



Southwest Minnesota Christian Schools

Elementary Campus

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Phone: 507-442-6181 Fax: 507-442-3019
Website: www.swcschools.org

High School Campus

550 W. Elizabeth St. - Edgerton, MN 56128
Phone: 507-442-4471 Fax: 507-442-5801
Website: www.swcschools.org

April 1, 2025

Via E-Mail Delivery

Senator Mary K. Kunesch, Chair
3209 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Jason Rarick, Republican Lead
3413 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesch and Senator Rarick,

Thank you for your service and leadership to the Senate Education Finance Committee. On behalf of our students and families, I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed elimination of aids to nonpublic students and nonpublic pupil transportation services included in Governor Walz's budget recommendations to the legislature.

Southwest Minnesota Christian Schools (SWC) has been educating students in Edgerton and surrounding communities in southwestern Minnesota since 1917. Currently, we enroll 381 students in grades K-12 from 8 school districts and 18 zip codes. Over 55% of our families live in rural areas and travel upwards of 45 miles to attend our schools.

Operating schools, public or private, in rural areas brings great challenges. We lack the same access to resources found in urban and suburban areas. Eliminating the proposed services would be devastating to students and families in our area. These programs will disproportionately impact students in our rural area.

SWC has cultivated a strong relationship with our local public-school district, as we work closely together on many initiatives, including cooperative sports teams and shared bussing, which brings about great efficiency for both schools. Eliminating these services puts that relationship at risk and brings unnecessary tension to our small town.

I ask that you oppose the elimination of these vital services and ensure fair and equitable treatment for students and families who choose a nonpublic education.

Sincerely,

Randy Pfeifle
Head of Schools

CC: Members of the Senate Education Finance Committee