

GOVERNOR EVERS – PROPOSAL FOR K-12 SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES
2023-25 Biennial Budget Proposal – Summary (2/16/2023)

BUILDING THE EDUCATOR PIPELINE

➤ **Supporting Future Educators: \$11.5 M** (starting in FY25) to pay stipends for:

- Wisconsin Internship Program (WIP) interns (\$9,600)
- Student teachers (\$2,500)
- Cooperating teachers (\$1,000)
- Public library interns (\$2,500)

The stipends will support future educators while they complete the required student teaching component of their educator preparation programs and support future librarians as they complete valuable experience in the field. Providing stipends for cooperating teachers recognizes the significant amount of time they dedicate to working with student teachers and interns and the expertise they bring – as seasoned educators – to the student teaching experience.

➤ **Supporting Grow-Your-Own Educator Programs: \$5 M** (starting in FY25) to reimburse school districts and independent charter schools (ICS) for building teaching capacity in Wisconsin’s schools via grow-your-own initiatives and programs, including pathways for staff to complete a program leading to an education degree and/or licensure, as well as support for student organizations that encourage high school students to pursue careers in education.

K-12 SCHOOL AIDS

REVENUE LIMITS & GENERAL AIDS

➤ **Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment: \$350** in FY24 and **\$650** in FY25 (*cumulative impact of \$1,000 per pupil over the biennium*).

➤ **Revenue Limit Low Revenue Ceiling:** raise from \$10,000 to **\$10,450** in FY24 and **\$11,200** in FY25. *Also, decouple the authority for a school district to utilize the LRC from results on referendum.*

➤ **Count 4K students enrolled in a full-day, five days/week program as 1.0 FTE** for school district revenue limit and general aid membership, and for payments to private parental choice and ICS (*beginning in FY25*).

➤ **State General Aid: \$229.7 M in FY24 & \$809.8 M in FY25** (increases of 4.4% and 10.7% (year over year), and reallocate \$16.8 M each year from high-poverty aid to state general aid.

Net increases of \$212.9 M in FY24 and \$792.9 M in FY25 (4.1% & 10.7% increases, year over year).

➤ **Per Pupil Aid: \$46.4 M** over the biennium to provide \$766 per pupil in FY24 & \$811 per pupil FY25.

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STATE CATEGORICAL AIDS FOR SCHOOLS & STUDENT SUPPORTS (total funding for the biennium unless otherwise indicated)

➤ **Special Education**

- **Categorical Aid: \$1.01 Billion** over the biennium to raise reimbursement rates to **60% in FY24 & 60% in FY25** (specify reimbursement rate in statute, make sum-sufficient).
- **High-Cost Aid: \$7.5 M** to raise reimbursement rates to **45% in FY24 & 60% in FY25** (specify reimbursement rate in statute, make sum-sufficient).

➤ **Mental Health & AODA Prevention**

- **Aid for School-Based Mental Health Professionals: \$36 M** to expand aid for all pupil services categories; aid eligibility based on prior expenditures (not the increase in expenditures).
- **Aid for Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems: \$235.8 M net** increase; replace the current School-Based Mental Health Services Grant (\$10 M annually) with a new program to support comprehensive mental health services for students during both in-school and out-of-school time. [Each LEA would receive up to \$100,000 + \$100 per pupil, not to exceed actual costs.]
- **Peer-to-Peer Suicide Grant:** raise the maximum grant award from \$1,000 to \$6,000 per LEA.
- **Mental Health Training: \$1.16 M** to increase support for existing mental health training programs, to expand the types of training offered, and to make trainings available for out-of-school time program staff.
- **NEW:** require each public and independent charter school building to have a supply of an opioid antagonist, such as nasally administered naloxone, on premises (no funding).

➤ **Early Literacy and Reading Improvement: \$20 M** for a two-pronged approach to improving reading outcomes for Wisconsin students, with one effort focusing on evidence-based literacy instructional practices for students in 5K through grade 12, and the other effort focusing on early reading instructional transitions from 4K to 5K to grade one.

➤ **English Learners and Dual Language**

- **Bilingual-Bicultural Program Aid: \$22.3 M** to raise reimbursement rates to **15% in FY24 & 20% in FY25** (specify reimbursement rate in statute, make sum-sufficient).
- **Aid for English Language Acquisition: \$52 M** to aid school districts & ICS that educate English Learners (ELs), with a minimum of \$10,000 for 1-20 ELs & \$500 for each additional EL.
- **Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy: \$310,500** to expand access to opportunities to earn the WI Seal of Biliteracy.

