

# Evansville Community School District

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

Dear Governor Doyle,

The *Evansville Community School District* is a partner in the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. Our district represents 1824 students, their teachers, their families and our community as we work together to provide a quality education for all. Our citizens know that the educations and the futures of kids in our communities and around the state are in great jeopardy because of the way we fund our public schools. Unless we do something now it will get even worse. We hope you will continue to stand up for our children as you have in the past.

As one of 45 districts with increasing enrollment, revenue caps and the state's current funding system have had a negative impact on our district. Programs such as elementary band have been cut, we eliminated our Director of Instruction position, a librarian, a custodian, two classroom reading support positions and still our class sizes are increasing. Unfunded special education costs have risen from 8.4% of our budget in 1999-2000 to over 11.5% last year. As a result, our only educational assistants are those who provide direct services to severely handicapped children. The three year rolling average may help declining enrollment districts, but it is a real hardship for districts with increasing enrollment.

It is important in this next budget to give districts the choice of using current enrollment or the three year rolling average. It is important for the state to adequately fund special education and bilingual education costs. Relief in just these few areas would be of tremendous help for us.

As a partner in WAES, the Evansville Community School District is committed to fighting for increased categorical aid to address the critical short-term needs in all school districts. At the same time, we urge you to work with us, other education stakeholders, and the Legislature to begin comprehensive reform of the school-funding system in 2007.

If we cannot adequately invest in our children, what kind of future can we expect for our state?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heidi Carvin  
District Administrator