



School District of Osceola

Mark Luebker, District Administrator

P. O. Box 128
331 Middle School Drive
Osceola, WI 54020
715-294-4140
FAX: 715-294-2428

Board of Education

Timm Johnson, President
Craig Brunclik, Vice President
Rosanne Anderson, Treasurer
Pete Kammerud, Clerk
Keri Uzpen, Director

March 3, 2015

To Governor Scott Walker and Wisconsin Legislature,

The Osceola School District and Community has a long tradition of providing public education to create lifelong learners who will have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to lead productive lives in a democratic and sustainable society.

Wisconsin has a history of investing in one of the nation's best public education systems. Students in Wisconsin schools today deserve the same investment as past generations. As we lobby for the students, we want state legislatures to support increased funding for public education in the 15-17 biennium budget.

Until recent years, state imposed revenue limits have been increased annually at the rate of inflation to accommodate increases in costs to school districts. These increases provided Districts with a stable and predictable annual increase to use in budgetary planning. The proposed budget adds no new money to the revenue limit. This is concerning. Although the proposed budget adds about \$142 million (\$165 per pupil) in the second year, a reduction of \$150 in the first year, equates to a \$135 reduction per pupil over two years. With no increases in revenue, funding for the 2015-16 school year will approach the equivalent of what was provided to schools in 2009.

In addition to no increase in revenue limits, the budget proposal eliminates \$150 per pupil aid in 2015-16, an immediate reduction of \$127 million of public education funding statewide. The impact to the Osceola School District is \$251,700. With no inflation increase and a reduction in aid, the District is facing a projected budget shortfall of \$667,000 and will need to make tough choices to balance the budget.

In addition to the \$142 million in the per pupil categorical aid in the second year of the budget, an estimated \$211.2 million is allocated to increase school levy credits (\$105.6 million in each year) and \$108 million in increased general aid with no corresponding revenue limit increase. Therefore, this \$319 million is "school funding in name only." It simply flows to taxpayers as property tax relief and schools cannot spend one dime of it on the educational needs of their students.

Please consider reallocating the tax relief money to support revenue limit increases for public education.

The investment we make in public education today will help shape a positive educational and economic future for the people of Wisconsin. We encourage you to stand up for the future of Wisconsin students and support increased funding for public education.

Thank you for the work you do to make Wisconsin a great state to live in.

Respectfully,

Osceola School Board Members

**Home of the
Chieftains**

Osceola High School – 1111 Oak Ridge Drive – 715-294-2127
Osceola Middle School – 1029 Oak Ridge Drive – 715-294-4180
Osceola Intermediate School – 949 Education Avenue – 715-294-2800
Osceola Elementary School – 250 Tenth Avenue East – 715-294-3457
Transportation – 501 Simmon Drive – 715-294-3456
www.osceola.k12.wi.us

