

January 16, 2007

Governor James E. Doyle  
115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Doyle:

I am writing to urge you to support the biennial budget request submitted by the Department of Public Instruction late last year.

Cuba City has closed the Dickeyville School, reduced or eliminated sixteen personnel positions in the past few years. We are at the point that any new cuts would have devastating affects on some students. Our citizens recently voted local tax increases and it is time for the state to meet its obligation as well.

I truly believe that the state of Wisconsin is at risk of irreparable damage to a very wonderful school system. While I acknowledge that we have area for local improvement, I take pride in the performance of our students by leading the nation in ACT test scores for the majority of the last decade.

How can we expect to attract the "best and brightest" to the teaching profession if the political leaders and the public do not provide adequate support to meet the needs of both the teachers and the students?

The very minimum our leadership can provide is to increase the revenue limit to at least match annual inflation, maintaining the two-thirds state finding of schools, increase categorical aids, and made additional support for declining enrollment. I support more appropriate funding for schools, but would in the short term, accept these increases that only act to hold our schools in place.

Please continue to stand tall for education and support our severe needs.

Sincerely,

Samuel M. McGrew