to read my message, your support is always much appreciated and is more important now than ever.

Sincerely,

Robert Tess
Chief Finance and Business Services Officer
Wausau School District