

## News Release

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### 141 school districts to receive sparsity aid

MADISON — Small rural districts across the state will share \$17.7 million in sparsity aid for general school operations, which will be paid on the third Monday in September.

For the 2016-17 school year, 141 districts qualified for sparsity aid based on enrollments of 745 or fewer students and membership of less than 10 pupils per square mile of the district's geographic area. Four school districts will receive aid in the coming school year that didn't qualify last school year: Boyceville Community, Chequamegon, Montello, and Shiocton. Two districts — Erin and Spring Valley — received aid in the 2015-16 school year, but were not eligible for the coming school year.

Sparsity aid is computed on prior year membership and paid at \$300 per member. Combined, the eligible school districts had pupil membership of 60,702, which is about 7 percent of Wisconsin's total public school membership for the 2015-16 school year. Because district eligibility for aid for the 2016-17 school year exceeds the aid allocation from the 2015-17 state budget, each district will receive \$291.16 per student, or 97.05 percent of eligible aid.

"In rural areas throughout Wisconsin, the local school provides value that extends past the classroom doors. Our public schools are a major employer, a gathering place, and the heart of the community," said State Superintendent Tony Evers. "The sparsity aid program helps rural districts meet those important needs."

Sparsity aid was enacted as part of the 2007-09 state budget and based on recommendations from the State Superintendent's Rural Schools Advisory Council. The council stressed that declining enrollment and escalating fixed costs along with the lack of economies of scale were issues that put added pressure on small rural districts. Changes to the aid program over the years have eliminated the requirement that at least 20 percent of students qualify for subsidized school meals; if funds were sufficient, paid aid to districts that qualified the year prior but had enrollment that exceeded the membership cap; and increased the membership cap from 725 to 745 students. With the exception of the 2015-16 school year, sparsity aid has been prorated each year.

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**NOTES:** A list of public school districts receiving 2016-17 sparsity aid follows. More information about the [sparsity aid program](http://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/aid/general/sparsity-aid-program) can be found online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/aid/general/sparsity-aid-program>. This [news release](#) and a [map showing districts receiving aid](#) is available electronically at <http://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases>.

## 2016-17 Sparsity Aid to Wisconsin Public School Districts

*Based on 2015-16 Data — Prorated at 97.05% of Eligibility*

<b>District</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Aid</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Aid</b>
Albany	423	\$123,161	Elcho	348	\$101,324
Alma	223	\$64,929	Elewa-Strum	626	\$182,266
Alma Center	570	\$165,961	Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	486	\$141,504
Almond-Bancroft	458	\$133,351	Elmwood	340	\$98,994
Argyle	330	\$96,083	Flambeau	609	\$177,316
Athens	421	\$122,578	Florence	464	\$135,098
Augusta	610	\$177,608	Frederic	510	\$148,492
Bangor	594	\$172,949	Gibraltar Area	570	\$165,961
Barneveld	448	\$130,440	Gillett	593	\$172,658
Bayfield	412	\$119,958	Gilman	407	\$118,502
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine	246	\$71,625	Gilmanton	175	\$50,953
Belmont Community	363	\$105,691	Goodman-Armstrong Creek	109	\$31,736
Benton	253	\$73,664	Granton Area	254	\$73,955
Big Foot UHS	524	\$152,568	Green Lake	260	\$75,702
Birchwood	232	\$67,549	Greenwood	431	\$125,490
Black Hawk	411	\$119,667	Gresham	292	\$85,019
Blair-Taylor	628	\$182,849	Herman #22	63	\$18,343
Bowler	442	\$128,693	Highland	301	\$87,639
Boyceville Community*	740	\$215,458	Hilbert	445	\$129,566
Brighton #1	103	\$29,989	Hillsboro	521	\$151,694
Bruce	521	\$151,694	Hurley	598	\$174,114
Butternut	198	\$57,650	Hustisford	436	\$126,946
Cambria-Friesland	392	\$114,135	Independence	402	\$117,046
Cashton	594	\$172,949	Iola-Scandinavia	681	\$198,280
Cassville	217	\$63,182	Ithaca	334	\$97,247
Chequamegon*	726	\$211,382	Juda	247	\$71,917
Clayton	355	\$103,362	Kickapoo Area	476	\$138,592
Clear Lake	617	\$179,646	Lac du Flambeau #1	533	\$155,188
Cochrane-Fountain City	661	\$192,457	La Farge	237	\$69,005
Coleman	695	\$202,356	Lake Holcombe	321	\$93,462
Cornell	434	\$126,363	Lakeland UHS	699	\$203,521
Crivitz	719	\$209,344	Laona	221	\$64,346
Cuba City	679	\$197,698	Lena	424	\$123,452
De Soto Area	573	\$166,835	Linn J4	105	\$30,572
Drummond	407	\$118,502	Linn J6	88	\$25,622
Edgar	651	\$189,545	Loyal	555	\$161,594

<b>District</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Aid</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Aid</b>
Luck	515	\$149,947	Rio Community	446	\$129,857
Marathon City	655	\$190,710	River Ridge	529	\$154,024
Marion	504	\$146,745	Riverdale	710	\$206,724
Mellen	289	\$84,145	Rosholt	545	\$158,682
Mercer	137	\$39,889	Royall	600	\$174,696
Mineral Point	705	\$205,268	Rubicon J6	91	\$26,496
Minocqua J1	549	\$159,847	Seneca	298	\$86,766
Montello*	718	\$209,053	Sevastopol	592	\$172,367
Monticello	380	\$110,641	Shell Lake	631	\$183,722
Necedah Area	708	\$206,141	Shiocton*	724	\$210,800
Neosho J3	207	\$60,270	Shullsburg	384	\$111,805
New Auburn	279	\$81,234	Siren	467	\$135,972
New Lisbon	605	\$176,152	Solon Springs	290	\$84,436
Niagara	375	\$109,185	South Shore	193	\$56,194
North Crawford	462	\$134,516	Southwestern Wisconsin	565	\$164,505
North Lakeland	137	\$39,889	Stockbridge	245	\$71,334
Northwood	366	\$106,565	Suring	420	\$122,287
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	713	\$207,597	Thorp	588	\$171,202
Norway J7	87	\$25,331	Three Lakes	480	\$139,757
Oakfield	499	\$145,289	Tigerton	258	\$75,119
Owen-Withee	510	\$148,492	Tri-County Area	640	\$186,342
Paris J1	158	\$46,003	Turtle Lake	466	\$135,681
Pecatonica Area	462	\$134,516	Wabeno Area	420	\$122,287
Pepin Area	253	\$73,664	Washburn	535	\$155,771
Phelps	159	\$46,294	Washington	78	\$22,710
Pittsville	587	\$170,911	Wausaukee	486	\$141,504
Plum City	293	\$85,310	Wauzeka-Steuben	308	\$89,677
Port Edwards	386	\$112,388	Webster	662	\$192,748
Potosi	334	\$97,247	Weston	307	\$89,386
Prairie Farm	314	\$91,424	White Lake	175	\$50,953
Prentice	428	\$124,617	Wild Rose	555	\$161,594
Princeton	393	\$114,426	Winter	313	\$91,133
Randolph	529	\$154,024	Wonewoc-Union Center	378	\$110,059
Reedsville	663	\$193,039	Woodruff J1	442	\$128,693
Rib Lake	491	\$142,960			

\* Districts marked with an asterisk did not receive sparsity aid in the 2015-16 school year.