

State Superintendent Evers 2017-19 Biennial Budget-School Finance Summary

Overall General and Categorical School Aids and State Support for K-12 Education

- Increase general and categorical school aids by \$707 million over biennium (increases of 2.7% in 2017-18 and an additional 5.4% in 2018-19) and “state support” from 63.8% to 64% in 2017-18 and 65.2% in 2018-19.

Revenue Limits

- Increase the annual revenue limit adjustment to \$200 per pupil in 2017-18 and \$204 per pupil in 2018-19, representing a 2% annual increase in revenues for the average school district.
- Increase summer school FTE count from 40% to 100% in both years.
- Increase low revenue ceiling from \$9,100 per pupil to \$9,500 in 2017-18 and \$9,900 in 2018-19, allowing 80-120 districts to narrow the gap in resources with higher spending districts.

General Equalization School Aids/Fair Funding Plan

- Increase general school aids by \$514 million over the biennium (increases of 2.2% in 2017-18 and an additional 6.6% in 2018-19) to implement the Fair Funding Plan and provide property tax relief.
- Fair Funding--Make the following changes to the state general school aid formula in 2018-19:
 - Guarantee a minimum level of state funding for every student (\$3,000)
 - Incorporate a poverty factor in general aid formula (20%) to account for families’ ability to pay
 - Protect taxpayers by ensuring no district could lose more than 10% of its state aid in any year
 - Transfer School Levy/First Dollar Tax Credits & High Poverty Aid into general aid formula
 - Make other changes to protect rural, declining enrollment and negatively aided districts
 - Include a hold-harmless provision to ensure all districts receive the same amount of state support under Fair Funding as they would otherwise receive under current law

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) (\$ increases is actual number compared to this year)

- Reestimate sum sufficient funding by \$37 million over biennium due to: (1) estimated increases of 500 students annually; (2) the increased per pupil payment, which is tied to the revenue limit per pupil adjustment plus the change in recommended categorical aids; and (3) increasing the state’s share of the MPCP from 74.4% to 77.6% in 2017-18 to 80.8% in 2018-19 per current law.

Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP) (\$ increase is actual number compared to this year)

- Reestimate sum sufficient funding by \$11.6 million over the biennium due to: (1) estimated increases of 400 students annually; and (2) the increased per pupil payment, which is tied to the revenue limit per pupil adjustment plus the change in recommended categorical aids.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) (\$ increase is actual number compared to this year)

- Reestimate sum sufficient funding by \$19.2 million over the biennium due to: (1) estimated increases of 700 students annually; and (2) the increased per pupil payment, which is tied to the revenue limit per pupil adjustment plus the change in recommended categorical aids.

Independent Charter Schools Program (ICSP) (\$ increase is actual number compared to this year)

- Reestimate sum sufficient funding by \$16.7 million over the biennium due to: (1) estimated increases of 400 students annually; and (2) the increased per pupil payment, which is tied to the increase in the revenue limit per pupil adjustment plus the change in the amount of statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous and current year.

Categorical School Aids

- Increase by \$192.8 million over biennium (8.6% in 2017-18 and an additional 5.3% in 2018-19)
- Recommendations for the following existing categorical aid programs:
 - Special Education-request \$88.4 million to increase state reimbursement for children with disabilities from 26% to 28% in 2017-18 and 30% in 2018-19
 - Special Education-High Cost-request \$4.2 million to increase state reimbursement for children with disabilities from 70% to full reimbursement in both years
 - Special Education Transition Grants-request \$6.1 million to meet increased demand for incentive payments for students with disabilities to improve their post-secondary outcomes
 - Special Education Supplemental Aid-repurpose \$1.75 million in 2018-19 to High Cost Aid
 - Per Pupil Aid-request \$37.5 million above base funding level to target aid for English-language learners, students in foster care, and economically disadvantaged students.
 - Bilingual-Bicultural Aid-request \$9.1 million to increase state reimbursement from 8% in 2016-17 to 12% in 2017-18 and 2018-19 for the roughly 50 districts required to have a program
 - Sparsity Aid-request \$7.7 million to fully-fund program for 140+ districts in both years and provide \$100 per student to districts meeting sparsity criteria up to 1,000 FTE.
 - Transportation Aid-request \$92,000 to increase over 12 mile reimbursement rate by \$65 per pupil (20% increase) and increase summer school transportation rates significantly.
 - High Cost Transportation Aid-request \$10.4 million to fully fund in both years
 - School Breakfast-request \$5.7 million to increase reimbursement for public and private schools from 7 cents per breakfast to 15 cents (full funding) in both years
 - Gifted and Talented Grants-request \$1.5 million to further support grants for gifted and talented students throughout the state and make all school districts eligible to receive them
 - Open Enrollment Transportation-request \$4.6 million to fully-fund transportation costs of economically disadvantaged students participating in the open enrollment program
 - Tribal Language Revitalization Grants-request \$400,000 in 2018-19 to initiate a young learners initiative to enhance tribal heritage for Native American students
 - School Library Aids-decrease funding by \$4 million to reflect a reestimate of interest earnings
- Recommendations for new categorical aid programs:
 - Supplemental Bilingual-Bicultural Education-request \$4.3 million to provide \$100 per student to all districts with English-Language Learners, not just those required to have a program
 - Targeted English Language Learner Grants-request \$4.4 million to provide \$100 per ELL students at 1-2-3 ACCESS level
 - Dual Language Start-Up Grants-request \$750,000 to create a competitive grant program to support dual-language start-up programs
 - ESL/Bilingual Capacity Building Grants-request \$750,000 to increase capacity for ESL/Bilingual teachers throughout Wisconsin
 - Rural Teacher Grants-request \$5.5 million to provide \$750 per teacher in sparsity districts.
 - Mental Health Aid-request \$3 million for social workers providing mental health services.
 - Mental Health Collaboration Grants-request \$2.5 million to create a competitive grant program
 - Special Education Transition Readiness Grants-request \$1.5 million to create new program