



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

Dear Wisconsin Educators, Staff, and School Employees:

I write to you today as we have set out for another school year in Wisconsin.

I know the last several months—really this year—have been exceptionally tough. Not just for you as educators, staff, and school employees, but as parents, friends, neighbors, and Wisconsinites. As we ended the last school year, the world around us had already changed so much, and we had hoped this fall we would begin a new semester that wasn't unusual or out of the ordinary.

Unfortunately, the challenges we face now are in many ways greater than they were just months ago. Classrooms, libraries, lunch rooms, and hallways no doubt look different this fall than they have in years passed. For some, living rooms and couches have been turned into classrooms, kitchen tables and counters turned to desks. I know these changes present unique challenges to the important work you do each day to serve and support our kids, and I know that weighs heavily on all of you as it does for me.

From my time as a teacher, principal, superintendent, and state superintendent to meeting my wife, Kathy, in Mrs. Potter's kindergarten class, some of the most meaningful moments of my life happened in the classroom. I'm also a grandparent of nine grandchildren, some of whom are trying to navigate this new normal and the challenges of the school year ahead. I know this isn't easy for parents, educators, school staff and administrators, and especially not for our kids. Although this school year will certainly be different than in years past, the one thing that hasn't changed is how our educators will go above and beyond to ensure our students get the best education in the safest way possible, no matter where they are.

Whether in the classroom, over Zoom, or some combination of both, I want to thank you for everything you do for our kids, particularly during these extraordinary times. Over the past few months, I have been overwhelmed but frankly not surprised by the remarkable stories of how our educators, school staff, and even our kids have stepped up to find creative solutions to the challenges to learning and teaching we now face.

In these difficult times, we need everyone to do their part because our schools are our communities' hearts. The health and safety of every staff member, educator, and student is critical to the health and safety of every community. I want to assure you that we will continue to work with the Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and each and every school district to ensure you have the support, resources, and supplies you need to keep not only yourselves, but your families and communities safe. If we all work together and take care of one another, I know we can rise above the challenges in front of us and make this school year a success.

Our strength as Wisconsinites is in our communities and in each other. I hope you know that there are folks across the state from Superior to Milwaukee, including Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, First Lady Kathy Evers, and myself, who see the work you are doing each day and are grateful you have met this challenge by being a source of hope, support, and compassion for our kids to look up to.

Thank you for all you do for our kids, our families, and our communities. As always, I'm proud of you and the work you do and will continue doing everything I can to honor your good work, celebrate and elevate your voices, and support your service in doing what's best for our kids.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and have a great school year.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor

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