

Miser's Touch

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Case:

You have recently been hired as the Superintendent of Schools. The state has experienced financial turmoil and the governor has withheld a portion of your state revenue. This will financially impact your school. You have been charged by the Board of Education to write a letter to your state representative or senator addressing the issues as they relate to your local district.

Questions:

1. What relevant facts should be included in this letter?
2. Where would you find data to support these facts?

Notes

Standard(s) addressed:

Standard 6 – A school leader is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by understanding, responding to, and influencing the larger political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context.

Main Issues:

- Lines of communication are developed with decision makers outside the school community
- Knowledge and understanding of principles of representative of governance that under gird the system of American schools
- Importance of a continuing dialogue with other decision makers affecting education
- Effective communication skills are used

Extended Learning:

The instructor may choose to extend the learning in one or more of the following ways:

- Students may research other current issues and write a letter to their representative as to the impact on their district.
- Develop a five minute oral presentation based on the facts and relevant information in the letter, suitable for influencing other political entities in the community.
- Identify possible budget and program cuts in your district.
- Convey to the community the rationale of the cuts made through the local media.

Scoring Guide:

The letter specifically cites:

- at least two relevant facts
- data to support each fact

1 Point

Response specifically cites one of the two listed above

0 Points

Response omits reference to any of the essential facts.