



7205 W. Silver Lake Road, Linden, MI 48451

PH: (810) 591-0980 FAX: (810) 591-5587

Guest Viewpoint

May 28, 2010

RE: School Funding

Appropriate school funding is becoming more crucial to our students' education. Years ago, Proposal A was designed to fix the inequitable funding levels districts experienced throughout the state. By moving the funding mechanism from local control to state control, Proposal A was set in motion, but a major disparity in individual district funding remains.

We have a state system that proportionally allocates initial school budgets on a per pupil basis. The amount per pupil depends on what district the pupil attends. However, when cuts come, they are not proportional. When you hear about cuts of \$165 or \$268 per student, it is a flat fee. The amount of funding that is proportionally being cut is larger, percentage-wise, for those districts that are already receiving the lowest per pupil funding from the state. It just does not make sense that we continue with Proposal A and the inequitable school funding practices of the state.

Adding to the dilemma is a state system that mandates school district budgets be passed by July 1st for the coming school year, while the funding levels (from the state budget) are not known July 1st. Further disruption occurs when the state changes their budgets throughout the year. In the 2009-10 school year, the state budget for school aide was not passed until December of 2009 and further cuts were in question. This leaves districts scrambling mid-year to adjust financially.

Adjusting funding practices to provide timely and more equitable funding throughout the state for EVERY student is not about raising taxes; it is about using the money we already collect more appropriately and even handedly. All children in Michigan deserve to be equally educated and have equal opportunities offered to them, no matter where they live.

Many local districts are trying to develop a network of concerned citizens to voice support at the state level. We urge you to help make timely and equitable education funding a top priority for our state legislators in Michigan. Linden, Lake Fenton, and Fenton are working to energize political support for changing the school funding model in Michigan. We are looking to form political action committees that, through an email network, will send comments to state legislators on key school funding issues. Participation is voluntary and more information can be found at any of the districts' websites.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ed Koledo
Superintendent
Linden Community Schools