

News Release

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123 small, rural school districts to receive \$14.9 million in sparsity aid

MADISON — School districts that have fewer than 10 students per square mile will share \$14.9 million in state categorical aid specifically targeted to help small, rural districts provide educational services for their students.

For the 2010-11 school year, 123 school districts are eligible for \$14,948,100 that the governor and Legislature allocated to sparsity aid in the state's 2009-11 state budget. To be eligible for this aid, each district must enroll no more than 725 students, have less than 10 students per square mile of district territory, and have more than 20 percent of its students qualified for free or reduced-price school meals based on family income. This year, average poverty rates for eligible districts increased to 44.3 percent, up 3.7 percentage points from last year's average and more than 7 percentage points higher than the state average for the 2009-10 school year.

"School districts that will receive this aid educate about 53,100 students, which represents about 6 percent of our total student population," said State Superintendent Tony Evers. "The small size of these rural districts can provide for closer school and home relationships, one of many qualities of rural Wisconsin that makes it a good place for raising families and educating children."

Evers also noted that, through the State Superintendent's Rural Advisory Council, small, rural districts identified a number of common challenges. "Rural districts experience declining enrollment, rapidly rising property values, low median income, and higher transportation costs than other districts. They also lack economies of scale and have large geographic boundaries that sometimes make it difficult to provide the education and skills students need to graduate ready for the workforce or further education," he said.

Districts were eligible for \$15.9 million in sparsity aid, which required that payments be prorated at 94 percent. Aid will be paid on the third Monday in September.

Among recommendations in the state superintendent's "Fair Funding for Our Future" education reform framework is one to increase sparsity aid to support small, rural schools. "Small, rural school districts serve a significantly higher percentage of low-income families than the statewide average. Increased sparsity aid will support their work to provide solid educational opportunities for their students," Evers said.

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NOTES: A list of school districts receiving sparsity aid follows. The aid, as established in Wis. Stat. sec. 115.436, will be paid the third Monday in September. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_89.pdf.

2010-11 Sparsity Aid to Wisconsin Public School Districts

Prorated Aid Amount Based on 2009-10 Data

Albany, \$127,001	Goodman-Armstrong, \$44,211	Pittsville, \$186,700
Algoma, \$177,970	Granton Area, \$75,750	Plum City, \$82,227
Alma, \$76,595	Greenwood, \$125,875	Port Edwards, \$130,943
Alma Center, \$166,988	Gresham, \$83,353	Potosi, \$102,502
Almond-Bancroft, \$137,420	Herman #22, \$24,781	Prairie Farm, \$93,772
Argyle, \$96,870	Highland, \$76,313	Prentice, \$124,185
Athens, \$146,713	Hilbert, \$139,955	Princeton, \$109,542
Augusta, \$185,292	Hillsboro, \$155,724	Randolph, \$142,489
Bangor, \$178,252	Hurley, \$181,068	Reedsville, \$193,458
Bayfield, \$121,369	Hustisford, \$120,524	Rib Lake, \$138,547
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine, \$68,428	Independence, \$105,036	Rio Community, \$139,673
Belmont Community, \$89,548	Ithaca, \$94,336	River Ridge, \$148,966
Benton, \$70,963	Juda, \$78,284	Riverdale, \$203,314
Big Foot UHS, \$144,460	Kickapoo Area, \$123,903	Rosholt, \$179,378
Birchwood, \$73,216	La Farge, \$68,992	Royall, \$169,522
Black Hawk, \$119,679	Lac du Flambeau #1, \$138,265	Rubicon J6, \$30,413
Blair-Taylor, \$186,700	Lake Holcombe, \$107,007	Seneca, \$74,342
Bowler, \$127,001	Laona, \$66,457	Sevastopol, \$167,551
Brighton #1, \$38,579	Lena, \$122,214	Shell Lake, \$169,522
Bruce, \$161,919	Linn J4, \$30,131	Shullsburg, \$103,065
Butternut, \$54,067	Linn J6, \$31,539	Siren, \$140,799
Cambria-Friesland, \$121,651	Loyal, \$158,258	Solon Springs, \$93,772
Cashton, \$159,948	Luck, \$151,218	South Shore, \$58,009
Cassville, \$73,497	Marion, \$153,190	Southwestern Wisconsin, \$160,230
Clayton, \$109,823	Mellen, \$81,382	Suring, \$136,857
Clear Lake, \$183,039	Mercer, \$43,366	Thorp, \$157,977
Cochrane-Fountain City, \$186,418	Minocqua J1, \$157,695	Three Lakes, \$154,879
Cornell, \$136,857	Monticello, \$112,358	Tigerton, \$90,112
Cuba City, \$181,631	Neosho J3, \$61,107	Tri-County Area, \$199,935
De Soto Area, \$161,074	New Auburn, \$88,140	Turtle Lake, \$135,731
Drummond Area, \$127,564	New Lisbon, \$183,321	Wabeno Area, \$141,644
Edgar, \$196,274	Niagara, \$117,427	Washburn, \$152,908
Elcho, \$106,444	North Crawford, \$132,070	Washington, \$19,994
Eleva-Strum, \$177,970	North Lakeland, \$46,745	Wausaukee, \$156,569
Elmwood, \$96,588	Northwood, \$112,921	Wauzeka-Steuben, \$96,025
Flambeau, \$196,274	Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton, \$192,613	Weston, \$88,422
Florence, \$150,937	Norway J7, \$24,217	White Lake, \$58,854
Frederic, \$151,782	Owen-Withee, \$157,977	Wild Rose, \$196,274
Gillett, \$200,780	Pecatonica Area, \$129,535	Winter, \$107,289
Gilman, \$131,507	Pepin Area, \$73,216	Wonewoc-Union Center, \$111,795
Gilmanton, \$56,320	Phelps, \$39,424	Woodruff J1, \$134,604