



# A VISION FOR LEGISLATION

The Kettle Moraine School District's vision is "Learning without Boundaries." This vision is achieved through our mission and our community's expectation to cultivate academic excellence, citizenship and personal development for all students. We believe the following legislative priorities are the building blocks for our school district's success. They are critical to ensuring we can implement our mission and provide the best possible educational opportunities for Kettle Moraine students.



## LOCAL CONTROL

- **Decisions made by local school boards in the best interest of their communities.** Our school board frequently involves stakeholders in planning for the future. Students, staff, parents and community members provide valuable input. Local decision-making ensures local control.
- **No unfunded mandates.** Many state mandates provide little to no benefit to students but require additional financial and human resources. Mandates should be carefully considered and publicly vetted to understand the costs and impact they will have on school districts.

## PREDICTABLE, SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MODEL

- **A model that forecasts revenues for 5-10 years to allow for efficient planning.** It's important that we understand the revenues we can expect to receive so we can plan for the future. In order to be sustainable, we need to provide for annual CPI increases.
- **Increasing the level of state reimbursement for special education costs.** The cost to educate students with special needs is significantly higher than regular education costs. These costs are draining operating budgets for school districts. Increased special education funds are needed to meet the needs of all students.
- **Equal funding for school districts with equal demographics.** The school funding formula is outdated, unfair and unsustainable. Districts with similar demographics see major differences in the maximum revenue they can collect from local taxpayers. We are asking for more equity.
- **Research and development funding to support innovation.** Our students are competing globally. We need to be at the forefront of innovations in education to ensure they can succeed in tomorrow's world. Resources to explore, provide and sustain innovative programming are needed.

## MEANINGFUL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

- **Measurement of school districts on outputs, not inputs.** We are asking for measurements that guide improvements and the sharing of best practices across public education. We live in a world that values what we measure; but we don't always measure what we value. In addition to school districts being measured on student test scores, schools should be accountable for the work and service learning opportunities they provide. We are working hard to increase the unique, innovative and immersive opportunities that prepare our students for the world of work and civic life.
- **Relevant & Comprehensive Assessments.** Assessments should be comprehensive, valuing and measuring student growth and success in multiple areas — academics, citizenship and personal development. They should also provide global benchmarks to ensure students are prepared for a global society. Assessments can be more than just tests. Our school district measures demonstrated competencies through student performance portfolios.

## *Our Commitment to Legislators*

Developing relationships with our legislators is key to the future of developing good education policy. We recognize that legislators have multiple statewide issues to consider and we respect their time. Our school board's job is to provide accurate information and feedback to support legislators in their decision-making processes. We wish to be supportive of legislation, not against it. We request that legislators work with us to develop solutions for the success of the Kettle Moraine School District and Wisconsin public education.