

I am Gianni DiSano, a 10th grade student at Frankfort-Schuyler High School. I am currently a member of the jv/ varsity football and baseball teams. I am treasurer of my class and I am an active member of Future Business Leaders of America and Key Club. I was recently chosen as a peer leader for the Rachel's Challenge Program. I also participate in chorus and Frankfort -Schuyler Show Choir. I have had the privilege of performing at both All County and Area All State levels along with performing in Chicago and Washington D.C. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you all today.

Our school is one of the many across the state that is suffering at the hands of the education crisis and I'm here today to tell you about it and ask that you work to restore the Campaign for Fiscal Equity so that all students have the opportunity to attend the colleges of their choosing.

Frankfort-Schuyler is a district of over 1100 students and unlike other districts in the state, our numbers haven't fallen over the past five years, but our state aid has decreased by 7% over the last three years, leaving the same number of students with less teachers and support staff.

In 2011, we closed an elementary school, lost a Spanish teacher, a custodian and both our elementary band and middle school technology teacher were reduced to part time. We also lost almost all of our clubs.

This year, we lost an elementary art teacher, a special education teacher, a health teacher, an elementary school teacher, a special education teacher and a social studies teacher is now part-time. Our Middle School art teacher is teaching grades kindergarten through 7 and two of our gym teachers are teaching health. Class sizes have increased; our elementary school is bursting at the seams with multiple classes sharing the same room.

The recent closing of one of our elementary schools had a great impact on me personally. Ten of my family members spanning two generations attended that school. My younger brother did not get the opportunity to proudly celebrate his elementary graduation the way that the others in my family did.

Since music and drama are my passion, my fear of loosing any more of our music program hits home with me. Our business programs and clubs such as FBLA are also at risk. These are the types of programs that give young teens like myself the courage and knowledge to become leaders in our future careers.

I work very hard at maintaining the grades necessary to be National Honor Society student. I participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to be considered a well rounded student. I feel that I am doing all that I can to be competitive when it comes to applying to colleges in three years. Without the necessary programs available to me, my choices will be limited.

Students in my district need for you to ensure that the Governor and Legislature fulfill the moral, economic and constitutional imperative to provide every student a “sound, basic education.” Don’t I deserve a quality education?