

December 10, 2024

Dear Community Members:

The following letter has been prepared to communicate with the legislators who represent the 2024 Senate District 25 and Assembly District 74.

“The Superintendents of the School Districts in the CESA 12 region have discussed several issues that merit attention by the state legislature. We believe the legislature should prioritize the following five issues in the next legislative session.

- Increase the special education reimbursement rate to 60% of eligible costs.
- Increase mental health funding for schools. This increase should provide more flexibility in how the funds can be used and also address staffing difficulties in high-poverty and rural settings.
- Increase the per pupil expenditure above the annual \$325 per pupil “forever,” one-size-fits-all increase to account for the unique needs of CESA 12 Districts. Specifically, address the impact of the current formula on districts with high poverty, the impact of high property values in rural settings, high at-risk populations, and high per-pupil transportation costs that have evolved since the 1993 base level of funding
- Develop a state-wide media campaign regarding attendance and truancy.
- Allow for flexibility in school calendar/scheduling to help address truancy/absenteeism.

These issues are critical for the future of public schools in Northern Wisconsin and deserve to be prioritized when developing the next biennial budget and making policy for public schools. It is with the deepest sense of urgency that we ask these items to be prioritized and addressed.”

We ask for your support in communicating these priorities to Senator Quinn and Representative Green.

Senator Romaine Robert Quinn
(R - Cameron)
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(608) 266-3510
(800) 469-6562
Sen.Quinn@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Chanz J. Green
(R - Grand View)
Assembly District 74
(608) 237-9174
(888) 534-0074
Rep.Green@legis.wisconsin.gov

Sincerely,

Rhonda Elmhorst-Friemoth
Superintendent
School District of Mellen