



School District of Manawa

Students Choosing to Excel, Realizing Their Strengths

Dear Senator Ballweg and Representative Petersen,

If no funding changes are made to education in the 2021-23 biennium budget, the following would be the effects to the School District of Manawa (SDM) budget numbers:

	Budget	Enrollment	Enrollment Change from previous year
2021-22	(\$20,777)	577	-22
2022-23	(\$427,916)	558	-19

If Governor Ever's biennium budget were to be implemented, the SDM budget numbers change to the following:

	Budget	Enrollment	Enrollment Change from previous year
2021-22	\$72,730	577	-22
2022-23	(\$49,469)	558	-19

The School District of Manawa has proactively made budget cuts for the 2021-22 school year to account for no changes being made by the State of Wisconsin. If this comes to pass and truly no changes are made, the SDM will need to cut over \$400,000 from the 2022-23 budget. Salaries and benefits account for roughly 80% of the budget and the only way to balance the 2022-23 budget is to make cuts to staff. This will cascade into cuts in programming. When a district cannot offer classes, enrollment drops, and the vicious cycle repeats itself.

ESSER funds are thought to potentially make up for the shortfall in district budgets. The problem with that thinking is that ESSER funds are one-time money that is to be used to help cover costs caused by the pandemic with an emphasis on addressing learning loss. The School District of Manawa plans or has used these funds for the following:

Grant	Amount	Purchased or Plan to Purchase
ESSER I	\$78,237	Protective equipment, Teaching tools to assist in on-line education
GEER	\$80,358	Technology equipment for staff/students, Software subscriptions, Internet service for families
ESSER II	\$361,354	Chromebooks, Internet service for families, Teaching/Learning materials for: Literacy, Phonics, Mathematics, Social Studies
ESSER III	??	Intensive student learning interventions, Continued expenses from the above purchases – Chromebooks, Internet service for families, Software subscriptions, updates to learning materials

None of the above expenses are for operational purposes. They are all to supplement the learning that is already happening in the SDM. If the State of Wisconsin fails to fund the public education system, all of the good things that could have been done with ESSER grant money to support student recovery from learning loss will be sacrificed to cover operational costs that supplant not supplement the SDM budget.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information regarding any of the information provided. I appreciate your willingness to work with your colleagues to ensure that public education is truly a priority for the state. Thank you for your support for the students and families of the School District of Manawa.

Respectfully,


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