

Senator Grant Hauschild
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Senate

State of Minnesota

Independent School District #363
PO Box 465 Hwy 1
Northome, MN 56661

Dear School District 363 School Board,

We write today to express our concern regarding the potential closing of the Indus School in District 363. We have heard from several local stakeholders about this issue and have reached out to the Minnesota Department of Education to learn more. While we do not want to get directly involved in your local school board decision, we think it is important we provide you information regarding education funding discussions happening this legislative session that may impact the Indus School closure decision.

The legislature is currently considering a 5% increase in the basic education formula allowance this year and another 5% next year. This would increase the per pupil allowance from the current \$6,863 in FY23 to \$7,206 in FY24 and \$7,566 in FY25. In addition, we are considering a \$1.6 billion appropriation to bridge the gap on special education services. This would provide substantial state resources to our local school districts who currently rely on their general fund operations to fund ever increasing special education needs.

It is our hope that with these additional resources, District 363 may have the resources necessary to keep the Indus School open. Postponing the hearing until after the legislative session ends would provide you valuable information on available resources when making such an important decision based on budgetary concerns.

We stand ready to assist in any way we can but understand this is a local decision. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Grant Hauschild
MN State Senator
District 3

Roger Skraba
MN State Representative
District 3A