

WISCONSIN BUDGET PROPOSAL

Prioritizing School Mental Health

Overwhelming Demand

State support remains far short of demand for programs to assist students with mental health challenges. One in five students faces a mental health issue. Over 80 percent of incidents go untreated. For those who do receive treatment, roughly 75 percent of the time it's administered at school.

80%
OF MENTAL HEALTH
INCIDENTS GO UNTREATED



Tenfold Funding Increase

The department's 2019-21 budget seeks a tenfold increase in mental health funding to meet pressing student and family needs. This includes \$10 million to fully fund and expand collaborative grants (previously funded at \$3.25 million). This new, popular program brings schools and community providers together to serve the needs of students and families.

More Pupil Services Staff

In many districts, pupil services staff are working at ratios that limit their reach and effectiveness. These positions are critical to healthy and safe schools. The budget seeks \$44 million to extend a categorical aid that matches district funds when hiring these positions. The previous program focused solely on social workers (with \$3 million of state support).



Support for Students and Families

Over \$5 million will fund statewide training and support, including two additional programs focused on preventing youth suicide. Suicide became dramatically more common among Wisconsin youth over the last four years. A new state program to fund parent peer specialists, in conjunction with family-run organizations, will help empower and assist families in overcoming emotional and mental health challenges.