

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Condensed Summary of 2019 Act 9 *Funding and Program Changes included in the 2019-21 State Biennial Budget*

Provisions Related to Elementary and Secondary Education and State Agency Operations

Prepared by the Policy and Budget Team
Department of Public Instruction



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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTES

Commonly Used Acronyms

- **CESA** – cooperative educational services agency
- **DIN** – decision item narrative
- **FTE** – full time equivalent
- **FY** – fiscal year
- **FED** – federal revenue
- **JCF** – Joint Committee on Finance (“Finance Committee”)
- **LEA** – local educational agency

Fund Sources

- **GPR** – general purpose revenue
- **PR** – program revenue
- **PR-S** – program revenue-service
- **SEG** – segregated revenue

FY19 Base - The total FY19 authorized funding level for an agency or program. The base equals FY19 appropriations, pay plan modifications and any other supplements. It is this base that serves as the beginning point for calculating budget changes for the 2019-21 biennium.

References to Members, Pupils, and Students

Throughout this document there are references to “student(s)”, “pupil(s)”, “member(s)”, and “membership”. These are all references to K-12 students, but the terms “member(s)” and “membership” reflect how students are counted under state law for purposes of state general equalization aid, certain categorical aids, and revenue limits.

Simply put, a district’s “membership” is the total full time equivalent (FTE) of students who are residents of the school district and for whom the district pays the cost of educating. As an example: a district’s “membership” includes residents who attend a public school in a different school district under the open enrollment program (and conversely, excludes non-resident students who attend a public school in the district under open enrollment). This is because each school district incurs a cost, via a reduction in its state general aid, for each resident student who enrolls into a public school in a different school district under the open enrollment program. State law provides for similar adjustments to a district’s membership for other circumstance as well.

The singular term “member” generally means 1.0 FTE pupil, unless otherwise stated (e.g., with respect to four-year-old kindergarten, which may reference 0.5 FTE or 0.6 FTE pupil).

Membership for general equalization aid purposes uses prior year data. A district’s total membership includes the average of the September and January pupil counts (converted to FTE), and adds in the district’s FTE pupils for summer school and interim session, as applicable. General aid membership now also includes resident students of the district who enroll in the Racine and the Wisconsin private school parental choice programs (if the student first enrolled in those programs in the 2015-16 school year or after), and for a subset of independent charter schools. Finally, adjustments are made to reflect students enrolled part-time in the school district, in the Youth Challenge Academy program, and for some students in foster care placements.

Membership for revenue limit purposes uses current and prior year data. It is comprised of the three-year rolling average of FTE of the third Friday in September student count, plus 40 percent of summer school FTE (if applicable).

While general equalization aid membership is calculated differently than membership for revenue limit purposes, the concept of a member (a resident for whom the district pays the cost of educating) is the same for both purposes.

In this document, references to “pupil” (e.g., “per pupil adjustment”), in the context of state aids and revenue limits, has the same meaning as “member”, as described above.

BIENNIAL BUDGET TIMELINE

September 17, 2018 – The Department of Public Instruction submits its 2019-21 biennial budget request to the Department of Administration.

February 28, 2019 – Governor Evers introduces his 2019-21 biennial budget proposal for all state agencies.

May 9, 2019 – The Joint Committee on Finance adopts motion #5, which removed several provisions of the Governor’s 2019-21 biennial budget proposal from consideration during the Committee’s deliberations on the budget.

May 23, 2019 – The Joint Committee on Finance takes action on the biennial budget for elementary and secondary education funding, public libraries and lifelong learning, and Department of Public Instruction administration (omnibus motion #94). (Additionally, action taken by the Committee on June 11, 2019, under motion #146, impacted funding for School Library Aids.)

June 25, 2019 – The Assembly adopts and passes Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 56.

June 26, 2019 – The Senate concurs with AB 56 as amended.

July 3, 2019 – Governor Evers signs the budget bill into law, as 2019 Act 9 (reflects partial vetoes).

