

Pass referendum to push student success

I thank the State Journal for their recommendation to vote "yes" on the Madison Schools referendum.

My children are both at Lake View Elementary, whose student body consists of 65 percent low-income students and 25 percent who don't speak English as their first language. Although poverty and cultural diversity bring challenges, my children are getting a top-notch education at Lake View.

We can't afford to sacrifice quality at schools such as Lake View. Our community depends on the success of schools with high concentrations of poor families. It is schools such as Lake View that will be hurt the worst if the referendum doesn't pass.

Superintendent Daniel Nerad is a strong manager who will not squander taxpayer money on bloated bureaucracy or programs with no measurable results.

The referendum will raise my property taxes approximately \$30 a year. For me, this is an investment that will bring a much greater return than any stock or bond I could purchase (especially in today's market).

— *Kristen Nelson, Madison, co-chairwoman, Lake View Elementary School PTA*