



DRAFT

January 24, 2007

The Honorable James E. Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
119 East, State Capitol
Madison WI 53702

Dear Governor Doyle:

The Wisconsin Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League (WI JACL) is a long-time member of the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES). Our local chapter, like our national JACL, strongly encourages youth to do their best while they attend K-12 classes and to continue with post-high school academic or other educational efforts. Both our local chapter and our national organization annually provide scholarships for post-high school education.

The WI JACL's WAES representative recommended endorsement of the direction being taken by the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. There must be assurance that state funds for public school districts be allocated in such a way that student needs will be the primary focus. The current formula for distribution of state funds is not directly related to meeting individualized student needs. Changes in funding formulas should include recognition that over reliance on local property taxes must cease while current local control of school policies must continue.

Unless the State Legislature, with you providing the needed leadership, makes changes in the school funding formula and eliminates the stifling controls placed on local school districts and boards of education, Wisconsin's educational system will suffer mightily. Our children comprise our future; they are our leaders-to-be. We trust you will continue to advocate for them as strongly as you have in the past.

Thank you for considering revising the state's current method of school fund allocation in addition to increasing funds for public schools. We know you will face difficulties when you propose increasing expenditures for public education despite anticipated fund shortfalls and when you examine an alternative plan for funding public education. However, we firmly believe, as do other members of WAES, that we must overcome all obstacles to create the best possible chance for Wisconsin's future.

Sincerely yours,

President
Wisconsin Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League