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The Honorable Arnie Carlson  
Governor-State of Minnesota  
State Capital  
Room 130  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Carlson,

My name is Chris Jenkins and I am a junior attending Eden Prairie High School. Recently I read an article in the paper that the 8th graders showed gains in reading and slightly in math according to the 1998 state's basic skills test. I am happy with the progress that was made but there's still a long way to go.

Despite the statewide gains, more than 20,000 children failed the test. These schools are heading in the right direction, but they need some outside help to get them where they want to be. I believe these schools could reach their goals with more government funding. With extra government funding, districts could focus more attention on teacher training, extra learning time and updated technology. It is important for everyone in the state of Minnesota to have a chance to be well educated.

Being from a wealthy suburb I never have to worry about getting a bad education and not getting to go to the school of my choice. My school is probably one of the best high schools in the nation. I am proud to be a student here, but I am saddened by the fact that some high schoolers don't even get half as good of an education that I do. With a little more help from the government, children around the state will be well educated and happy.

Because of the better education people will be more knowledgeable and responsible. Hopefully some of our problems like crime, drugs, and even things like racism will be decreased because of this. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Chris Jenkins