

January 9, 2007

Dear Governor Doyle:

We, the members of the School District of Superior Board of Education, respectfully request that you, favorably consider the proposed budget submitted by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and send it on to the legislature.

The School District of Superior is a partner in the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. Our board members know that the educations' and the futures' of our children in our community and across the state of Wisconsin are in great jeopardy because of the way we fund our public schools. Unless we do something about it now, it will get worse. We, as citizens and constituents, expect you to stand up for our children as you have in the past.

The School District of Superior has been remarkably frugal over the years for which we have been penalized. We have continued to struggle to do more with less money. Along with the No Child Left Behind Act, our district has been crippled by unfunded mandates. We have significantly cut staff, programs, and increased class sizes. Yet we continue to deal with increasing educational costs, health care expenses, utility and energy prices, and a large geographical area, coupled with declining enrollment.

In special education, if the state provided what the statute called for, it would mean 2.6 million dollars would remain in the general fund. Transportation costs have increased by 52%, while the aid has remained the same. We will take money from transportation to support busing so parents can get to work, but we will not take money from transportation to get our kids to school.

As a partner in WEAS, the School District of Superior 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.

If we cannot adequately invest in our children, what kind of future can we expect for our state?

Thank you for your continued support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

School District of Superior Board of Education
David Tunnell-President
William Rehnstrand-Vice President
Christina Kintop
Len Albrecht

Richard VanRossem
Mary Klun
Patrick Dorin