



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TURTLE LAKE

*"To foster a culture of excellence where every person  
belongs, learns and succeeds."*

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Kent M. Kindschy, District Administrator

Troy Wagner, 4K-5 Principal

Jason Hinze, MS/HS Principal

April 28, 2025

Dear Joint Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your dedicated work on the Joint Finance Committee and your commitment to improving education in Wisconsin. As Superintendent of the Turtle Lake School District, a small PK-12 school of 450 students operating within a single building, I am writing to you regarding critical funding issues that significantly impact our ability to serve our students effectively. We currently rely on a continuous five-year operational referendum to sustain our operations.

I would like to address three key areas:

First, the inequity of the low revenue limit poses a significant challenge. Turtle Lake School District receives \$11,325 per student. It is difficult to reconcile this with the fact that a neighboring school just 18 miles away receives \$880 more per student, and another area school receives over \$4,000 more per student. To address this disparity and promote greater equity across the state, I respectfully request that the low revenue limit be set at \$12,650. This adjustment would place 90% of Wisconsin school districts within 10% of each other in terms of per-student funding.

Second, the increasing costs associated with educating special education students require greater state support. While any increase in funding for this vital area would be appreciated, the escalating needs are undeniable. In my 30 years in education, I have witnessed a dramatic rise in the number of students requiring special education services, a trend exacerbated by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many schools are now seeing an alarming number of students from pre-kindergarten through third grade who struggle with self-regulation, exhibiting behaviors such as hitting, biting, kicking, spitting, and destroying classrooms. These incidents often necessitate the evacuation of classrooms to ensure the safety of other students, severely disrupting their education. Consequently, districts face increased costs for paraprofessional support, additional teachers, specialists, and legal fees. This growing problem affects nearly every district in the state and demands a comprehensive solution.

Finally, while the Governor's recent 400-year veto has garnered considerable attention, I would also like to remind the committee of Governor Walker's veto that imposed a 1000-year ban on the energy efficiency exemption. Education transcends partisan politics; it is fundamentally about prioritizing the well-being and future of our children. I recognize the immense challenge of crafting the state budget and sincerely thank you for your service on this committee. Please do what is best for kids.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Kent M. Kindschy Superintendent