



INSTITUTE FOR WISCONSIN'S FUTURE

policy research in the public interest

January 23, 2007

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

Dear Governor Doyle,

K-12 education is one of the primary mechanisms to rebuild Wisconsin's economic and social strength. Our children's capacity to be skilled and knowledgeable citizens is shaped in large part by their school experience, particularly children from low-income families. The budget crisis affecting school districts each year throughout the state is eliminating the very staff and programs needed for effective teaching and learning.

The Institute for Wisconsin's Future -- a non-profit state policy research organization -- has worked with the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools for almost 10 years to promote a reform in school funding that will prevent further reductions in schools' capacity to meet student needs.

As a partner in WAES, IWF is working to support increased categorical aid to help deal with the short-term budget crises across Wisconsin. But our long term goal is comprehensive reform of the school-funding system in 2007. We hope you share that goal and will be working with WAES to enact laws that can ensure all children a quality school, no matter what their background or special need.

As students in WAES have stated over and over -- "they say we are the future, but the state does not want to invest what is needed for us to receive a thorough education." We can change that contradiction by enacting an Adequacy funding system. We look forward to working with you in 2007.

Sincerely,

Karen Royster
Executive Director