

## A Super Influx of Students

### Introduction: "Superman by John Updike"

- I. "Super" Times
  - A. Diversity – 35 states; 4 foreign countries
  - B. B. Lucky "7" – Berth., Stan., Tioga, Ray, Will., Wat., Killdeer
  - C. 800 babies/1200 new student
  - D. Rapid Growth Grants in ND?
  - E. 250 New/ 100
  
- II. Crisis or Opportunity
  - A. Decide -- "get out of the box" \$4.2 million/day
  - B. A lot like late 70's of Coal Gasification
  - C. Formula – doesn't always work
  - D. Proactive – don't re-invent the wheel (MT)
  - E. Prepare for scary numbers
  - F. Help – we need assistance
  
- III. Considerations
  - A. Ask locals to step up, can't carry the full load
  - B. State help 70's (about \$8 million)
 

Grants, Loans, Matching Building Funds, Like the Impact Aid
  - C. Influx Aid – Buildings & Staff "just like we did ..."
  
- IV. Conclusion
  - A. We are in crisis while the state has an opportunity
  - B. Help with our influx of students – buildings and staff
  - C. Influx Aid to match an Influx of students

# Superman by John Updike

I drive my car to supermarket,  
The way I take is superhigh,  
A superlot is where I park it,  
And Super Suds are what I buy.

Supersalesmen sell me tonic –  
Super-Tone-O, for Relief.  
The planes I ride are supersonic.  
In trains, I like the Super Chief.

Supercilious men and women  
Call me superficial – me,  
Who superbly learned to swim in  
Superclossality.

Superphosphate-fed foods feed me;  
Superservice keeps me new.  
Who would dare to supersede me,  
Super-super-superwho?

# A Super Influx of Students

We are in the midst of “super” times in the state of North Dakota; oil is flowing freely, over 500,000 barrels a day. We are seeing unprecedented changes in our schools, cities, and counties in the Wild West. Diversity is the new flavor of the day. Stanley high school has students from 35 countries and 4 foreign nations, and it is estimated that it will have 10,000 people in the next eight to ten years.

Schools are discussing necessary building additions like never before. Eight schools in oil country need to build. Berthold, Stanley, Tioga, Ray, Williston, Watford City, Killdeer, and Dickinson are all dealing with potential building needs.

Times, they are a changing. In 1970 North Dakota had 170,000 students; soon North Dakota was scheduled to be down to 85,000 students. Now we are thinking differently; Williston will have 800 babies this year. Williston Public School conservatively could have 1200 new students in its area, and get this; many schools in the Wild West are receiving “Rapid Growth Grants”!

Stanley had permits approved for 100 new houses by Christmas of 2011; they’re there, now the city has approved another 250. Buckle up, an influx of students is coming.

While the state of North Dakota is in a boom time with over 4 million dollars of revenue going into the state coffers from oil exploration every day, we schools are in crisis. It is our hope that we can turn this into an educational opportunity for kids from Louisiana, Texas, and Dakota. We need the state’s help. We need to think out of the box. The box is too small. We need to get out of the box. We need to do something different.

Western North Dakota is experiencing something similar to the mid-seventies in Beulah and Hazen. An Influx of students which greatly impacted the schools there called for an unusual response from the state. We have heard that the oil impact formula doesn’t always work. We don’t have to invent the wheel; Montana found ways to assist schools like Dr. Sullivan of Dickinson has explained.

We need to be proactive and prepare for the scary numbers that Dr. LaFontaine of Williston relayed to us.

Schools can ask the locals to step up, and they will, but why would they build or spend for this influx all by themselves. Minot doesn't. Grand Forks doesn't. The federal government helps with impact aid. Beulah didn't. Hazen didn't. The state stepped up with coal impact grants, loans, and staff assistance. Based on published and estimated rates of inflation from 1976 through 2011, Beulah and Hazen each received about 8 million dollars of state assistance.

Schools are in crisis while the state has an opportunity. North Dakota is the poster child of prosperity with over a billion in surplus while most of the rest of the nation experiences a time being compared to the Great Depression. I've never understood that moniker; my folks said it wasn't that great.

Schools in the west have an influx of students and need state help. Matching funds for building, loans, grants, and rapid growth grants all make sense. Schools need help with buildings, day to day educational costs, and assistance with new staff. It's time to design influx aid similar to impact aid provided to schools educating the children of military installations and non-taxable Native American Trust Land. We need assistance in the oily, Wild West, kids are coming, kids are coming. It's a "super time" of supercolossality in the west.