

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

January 25, 2007

Dear Governor Doyle,

The School District of Florence County Board of Education is a partner in the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES). In Florence County we know first hand 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. This situation is not getting better and we anticipate you will once again stand up for our children as you have in the past.

Your visit to Florence last year was appreciated because it highlighted the financial plight facing Florence and many Wisconsin school districts. We hope your visit will continue to motivate you to protect our children's education.

As you know, Florence County residents approved a referendum to maintain educational opportunities for its students. Even with the referendum dollars, the School Board is hard pressed to provide new and meaningful experiences for its students due to the impact of revenue caps and class size reductions. The School Board struggles to provide Advance Placement classes for gifted students and necessary staff for children identified with a cognitive impairment. We trust you know, understand, and are willing to assist us to continue providing educational opportunities so our students become productive Wisconsin citizens.

As a partner in WAES, the Florence 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

Thank You
Florence School Board