



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NORTH FOND DU LAC

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Friday, April 9th, 2021

RE: Joint Finance Committee Information – Education Funding

Dear Chairmen Sen. Marklein, Rep. Born, and Joint Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for holding these listening sessions and for your dedication supporting and championing public education. Looking back to the last time the biennial budget was passed, we have been through amazing stress and growth! This past year I have seen incredible changes in our world, including public education. As we emerge, I am certain that public education will evolve and change to better meet the needs of all of our students, every day. Our staff, families, communities and student have been through a lot and I am proud to say we are stronger than before and have been forced to get better and grow as a system to better support our students and communities.

The School District of North Fond du Lac is developing the 2021-2022 budget and looking toward the long-term impacts of the upcoming biennial budget. I am here today to advocate for public education and address a few portions of the Governor's proposed budget that I believe would have a great, positive impact on the achievement, growth and well-being of all students across this great state.

#1. More Resources for All – Special Education Costs

We are proud to fund the necessary programs for all of our students. Students with conditions that cause learning to be more difficult, require more resources to help them grow and achieve. In our District we will invest **\$4,381,962.00 in aidalbe special education costs** this school year. These costs are identified in Fund 27 and can only be used to support special education programs (AND must be maintained based on a Federal Law called *Maintenance of Effort*). **This year the District will receive \$1,236,151.48 in aid from the state for our special education costs. The District will transfer \$3,145,810.52 from Fund 10 (general fund that can be spent on ALL programsand costs).**

The District strongly supports an increase in special education reimbursement aid for all districts. An investment in special education costs is a win for all students in all areas of the state! The less districts transfer from general funds, the more each has to help all students in all programs.

For example, for every 1% increase in Special Education Aid, our District would be able to invest an additional \$43,819 in all students and district programs at our discretion, based on our needs.

#2. Categorical Aid Increase – Address the Increase of Reoccurring Costs

The proposed addition to categorical aid for the 2021 – 2022 and 2022 – 2023 school years of \$200 and \$204 are needed to help Districts meet the increase of fixed costs (maintenance, utilities, transportation, staffing, benefits, etc.) that will be incurred. Our District currently is budgeting a zero increase in enrollment of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students for the upcoming school year. The proposed increases in categorical aid would do the following to our Fund 10 (operational) budget based on a proposed FTE with 0% increase – 1,343 students (we may see a decrease, which would lower these figures):

- \$200 Categorical Aid for 2021 – 2022 = \$268,600
- \$204 Categorical Aid for 2022 – 2023 = \$542,572 (\$200 +\$204 per student)

**Our schools, as well as all schools in the nation are receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding (ESSER) from the Federal government. I have included a summary of how our District has and is planning on using these one-time funds to help pay for costs of keeping our schools open during the pandemic and addressing learning deficits as well as teaching and learning needs for the next few years.*

#3. Calculating Student Enrollment for Aid and revenue Limit (FTE)

The Full Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment is a critical number that sets each district's revenue limit. This number is the total number of students that live in district and attend its schools as determined the 3rd Friday of September. The state currently employs a 3-year rolling average for the calculation of the critical revenue limit.

The 3-year rolling average helps to reduce the negative impact on districts with decreasing enrollment (most not due to any district fault). Please consider allowing districts a one year exemption to choose the 2019 – 2020 enrollments for schools that saw a drop of enrollment due to COVID-19. Even though this does not impact our district, I believe it is the right and best practice for this incredible, novel situation.

In conclusion, THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK!!! The budget process is an arduous, give and take journey, trying to address numerous diverse needs – I respect the time and efforts that each of you are investing to make this biennial budget the best for all Wisconsinites. Thank you for advocating for public education and all the students across our great state – IT MATTERS! Please let me know how I can help.

Sincerely,



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School District of North Fond du Lac ESSER Fund I and II Usage (through 3/31/21)

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

	ESSER I	ESSER II	Notes
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$44,488.88	\$36,238.51	Additional Aides and 4 LTSE Educators grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 (lower class size for safer learning environment)
STAFF DAYCARE	\$7,196.48	\$3,771.00	For staff when their school aged 4K-5th students were not allowed in schools and they were needed in schools
SIGNAGE	\$5,837.50		Promoting safety and COVID-19 protocols
WASHABLE MASK/UNIFORMS	\$12,647.75	\$3,466.25	Provide masks for anyone who needs them on grounds and in schools
SURVEYS	\$2,290.00		Parent and Student Survey - School Perceptions
WIFI DEVICES	\$24,997.56	\$21,588.63	For all students and families that needed them for remote learning (Sprint and Verizon)
INDOOR AIR QUALITY UPGRADE	\$8,016.46	\$51,928.54	HVAC - enhancements for high quality air flow
FOOD SERVICE	\$6,525.37	\$9,289.73	Delivering food during summer and days not in school to community
PPE		\$177,938.92	Plexiglas, gloves, hand sanitizer, cleaning products and devices, etc.
CURRICULUM		\$122,250.41	Online learning materials and service for 6th - 12th 100% virtual option (Edgenuity)
TECHNOLOGY		\$10,423.84	Computers, Web Cams and Document Cameras for remote learning and teaching
	\$112,000.00	\$436,895.83	



Total: \$548,895.83

District ESSER Allocation Totals

	Amount	Notes
ESSER I	\$112,970.00	Already claimed - see above for usage
ESSER II	\$471,753.00	Depending on in-school days this amount could increase slightly - see above for usage
ESSER III	\$1,059,429.00	These resources are being planned to be used to specifically impact student learning and growth (curriculum and interventions) ESSER III funds will be used over the next 2 to 3 years
Total	\$1,644,152.00	