Wisconsin’s education spending falls below national average

By Lauren Henning

The Monona Grove and McFarland school districts are facing continued budget problems like many other nearby school districts – a problem some administrators are blam- 

ing on a lack of increase in funds from the state government.

If not for federal aid, the McFarland School District would be facing a $1.7 million budget deficit, business man-

ager Jeff Madison said. The Monona Grove School District addressed its funding challenges recently with a $3.7 million operational referendum.

In its second year of that finding, but former business manager Jerrud Rossing and superintendent Dan Olson were both wary of relying on referen-

dums, as district risk “oversug-

eeting the very communities” they serve.

Gonzalez wrote in an email that an “increasingly urgent staff-

ing crisis, worsened by a leav-

ing fiscal crisis” is what pub-

ic education is facing all over the country and even more so in Wisconsin. A large portion of increasing costs, Olson said, is due to staff benefits. Salary and 

benefits encompasses 78% of the district’s budget, he said.

Wisconsin has failed to keep pace, said Janice Murray, manager Jerrud Rossing and 

vice president of the Monona Grove and 

McFarland.

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