

December 20, 2006

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

Dear Governor Doyle,

The Tri-County Area School district is a partner in the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. The Tri-County Area School District is located in Plainfield, Waushara County, Wisconsin, right off of Interstate 39/Highway 51. Our September enrollment was at 752. The district employs 63 teachers. There are fourteen taxing municipalities in the district.

My board members know that the educations and the futures of kids in our communities and around the state are in great jeopardy because of the way we fund our public schools. Unless we do something now, it will get even worse. We expect you to stand up for our children as you have in the past.

The Tri-County Area School District has been in declining enrollment for the past five or six years. We lost 49 students this year. This is a high number for our small school. Also, the rising cost of operations (natural gas, transportation costs, as well as the 18% increase in health insurance) has forced our school board to go to referendum in April 2007. We can no longer offer all the great and needed programs to our children without an increase in revenue. Something must be done to fix school funding. It is a shame that a community where 50% of the students in the school are on free and reduced lunches needs to bear the weight of a broken school funding formula.

The revenue sources that would help the Tri-County Area School District now would be a substantial increase in transportation aid, special education categorical aid, SAGE program aid, bilingual aid and declining enrollment for small rural schools.

As a partner in WAES, the Tri-County Area School District 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.

Sincerely,

Anthony Marinack
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