



ADMINISTRATION

- Shannon Bisgard,
Superintendent
- Nathan Wear,
Associate Superintendent
& Chief Academic Officer
- Bob Read,
Associate Superintendent
& Online Learning Principal
- JT Anderson,
Chief Financial Officer &
Chief Operating Officer
- Karla Christian,
Chief Officer of HR &
Executive Director
of Public Relations
- Leisa Breitfelder,
Executive Director of
Student Services
- Jeri Ramos,
Executive Director of
Technology Services
- Brittania Morey,
School Board President

DISTRICT SCHOOLS

- Bowman Woods, PreK-4
Tina March, Principal
- Echo Hill, PreK-4
CJ McDonald, Principal
- Indian Creek, K-4
Kelly Kretschmar, Principal
- Linn Grove, PreK-4
Lori Manley, Principal
- Novak, JrK/K-4
Carol O'Donnell, Principal
- Westfield, K-4
Ed Rogers, Principal
- Wilkins, PreK-4
Amanda Potter, Principal
- Boulder Peak, 5-6
Dan Ludwig, Principal
- Hazel Point, 5-6
Chad Buchholz, Principal
- Excelsior, 7-8
John Christian, Principal
- Oak Ridge, 7-8
Travis Axeen, Principal
- High School, 9-12
Jeff Gustason, Principal
- Compass Alternative Center
Steve Goodall, Principal

February 11, 2022

Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee,

We are writing today to ask that you vote to fully fund Iowa public schools through a Supplemental State Aid (SSA) amount of 5%.

The last two years have been incredibly difficult for educators, students, and families and as we look toward next year, we all have hope for a return to normalcy. However, this will be difficult if funding is not provided at a level that will allow us to continue our current programming, let alone grow to meet the needs of our students.

The Linn-Mar Community School District will need a minimum of 5.2% to break even and maintain our current programs, services, and commitments to our staff and families. Lower SSA funding will limit our ability to maintain services and force us to consider cutting staff and increasing class sizes.

Like many public school districts in Iowa, Linn-Mar has also been hit with declining enrollment over the last two years. Traditionally, Linn-Mar sees an annual increase of approximately 100 students. While we are hopeful for a return to normal enrollment numbers in the coming years, funding based on previous declining enrollment, coupled with lower overall funding creates an imbalance that makes it difficult to continue services at our current level.

Linn-Mar is facing an estimated 9.5% increase in our insurance premiums, as well as a mandated 3% minimum for staff wage increases per Chapter 20 of the Iowa Code. These factors alone require more than the proposed 2.25% SSA.

The continued funding of SSA at less than 4% will hurt more Iowa students and make it more difficult for public school districts to provide the level of education Iowans have come to expect. It will also hurt the development of Iowa's future workforce, which we know is important to the success of our community and state. Respectfully, we ask you to provide full and equitable funding for Iowa public schools, beginning with 5% SSA, so we can prepare our students to be competitive and prepared for the world when they leave our halls.

Sincerely,
Brittania Morey, School Board President
Clark Weaver, School Board Vice President
Barry Buchholz, School Board Member
Sondra Nelson, School Board Member
Melissa Walker, School Board Member
Rachel Wall, School Board Member