

WISCONSIN BUDGET PROPOSAL

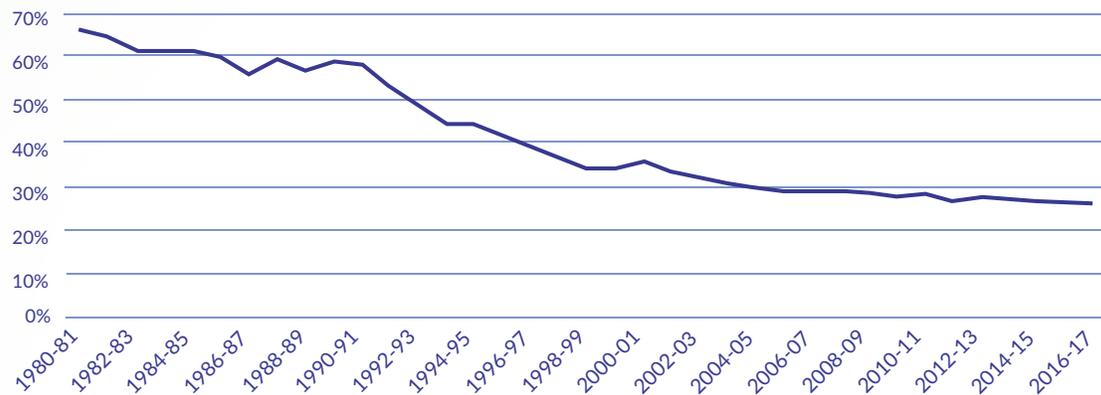
Special Education Funding



Steady Decline

Wisconsin's reimbursement rates for special education have not kept up with need or inflation. Currently, Wisconsin provides the lowest reimbursement rate for special education in the nation¹. To pay for a student's required services, schools make difficult decisions that can reduce opportunities for **all kids**.

Reimbursement Rates 1980 - 2017



End the Decade-Long Freeze

To better serve students with disabilities and relieve budgetary pressure, the department is requesting an additional **\$600 million** to support students with disabilities through the special education categorical aid, **more than doubling** the current reimbursement rate. The aid will bring the state's **reimbursement rate to 60%** by the end of 2019, moving us closer to the national average.



Historic Investment

The proposal sets the course for **transformational change** by reinstating the statutory requirement to reimburse **90% of special education costs**. This target is an ambitious, but reachable commitment from the state to support education costs.

¹Maria Millard & Stephanie Aragon, "State funding for students with disabilities," Education Commission of the States 50-State Review (June 2015), <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/19/47/11947.pdf>.