

News Release

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Less sparsity aid for small, rural districts

MADISON — More small, rural school districts qualified for funding that helps them deliver educational services to students, putting additional pressure on the aid program, which was cut 10 percent in the 2011-13 state budget.

For the 2011-12 school year, 130 districts are eligible for \$13.5 million in sparsity aid, an increase of seven school districts and about 2,800 students from last year. To be eligible for sparsity aid, school districts must enroll fewer than 725 students and have fewer than 10 students per square mile. Additionally, at least 20 percent of students must be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Aid is set in statute at \$300 per pupil, but will be prorated at 80 percent. District eligibility totaled \$16.8 million. Aid will be paid on the third Monday in September.

“Small, rural school districts can forge the close relationships between home and school that foster strong communities and solid educational achievement,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “But, small communities struggle with some common challenges — declining enrollment, highly variable property values, low median income, and higher transportation costs — that make it difficult to provide the full range of educational opportunities students need to be successful. Sparsity aid has helped these districts provide services to their students, many times through creative partnerships within and among communities.”

Average poverty rates for eligible districts increased to 46.3 percent, up 2 percentage points from last year’s average and more than 5 percentage points higher than the state average for the 2010-11 school year. Aid will impact 55,900 students, which represent about 6.5 percent of the state’s total public school student population.

The first payment from the Sparsity Aid Program was in the 2008-09 school year. The aid was a priority identified by the State Superintendent’s Rural Advisory Council. The council noted that small, rural districts often lack economies of scale and have large geographic areas that impact educational services. The “Fair Funding for Our Future,” school finance reform initiative introduced last fall, recommends increasing funding for sparsity aid to small, rural schools.

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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](#) and a [map showing districts receiving sparsity aid](#) are available electronically at <http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/newsroom.html>.

2011-12 Sparsity Aid to Wisconsin Public School Districts

Prorated Aid Amount Based on 2010-11 Data

Albany, \$104,536	Granton Area, \$59,253	Plum City, \$69,610
Algoma, \$151,504	Green Lake, \$75,391	Port Edwards, \$110,076
Alma, \$60,216	Greenwood, \$101,645	Potosi, \$84,062
Alma Center, \$145,001	* Gresham, \$71,778	Prairie Farm, \$79,967
Almond-Bancroft, \$114,411	Herman #22, \$22,160	Prentice, \$106,222
Argyle, \$82,135	Highland, \$64,552	Princeton, \$95,864
Athens, \$127,900	Hilbert, \$119,710	Randolph, \$123,323
Augusta, \$154,154	Hillsboro, \$135,126	Reedsville, \$161,380
Bangor, \$143,797	Hurley, \$158,489	Rib Lake, \$114,652
* Barneveld, \$108,630	Hustisford, \$105,981	Rio Community, \$120,433
Bayfield, \$105,017	Independence, \$90,806	River Ridge, \$127,659
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine, \$60,939	Ithaca, \$76,354	Riverdale, \$172,219
Belmont Community, \$77,559	Juda, \$66,238	Rosholt, \$145,242
Benton, \$62,143	Kickapoo Area, \$103,572	Royall, \$146,687
Big Foot UHS, \$124,046	La Farge, \$61,180	Rubicon J6, \$22,882
Birchwood, \$64,070	Lac du Flambeau #1, \$117,061	Seneca, \$65,997
Black Hawk, \$101,645	Lake Holcombe, \$91,529	Sevastopol, \$134,885
Blair-Taylor, \$160,657	Laona, \$54,676	Shell Lake, \$151,023
Bowler, \$102,609	Lena, \$99,237	Shullsburg, \$85,266
Brighton #1, \$31,553	Linn J4, \$27,459	Siren, \$117,542
Bruce, \$134,644	Linn J6, \$27,940	Solon Springs, \$75,632
Butternut, \$47,932	Loyal, \$141,388	* South Shore, \$47,210
Cambria-Friesland, \$102,850	Luck, \$125,009	Southwestern Wisconsin, \$136,571
Cashton, \$146,205	Marion, \$130,790	Stockbridge, \$59,735
Cassville, \$59,735	Mellen, \$70,333	Suring, \$118,265
Clayton, \$93,456	Mercer, \$35,407	Thorp, \$134,403
Clear Lake, \$154,154	Minocqua J1, \$136,089	Three Lakes, \$134,644
Cochrane-Fountain City, \$158,249	Montello, \$174,146	Tigerton, \$72,982
Cornell, \$111,039	Monticello, \$98,755	Tri-County Area, \$162,102
Cuba City, \$153,672	* Neosho J3, \$48,896	Turtle Lake, \$117,542
De Soto Area, \$135,607	New Auburn, \$72,019	Wabeno Area, \$117,542
Drummond, \$102,850	New Lisbon, \$155,840	Washburn, \$126,454
Edgar, \$167,161	Niagara, \$96,587	Washington, \$18,065
Elcho, \$91,529	North Crawford, \$113,207	Wausaukee, \$125,973
Eleva-Strum, \$145,001	North Lakeland, \$37,093	Wauzeka-Steuben, \$81,653
Elmwood, \$81,653	Northwood, \$93,938	* Webster, \$168,124
Flambeau, \$158,249	Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton, \$162,825	Weston, \$77,800
Florence, \$129,826	Norway J7, \$20,714	White Lake, \$47,691
Frederic, \$129,586	* Oakfield, \$125,009	Wild Rose, \$158,249
Gibraltar Area, \$139,943	Owen-Withee, \$128,622	Winter, \$83,339
* Gillett, \$171,496	Pecatonica Area, \$110,557	Wonewoc-Union Center, \$99,477
Gilman, \$113,689	Pepin Area, \$61,662	Woodruff J1, \$107,667
Gilmanton, \$46,728	Phelps, \$36,130	
Goodman-Armstrong, \$35,407	Pittsville, \$148,855	

* Districts with an asterisk are new to the Sparsity Aid Program for the 2011-12 school year.