



Office of Superintendent

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Dear Senator Roth,

Please support and encourage others in your caucus to support the inclusion of the following items in the 2021-2023 biennial budget:


- \$200 per pupil in 2021, and \$204 per pupil in 2022 so we can continue to meet our ongoing financial obligations, such as utilities, maintenance, and staffing.
- Increase support for special education services so we can offset the nearly \$8 million that we currently transfer from our general funds in order to meet these needs.
- Pupil count mitigation strategies in order to keep our funding at the level needed to support all of our school functions. These strategies include 1) Allowing districts to use the greater of the 2019-20 or 2020-21 pupil count for revenue limit calculations; 2) Increasing special adjustment aid from 85 percent to 90 percent of prior year general aid in each year of the biennium; and 3) Treating the non-recurring declining enrollment exemption and base revenue hold harmless as recurring adjustments for one year only
- Expansion of the Governor's proposed Mental Health Categorical Aid Program. We continue to struggle to meet the wide variety of mental health needs in our school and community and these funds will allow us to maintain and hopefully build upon these services.
- The High-Cost Transportation proposal being advanced by Senator Felzkowski and Representative Mursau. This proposal would lower the aid threshold in the program from 145% of the statewide average per pupil transportation cost to the statewide average (100%). An additional \$41 million annually would fully fund the proposal and positively impact 287 districts.

The Menasha School District serves over 3200 students in a very diverse community. In order to open safely in our hybrid model in the fall of 2020, the District invested over \$1M in COVID-19 related expenditures. These expenses included face masks, hand sanitizer, upgrades to filters in building air handling units, signage for floors and walls for social distancing, providing and delivering meals to families, and regular sanitizing of hard surfaces throughout the District. Additionally, we spent nearly \$500K in providing Chromebooks and access to hi-speed internet connections to families in our area who needed them in order to access our virtual instruction, which you got a chance to see in action first-hand.

We are grateful for the support of the one-time ESSER funding from the federal government. These funds have been used and will continue to be used to offset the costs resulting from COVID-19. However, they are only one-time funds and therefore cannot be relied on to maintain ongoing costs like staffing, which is our biggest expense.

The budget building process is one of the most important responsibilities you have as a legislator. We appreciate your hard work to balance the different demands from various constituents. If we can help in any way, please feel free to call at 920-967-1401.

Respectfully,


Chris L. VanderHeyden
Superintendent


Brian Adesso
Business Manager

"Reaching Every Student Every Day"