



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELLEVILLE

Belleville, Wisconsin 53508 | 608.835.6120 | www.belleville.k12.wi.us

Wisconsin State Legislature
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

May 13, 2025

Dear Senator Howard Marklein, Representative Jenna Jacobson, and the Joint Committee on Finance,

We are reaching out to you to ask for your support in increasing funding for our state's public school districts. The vast majority of students in Belleville attend public schools. As the Joint Committee on Finance develops the 2025-2027 biennial budget we believe it is critical that more funds be allocated to our schools, especially in light of the current state surplus. This investment directly benefits our children, our future workforce. Investing in kids is investing in the future of the state of Wisconsin.

As a School Board, we are asking for the following increases in funding to support the strength and vitality of our local schools.

PER PUPIL REVENUE LIMIT

We ask that you increase the per pupil revenue limit to match increases with inflation. For example, an increase of \$90 over the guaranteed \$325 in year 1 and \$105 over the \$325 in year 2 would allow our district to generate approximately \$567,000 in additional revenue in year 1 and \$481,000 in year 2.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT

Increase the special education reimbursement for public schools to a rate of 60% sum sufficient for special needs students, matching the reimbursement rate given to private schools under the legislated Special Need. In 2023-24, our transfer from Fund 10 to cover unreimbursed expenses totaled \$1.17M. If there was an increase in special education categorical aid, it would result in approximately \$512,000 of savings in our general fund.

LOW REVENUE CEILING

We ask that the low revenue ceiling be increased to \$12,500. While this would not impact Belleville this coming year, increasing the low revenue ceiling will bring the revenue limit of a majority of districts closer to one another. To mitigate any potential impact on local property taxpayers, we advocate for a corresponding increase in Equalization Aid to offset this revenue increase.

CATEGORICAL AID

We are requesting an increase in categorical aid. An increase of \$100 per year which would generate \$93,500 for our students. By making public education a priority and providing funding as outlined above, legislators can ensure our students have access to the following programs and services:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs like Wildcat Manufacturing that have been developed directly with local businesses to address workforce needs
- Small class sizes where students access differentiated instruction
- Dual enrollment courses where students not only earn high school credit but also credits in postsecondary education
- Intervention professionals to support reading and math to ensure students have life, career, and college skills after graduation

Thank you for your service, for seeking to understand the financial needs of your constituents, and for your thoughtful consideration of public education in the State of Wisconsin. Our public school students, families, and staff members deserve your advocacy. It is essential for our future.

Sincerely,

Board of Education, School District of Belleville

Katie Woehrle, President
Beth Yurs, Vice President
Marian Viney, Clerk
Alan Charles, Treasurer
Meg Anthony, Board Member
Steve Elliot, Board Member
Ryan Kubly, Board Member