

Governor Jim Doyle  
PO Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle,

I am a Wisconsin resident, taxpayer, voter, former public school teacher and parent. I am writing to urge you to **increase funding for education** in your proposed budget.

The annual program cuts that districts around the state have had to withstand in the past are unsustainable and downright harmful to our children. How will Wisconsin attract strong, successful families when we are forced to eliminate the very programs that set us apart, environmental education, award-winning music and art programs, successful programs that educate at-risk children? In the past few years alone, my son's school has slashed paraprofessionals, music programs and foreign language. The District is looking at a huge budget shortfall this year as well. What will be next?

The Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES) is a broad-based, statewide, diverse coalition of school districts, parent groups, teachers, and civic and faith-based organizations. WAES members, such GrassRoots of Waukesha County (GROW), are committed to working for increased spending for transportation, special education, bilingual programs, SAGE and small, rural districts. Our schools need this help immediately, and we ask you to find the money to increase aid for these urgent needs.

Most important, I am asking that you **take the lead in changing the school-funding system** so that all schools have adequate funding to meet student needs. The committees, task forces, and studies show there is a pressing need for comprehensive school finance reform. There simply isn't a viable way to continue to fund our schools in the same way that they have been funded in the past. There are clear solutions to this problem, and it is time for our state government to take action.

If we can't adequately invest in our children, what kind of future can we expect for ourselves and our state?

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Suhr, GrassRoots Of Waukesha County (GROW)  
602 Mt. Snowdon Rd.  
Wales, WI 53183  
262-968-4052