

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

Dear Governor Doyle:

As you begin your second term and prepare the next biennial budget, the Janesville Area Council-PTA requests that you take immediate action to address the desperate short-term financial needs of Wisconsin's public schools and plan for comprehensive public education funding reform. Public schools in Wisconsin are in crisis due to the way they are funded, and our children's education is being compromised. The Janesville Area Council-PTA is a partner in the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES), and the Council represents at least 1,800 families in the city of Janesville. These families want to secure the future for their children. Unless something is done now the quality of our children's public school education will continue to deteriorate.

The Janesville Area Council-PTA, as a partner with WAES, would like the following increases to be included in the 2007-2009 biennial budget: **Transportation**--\$97.7 million, **Bilingual Programs**--\$54.6 million, **Special Education**-- \$898.7 million, **SAGE PLUS**-- \$380.3 million and, **Sparsity**--\$26.5 million. These amounts are based on the public school funding reform plan developed by WAES.

It is obvious that the citizens of Janesville are committed to providing quality public education for our children. In November 2006 Janesville approved a \$70.8 million public school referendum to renovate and add space to its two high schools. The vote was an overwhelming 57% yes to 43% no. Now the School District of Janesville's school board is preparing to cut another \$2 million dollars from its annual operating budget. Many people that voted yes for the referendum are now irate about the proposed cuts to teaching staff, social work support, special education support, aide time, art, music, athletics, librarians, etc. They do not understand the way public schools are funded and that capital improvements and operating budgets come from two separate revenue streams. They do not understand that if the referendum had failed the school district would still be facing \$2 million in cuts.

Our children and teachers are suffering from the stress caused by the reduction in staff, increase in class size and limited curriculum resources. Our students are often required to get their work done during class time because they are not allowed to take the text books home, thus compromising the quality of their education. The unrealistic demands placed on our teachers are taking their toll and many are choosing to leave the profession.

It is time for comprehensive public education funding reform. We ask that you work with WAES, other education stakeholders, and the Legislature to begin this comprehensive reform in 2007.

Our future begins with our children's education. We must work together to provide a quality education for all of Wisconsin's children.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Squire, Legislative Chairperson Janesville Area Council-PTA  
4245 Wilshire Lane  
Janesville, WI 53546  
608-752-3479