



Wisconsin Heights School District  
Jordan Sinz, District Administrator  
10173 US Highway 14  
Mazomanie, WI 53560  
(608) 767-2595  
(608) 767-3579 FAX  
jsinz@wisheights.k12.wi.us

March 30, 2021

Dear Elected Official,

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and your colleagues well. I want to provide you with an update from the Wisconsin Heights School District as we continue to strive to provide high levels of learning for all students.

1. While respecting Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC) restrictions, our district has had students participating in in-person learning since September 1, 2020. We have turned the dial on increasing levels of in-person instruction as PHMDC has allowed. As of April 12, 2021, we will be operating full-day in-person instruction for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade (five days per week). Additionally, we will continue to offer online learning for families that elect to utilize this form of instruction. Our district has incurred significant increases in expenses in cleaning supplies, technology (devices, hotspots, Zoom, etc.), and transportation as our instructional method has evolved throughout the year. The federal aid dollars will help cover those expenses, plans we have to expand our summer school offerings, and close gaps for students who have experienced struggles during the pandemic.
2. Our district has budgeted a transfer of \$1,490,907 from Fund 10 (general fund) to Fund 27 (special education) for the 2020-21 school year. This transfer equates to 12.8% of our Fund 10 budget. We fully support increased levels of funding for special education so we can continue to meet the needs of all students in the Wisconsin Heights School District.
3. The Wisconsin Heights School District supports the per-pupil increases and the pupil count mitigation measures that have been proposed. Like 80% of districts in the state, we experienced a decline in enrollment this fall, most of which was attributed to homeschooling for safety reasons or enrollment in an established virtual school. Many of those students have recently reenrolled in the district, but the enrollment damage has been done as they were not enrolled for either of the 2020-21 count days. This lost revenue will harm our ability to maintain our present staffing level. The additional per-pupil revenue will help us maintain staffing by covering inflationary increases and growing health care costs.
4. Despite the fact that we are located in western Dane County, we have many students and staff members who lack a high-speed internet connection. Expansion of these services statewide will impact students and businesses in positive ways. The ability to send and receive information is a crucial resource for learning and for businesses to remain competitive in a global economy.
5. The pandemic has challenged all of us mentally and emotionally. We encourage you to increase support for School Mental Health Categorical Aid. Our children need these resources as they look to process the trauma the pandemic has caused.

As we move ahead, I welcome your calls or emails so that I can explain our work and answer any questions you may have. I will also provide you with additional updates. Certainly, much work remains as we finish the school year, begin the summer school session, and prepare for the start of the new school year this fall.

Sincerely,

Jordan Sinz – District Administrator  
Wisconsin Heights School District