

May 24, 2021

Dear Senator Bernier and Representative James,

Please consider supporting the following items in the 2021-2023 biennial state budget.

Special Education Funding

All schools in Wisconsin would benefit from an increase in special education reimbursement. Over the last four years the School District of Greenwood has transferred on average \$500,000 per year from Fund 10 (General Fund) to Fund 27 (Special Education Fund). Increasing the special education reimbursement rate to 50% of aid eligible costs by the end of the biennium will help Greenwood, and all districts provide this legally required education to our students.

Per Pupil Revenue Increase

A \$200 increase in 2021 and a \$204 increase will help offset the cost of expenses for the district. Health insurance, salary and wages, transportation, and maintenance expenses continue to rise. The general revenue increase will allow us to continue providing a high quality education for our students.

High Cost Transportation Aid

Please consider supporting the motion by Representative Mursau and Senator Felzkowski to revise the high cost transportation aid program. If this proposal had been in effect for the 2019-2020 school year, our district would have received an additional \$105,150 in high cost transportation aid. Being a rural school district our transportation costs are much higher than those in urban and suburban districts.

We are grateful for the support of the one-time ESSER funding from the federal government. A share of these funds have already been spent on PPE and technology to allow us to operate in-person for 5-days a week since September 1, 2020. The remaining funds are allocated to address learning loss and recovery over the next two years. As these funds are one-time in nature and therefore cannot be relied on to address ongoing costs.

We know that public education is an asset to our community and our economy. We hope you agree that investing in our children and public education system is an investment in our future. I appreciate the opportunity to share and thank you for your service to our State.

Sincerely,



Todd Felhofer
District Administrator/7-12 Principal
School District of Greenwood
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