

Governor Doyle,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the School District of Waukesha to encourage you to adopt Superintendent Burmaster's proposed budget into your overall budget that is presented to the legislature.

The School District of Waukesha is currently facing 3.4 million dollars in program and service reductions next year. Vital programs such as gifted and talented, elementary guidance and elementary library media specialists are threatened to be cut. This is in addition to the almost ten million dollars in reductions the school district has had over the past decade.

Superintendent Burmaster's budget, while certainly not a permanent fix, provides much needed relief for the short term. Her budget includes an increase of funding for ESL of twenty-nine million dollars and increased special education funding of seventy-five million dollars that will directly impact our school district. In addition, her budget includes increased SAGE funding and relief for declining enrollment districts around the state.

I know that one of your priorities as Governor is to establish a funding system that makes quality education sustainable for the long term. Many districts, however, need immediate help. Please consider adopting the DPI budget in it's entirety and moving it to the legislature.

Sincerely,

William Baumgart

Board President

School District of Waukesha