

WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF



2021-2023 Biennial Budget Request

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Big Picture Goals

2/3 Funding

Provide sufficient general and categorical aids to restore the state's commitment to funding two-thirds of K-12 education, while holding property tax increases to zero;

Mental Health

Increase mental health funding and services in schools;

Equity

Boost the ability for schools to better serve students with the greatest needs.



State General Aids & Revenue Limits

- ▶ Increase revenue limit per pupil by \$150 in 2021-22 and \$152.25 in 2022-23; annually increase it by CPI starting in 2022-23;
- ▶ Increase the low revenue ceiling from \$10,000 per revenue limit member, to \$10,150 in 2021-22 and to \$10,303 in 2022-23. Remove the current law penalty based on the results of a school referendum.
- ▶ Increase 4K membership calculations from either 0.5 or 0.6 FTE member under current law, to 1.0, beginning in 2022-23.



COVID-19 Enrollment Drop Mitigation

- ▶ Modify the pupil count for revenue limits by using the greater of 2020 or 2019 pupil counts for both summer and fall 2020;
- ▶ For one year only, treat the non-recurring revenue limit exemption for declining enrollment and the base hold-harmless adjustment, as calculated for the 2020-21 school year, as recurring adjustments for the 2021-22 school year;
- ▶ Adjust the special adjustment aid for 2021-22 and for 2022-23, to guarantee that no school district experiences a decrease in general equalization aid of more than 10%.



Per Pupil Aid

- ▶ Fully fund a per pupil payment of \$750 (currently \$745—when supplemental per pupil aid is included); and
- ▶ Provide an additional payment of \$150 to school districts for each student in poverty
- ▶ Eliminate Supplemental Per Pupil Aid



Mental Health and Student Wellness Aid

- ▶ Includes funding to expand the School Mental Health Categorical Aid Program to include reimbursement for pupil services personnel generally, rather than just for social worker services.
- ▶ Modify the program so that all school districts with expenditures for pupil services/support staff are eligible to receive funding. The proposed funding is sufficient to reimburse 10% of estimated total pupil services expenditures.



Mental Health Grants

- ▶ Increases of \$3.5M in 2021-22 and \$3.5M in 2022-23 to expand Mental Health Grants, in order to support more school districts.
- ▶ The department also proposes changing statutory language to be make more districts eligible for grants.



Special Education Categorical Aid

- ▶ Increase the reimbursement rate for special education expenditures to 35% in 2021-22 and 40% in 2022-23 (current: 28%)
- ▶ Eventual goal to hit 60% reimbursement by FY 2025.



High-Cost Special Education Categorical Aid

- ▶ Increase the reimbursement rate for special education expenditures to 40% in 2021-22 and 60% in 2022-23 (current: 31%).
- ▶ Allow for reimbursement of 100% of eligible prior year costs above the \$30,000 per student high-cost threshold.
- ▶ Change the appropriation from sum-certain to sum-sufficient.



English Learner Categorical Aid

- ▶ Establish a funding floor of \$10,000 for each school district and independent charter school serving at least one EL and up to 20 ELs, and \$500 for each additional EL student above 20 in the district.
- ▶ Eliminate the current law set-aside funding for school districts in which ELs make up more than 15% of their total student enrollment.
- ▶ Provide for a temporary “hold harmless” payment for districts that do not receive more state aid under the proposed new EL categorical aid program than they received in 2020-21 under current law.



Sparsity Aid

- ▶ Fully fund the program based on projected membership in eligible school districts.
- ▶ Create a second tier to expand eligibility to school districts with a membership of 746 up to 1,000 members and fewer than 10 members per square mile would be eligible to receive aid in the amount up to \$100 per member.
- ▶ Expands “stopgap” payment (equal to 50 percent of the district’s prior year aid payment) to districts that lose eligibility based on the sparsity factor as well as those that lose eligibility based on enrollment.



Other New Programs

- ▶ **OST Grant Program:** New state-funded program to provide ongoing support to out-of-school time (OST) programs.
- ▶ **Supplemental Nutrition Aid:** New state-funded categorical aid program that would provide reimbursement to schools for meals served to students who are eligible for a reduced-price meal and would prohibit charging a price to students for a reduced-price meal (i.e., make meals free for these students).

