

A QUALITY  
EDUCATION  
FOR  
EVERY  
CHILD



## State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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October 1, 2007

The Honorable Judith Robson  
State Capitol  
Post Office Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Robson,

Thank you for your September 28, 2007 letter regarding the ongoing budget negotiations and certification of general equalization aid for schools. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

As your letter noted, state statutes require the State Superintendent to certify a general equalization aid amount by October 15<sup>th</sup> that is based upon the "most accurate data available." While progress has been made toward completing the state budget, at this point, there is no formal agreement on the PK-12 education budget, including the level of general equalization aids that school districts will ultimately receive. Respectfully, without a formal budget agreement from the Legislature and the Governor, the most accurate data available today remains the level of general equalization aid that is currently authorized in statute.

It is vital that we provide school districts with accurate school aid figures as they finalize their budgets this month. As a result, last Friday, I directed the Department of Public Instruction School Financial Services staff to begin their work using the aid amounts currently authorized in statute. While I wish this was not the case, these aid amounts constitute the most accurate information available to the Department at this time.

Thank you for your work to complete the 2007-09 state budget, and your continuing commitment to public education. I look forward to a final state budget that reflects our shared commitment to Wisconsin's children, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth Burmaster'.

Elizabeth Burmaster  
State Superintendent