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➤ **Rural Schools**

- **Sparsity Aid: \$1.26 M** to fully fund Sparsity Aid at \$400 per pupil for the smallest districts and \$100 per pupil for districts with 746 to 1,000 members (districts with fewer than 10 members/square mile are eligible for Sparsity Aid).
- **Pupil Transportation Aid:** increase reimbursement for students transported 12+ miles, from \$375 to \$400 per pupil (does not require change to the appropriation).
- **High-Cost Transportation Aid: \$15 M** to fully fund aid eligibility; remove the statutory limit on the total amount DPI may distribute as one-time stop-gap payments for qualifying school districts.

➤ **Targeted Supports**

- **Milwaukee Math Partnership: \$10 M** beginning in FY25 to support a partnership between Milwaukee Public Schools and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to select, train, place and support a mathematics teacher leader in each K-12 school building, with the goal of improving mathematics teaching.
- **Computer Science Education Grants: \$5 M** annually beginning in **FY24** to help school districts increase foundational computer science offerings.
 - Additionally: \$20,000 for costs related to a computer science education task force, to be chaired by the new computer science education coordinator (at DPI).
 - Require each high school in the state to be required to offer at least one computer science class (public, independent charter, and private parent choice schools).
- **School Library Aid: \$14 M (\$7 M in each year)** – estimate of additional funding available from the Common School Fund provided by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.
- **Out of School Time Grant: \$20 M** (starting in FY25) to create a new state-funded grant program to provide ongoing support to out-of-school time programs.
- **Drivers Education Aid: \$6.5 M** (starting in FY25) to create a new categorical aid program to offset the costs of providing driver education (DE) instruction to qualified students, for school districts, CESAs, & ICS.
- **Personal Financial Literacy Grants: \$5 M** (\$2.5 M annually, starting in FY24) to provide resources to school districts and ICS for the purpose of starting new, or improving existing, financial literacy curriculum and programming, with an emphasis on bringing innovation into personal financial literacy instruction.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Aid: \$120.32 M** (starting in FY25) for a new aid program to reimburse LEAs the difference between the federal reimbursement rate for a free meal and that of a reduced-price meal, as well as that of a full-price (paid) meal; the aid is intended to offset the loss of revenue from charging students for meals, as schools would be prohibited from charging fees to students (i.e., make school meals free for every student).

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- **School Breakfast Grant: \$8.9 M** to fully fund school breakfast aid at 15 cents/meal & to expand the program to include ICS, state residential schools, & residential childcare institutions.
- **Enhanced Payments for Locally Sourced Foods: \$2.75 M** for a new aid program that will provide an additional 10 cents for every school meal served that includes a locally sourced food (i.e., from Wisconsin).
- **Grants for Milk Coolers and Milk Dispensers: \$50,000** for a new grant program to assist school food authorities in purchasing milk coolers and dispensers.
- **Academic and Career Planning (ACP): \$704,000** to maintain current services to school across the state.
- **General Educational Degree (GED): \$500,000** (starting in FY25) to subsidize GED test fees (WI residents).

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

- **Public Library System Aid: \$14 M** (\$7 M each year) to increase state supports public library systems.
- **Recollection Wisconsin: \$450,000** to provide a dedicated funding source to support libraries in digitally archiving documents of Wisconsin cultural and historical significance.
- **Resources for Lifelong Learning: \$336,800** to fully fund BadgerLink and Newslines for the Blind services and to maintain library service contracts.

AIDS TO OTHER EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **Adult Literacy Grants:** increase funding by \$742,500 both years (\$1.485 M total)
- **Wisconsin Reading Corp:** increase funding by \$1 M in FY24 & \$2 M in FY25 (\$3 M total)
- **Graduation Alliance:** provide funding of \$2 M annually [*new appropriation*]
- **Reach Out and Read:** provide \$250,000 in FY24 & \$1.37 M in FY25 [*new appropriation*]
- **The Literacy Lab:** provide \$75,000 in FY24 & \$1.37 M in FY25 [*new appropriation*]
- **Mentor Greater Milwaukee:** provide \$100,000 in FY24 [*new appropriation*]