Summary: 2019 Act 9 – Final 2019-21 Budget for School Aids & Tax Credits

	FY19 - Base	FY20	FY21	Total Change to Base
Categorical Aid Programs				
Per Pupil Aid^	\$ 549,098,400	\$ 619,124,800	\$ 616,973,000	\$ 137,901,000
Special Education Categorical Aid	\$ 368,939,100	\$ 384,472,300	\$ 450,276,200	\$ 96,870,300
Achievement Gap Reduction Contracts	\$ 109,184,500	\$ 109,184,500	\$ 109,184,500	\$ -
Sparsity Aid	\$ 25,213,900	\$ 24,713,900	\$ 24,813,900	\$ (900,000)
Pupil Transportation Aid	\$ 24,000,000	\$ 24,000,000	\$ 24,000,000	\$ -
High-Cost Transportation Aid	\$ 12,700,000	\$ 13,500,000	\$ 13,500,000	\$ 1,600,000
High-Cost Special Education Aid	\$ 9,353,800	\$ 9,353,800	\$ 9,353,800	\$ -
Personal Electronic Computing Device Grant - VETO	\$ 9,187,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (18,375,000)
Bilingual-Bicultural Aid	\$ 8,589,800	\$ 8,589,800	\$ 8,589,800	\$ -
State Tuition Payments	\$ 8,242,900	\$ 8,242,900	\$ 8,242,900	\$ -
Head Start Supplement	\$ 6,264,100	\$ 6,264,100	\$ 6,264,100	\$ -
Educator Effectiveness Grants	\$ 5,746,000	\$ 5,746,000	\$ 5,746,000	\$ -
School Lunch Match	\$ 4,218,100	\$ 4,218,100	\$ 4,218,100	\$ -
Aid for CCDEB's	\$ 4,067,300	\$ 4,067,300	\$ 4,067,300	\$ -
School Performance Improvement Grant	\$ 3,690,600	\$ 3,690,600	\$ -	\$ (3,690,600)
Special Education Transition Incentive Grant	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 3,600,000	\$ -
Mental Health School-Based Services Grant	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 6,500,000
Mental Health Categorical Aid	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 6,000,000
School Breakfast Grant	\$ 2,510,500	\$ 2,510,500	\$ 2,510,500	\$ -
Supplemental Special Education Aid	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 1,750,000	\$ -	\$ (1,750,000)
Peer Review and Mentoring Grant	\$ 1,606,700	\$ 1,606,700	\$ 1,606,700	\$ -
Special Education Transition Readiness Grant	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
Summer School Programs Grant	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ -
4K Start Up Grant	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 1,350,000	\$ -
TEACH Debt Service Aid	\$ 832,300	\$ 832,300	\$ 832,300	\$ -
School Day Milk Grant	\$ 617,100	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 765,800
Rural Teacher Talent Pilot Program	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,000,000
Transportation Aid for Open Enrollment	\$ 454,200	\$ 454,200	\$ 454,200	\$ -
Robotics League Participation Grant	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Gifted and Talented Grant	\$ 237,200	\$ 237,200	\$ 237,200	\$ -
SAGE Debt Service Aid	\$ 133,700	\$ 133,700	\$ 133,700	\$ -
Supplemental Aid	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -
Supplemental Per Pupil Aid (NEW)	\$ -	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 5,300,000
GPR Categorical Aids	\$ 1,171,587,700	\$ 1,258,942,700	\$ 1,316,954,200	\$ 232,721,500
Tribal Languages (PR)	\$ 222,800	\$ 222,800	\$ 222,800	\$ -
Aid for AODA (PR)	\$ 1,284,700	\$ 1,284,700	\$ 1,284,700	\$ -
PR Categorical Aids	\$ 1,507,500	\$ 1,507,500	\$ 1,507,500	\$ -
School Library Aids (SEG)	\$ 37,000,000	\$ 39,400,000	\$ 40,300,000	\$ 5,700,000
Education Telecomm Access (SEG) [DOA]	\$ 15,984,200	\$ 15,984,200	\$ 15,984,200	\$ -
SEG Categorical Aids	\$ 52,984,200	\$ 55,384,200	\$ 56,284,200	\$ 5,700,000
Total Categorical Aids	\$ 1,226,079,400	\$ 1,315,834,400	\$ 1,374,745,900	\$ 238,421,500
General Aids				
General Equalization Aids	\$ 4,656,848,000	\$ 4,740,048,000	\$ 4,903,590,000	\$ 329,942,000
Gen Aids-Hold Harmless	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
High Poverty Aid	\$ 16,830,000	\$ 16,830,000	\$ 16,830,000	\$ -
Total General Aids	\$ 4,673,678,000	\$ 4,756,878,000	\$ 4,920,420,000	\$ 329,942,000
Total State School Aids (no tax credit)	\$ 5,899,757,400	\$ 6,072,712,400	\$ 6,295,165,900	\$ 568,363,500
School Levy Tax Credit	\$ 1,090,000,000	\$ 1,090,000,000	\$ 1,090,000,000	\$ -
Total Cat/Gen School Aids & Credits	\$ 6,989,757,400	\$ 7,162,712,400	\$ 7,385,165,900	\$ 568,363,500
State Residential Schools	\$ 10,918,900	\$ 11,928,400	\$ 11,928,400	\$ 2,019,000
Total State Support for Schools	\$ 7,000,676,300	\$ 7,174,640,800	\$ 7,397,094,300	\$ 570,382,500
Percent change to base:		2.5%	5.7%	4.1%

