

# Omaha World-Herald

## The Public Pulse

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### **Public schools good investment**

The World-Herald recently published an article regarding education funding in Nebraska (“Aid formula bound to have winners and losers,” June 9). The article used the phrase “change the state aid formula to rein in costs” to summarize recent legislative action. Readers may conclude that current investment in educating Nebraska’s children is extravagant. This is not the case.

According to the National Education Association, in 2011 Nebraska ranked 26th nationally in per pupil expenditures on public elementary and secondary education. The fact is, the Nebraska Legislature was trying to “rein” in the funding that was required by law.

Year after year, the Legislature tweaks the state aid formula, but this formula has never been funded as originally intended. Quality public education supports Nebraska’s economic outlook and leads to a well-informed citizenry — the foundation of Nebraska’s future.

I hope the Nebraska K-12 education finance study referenced by State Sen. Kate Sullivan will provide a more comprehensive and balanced approach than the current formula allows. As the Education Committee begins their “broad look at school funding,” I urge Nebraskans to contact their representatives to make public education more of a priority. We all share the responsibility of educating Nebraska’s children.

**Cindy Copich, Bellevue**