

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BENTON

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Home of the  
**Zephyrs**

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December 20, 2006

Governor Jim Doyle  
P.O. Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle:

I am a proud Wisconsin parent and school administrator in Benton, Wisconsin. I am writing to urge you to increase funding for education in your proposed budget.

I moved back to Benton in 2002 after working in other districts for 20 years. The Benton community is noted for its strong support for education. We have passed a building referendum and a referendum to exceed the revenue cap in the last 10 years. We have made several cuts in our professional staff and support staff over the last 5 years to reduce our budget. Our enrollment has been in a downward spiral for the last 40 years. In 1964-64 our enrollment was 443 and in 2006-07 we are at 254.

Benton is a very proud community and has produced quality graduates. Our District is exceeding state testing requirements despite doing **more with less**. Our staff is among the lost in compensation in the state, but our students meet state standards. Over that last couple of years more schools are going to referendum to exceed the revenue cap just to keep their doors open. The last I knew the state guarantees a quality education to everyone. I strongly believe that it is time the state steps to the plate and ensures all students receive a quality education.

I believe that there are several communities, like Benton, trying to save their school. I wonder what will happen to these communities when the burden of educating their youth will be too high. Please make the effort to increase the funding for K-12 education and support education in the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Neis  
Principal/Superintendent  
School District of Benton  
P.O. Box 7  
Benton, WI 53803