



NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 16, 2024

Ranger Community:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today about a matter of utmost importance that affects not only our school district but also the entire community we serve.

As you are aware, the state is currently deliberating on budget proposals that will have far-reaching implications for educational institutions across our region. However, I must express my deep concern regarding the proposed funding allocations for the Northwest Area School District.

Despite the Governor's call for record-breaking amounts of financial aid to districts, Northwest has been allocated a mere \$61,000 increase in Basic Education funding. This paltry increase places us at the 498th rank out of 501 school districts in terms of funding increases. This is not only inadequate but also deeply unjust when compared to the substantial increases received by neighboring districts. Our district has always prided itself on its fiscal responsibility and unwavering commitment to providing quality education to our students. We have never faltered in meeting the standards set by the state, and yet we find ourselves facing a severe lack of resources.

It is disheartening to see our taxpayers bearing the burden of the state's failure to uphold its constitutional mandate to adequately fund education. The future of our students and the vitality of our community depend on equitable and sufficient funding for our schools.

Therefore, I urge you to take immediate action to rectify this disparity and advocate on behalf of the students, parents, and educators of the Northwest Area School District. It is imperative that our voices are heard and that our concerns are addressed in the upcoming budget deliberations.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find sample letters to be emailed to the legislators responsible for overseeing our district funding. These letters outline our grievances and emphasize the urgent need for fair and adequate funding for our schools.

I trust in your commitment to serving the best interests of our community, and I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Together, we can ensure that every student in the Northwest Area School District receives the quality education they deserve.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Long Jr.
Superintendent