



April 24, 2019

Hello, my name is Laura McCoy and I am a member of the Green Bay Area Public School District's Board of Education.

This year, our district has been able to celebrate some very significant achievements:

- It is the third year our state report card score has increased, with our district firmly in the category of Meets Expectations.
- Our graduation rates have once again increased. For the 2017-18 school year, 86% of our students graduated, an increase of 5% since 2013. We are also closing gaps. In the last 5 years the graduation rates for African American students has increased by 20%, American Indian students by 17% and for English Learners by 18%.
- Our District was named to the Advanced Placement District Honor Roll for the fourth time and increased access to AP classes for underrepresented students,

These achievements have been possible due to our dedicated teachers and administrators who have shown enormous innovation, but there is one barrier, more than any other, that profoundly hinders our ability to fulfill our mission of having all students graduate college, career and community ready - and that is financial resources.

I often hear from staff and citizens about the overwhelming need for trauma-informed care training, transportation, mental health and behavioral supports. Our District has many promising pilot programs and grant-funded supports that are making a real difference, but lack of resources stunts our ability to expand and serve more students.

What we offer our students and families goes far beyond traditional curriculum. Our business community has been very generous in creating work development programming and our community partners have given their support as well. It still isn't enough.

Today, I am asking that the state budget include the bipartisan recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission - and please hear me - funding in Wisconsin has to be more than **EQUAL**. It also needs to be **EQUITABLE**, so that all students in our district and in this state have what they need to be contributing citizens in a rapidly changing world. We are doing our part every day. We are holding up our piece of the sky. We respectfully ask that you hold up yours. Thank you.

Laura McCoy
740 South Jackson Street, Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 437-4853