^The amounts shown for Per Pupil Aid are estimates of the amount required to fully fund the aid program, based on current projections of statewide revenue limit membership for FY20 and for FY21. This is a sum-sufficient appropriation, meaning that all districts will receive the full amount for which they are eligible (\$742 per revenue limit member in FY20 and in FY21).

Summary: Final 2019-21 Budget for Aids to Individuals & Organizations

Program	FY19 (Base)	FY20	FY21	Total Change to Base	% change over BYD
AIDSTO INDIVIDUALS/ORGANIZATIONS					
Wisconsin Reading Corps (WRC)*	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ -	0.0%
Very Special Arts	\$ 75,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	33.3%
Special Olympics	\$ 75,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	33.3%
HOPELINE (text-based suicide prevention)	\$ -	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 220,000	N/A
Public Library System Aid	\$ 15,013,100	\$ 16,013,100	\$ 16,013,100	\$ 2,000,000	6.7%
Badgerlink and NFB	\$ 2,937,500	\$ 2,937,500	\$ 3,283,300	\$ 345,800	5.9%
Library Service Contracts	\$ 1,174,300	\$ 1,307,500	\$ 1,312,400	\$ 271,300	11.6%
AGENCY OPERATIONS					
Fuel & Utilities Reestimate (Res Schools)	\$ 512,200	\$ 537,600	\$ 548,500	\$ 61,700	6.0%
Debt Service Reestimate (Res Schools)	\$ 988,700	\$ 1,094,800	\$ 1,020,000	\$ 137,400	6.9%

^Funding for the WRC had been provided on a one-time basis for the 2017-19 biennium under 2017 Act 59; under the Governor's proposal, adopted by the JCF, funding for WRC will be permanent (unless changed by a future act of the Legislature).

^^Funding for HOPELINE is provided under the Joint Committee on Finance Supplemental appropriation, rather than within the Chapter 20 appropriations schedule for DPI.

NOTE: This document summarizes the final outcome of the 2019-21 biennial budget as it relates to K-12 Education, public libraries and lifelong learning, and the Department's operations.

The departments' full request, with additional information for each item summarized below, can be found at: <https://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget/biennial-budget/current>.

All action on the 2019-21 biennial budget for all state agencies, from agency requests through the final signed budget bill, is summarized by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau; the full summaries can be found at this web site: http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2019_21_biennial_budget/

GENERAL AIDS & REVENUE LIMITS (SCHOOL FINANCE)

School Finance – Revenue Limits and General Aid: *In Wisconsin, public school districts receive general equalization aid to support general operational programs of the district. General equalization aid is in essence a cost-reimbursement program, providing aid to districts based on districts’ prior year shared (aidable) costs and relative ability to provide financial support for schools, as measured by property value per member.*

Wisconsin state law limits the total amount of revenues a district may raise with general equalization aid and local property tax levies, referred to as the “revenue limit”. General equalization aid is funding that goes directly to school districts, and reduces districts’ controlled property tax levies; thus, general equalization aid is referred to as being received “under the revenue limit”.

General Equalization Aids

- Increase funding for general equalization aid by \$83,200,000 GPR in FY20 and \$246,742,000 GPR in FY21. The funding changes represent increases of 1.8 percent in FY20, and 3.5 percent increase in FY21 (over prior year).

Revenue Limit per Pupil

- Provide per member adjustments of \$175 in FY20 and \$179 in FY21. See also the [Per Pupil Aid](#) program, and the new [Supplemental Per Pupil Aid](#) program, under the [CATEGORICAL AIDS](#) section of this document.

Low Revenue Ceiling

- Increase the current law low-revenue ceiling threshold of \$9,400 per pupil (FY19), to \$9,700 in FY20 and then to \$10,000 in FY21.

CATEGORICAL AIDS

School districts may also receive categorical state aids, which are intended to finance or provide reimbursement for a specific instructional or supporting program, or to aid a particular target group of pupils. (Per Pupil Aid is the exception to this rule, as it provides a flat dollar per member, with no eligibility criteria applied). Categorical aids are received “outside the revenue limit”, as receipt of a categorical aid does not reduce a district’s ability to raise property taxes. School districts do not receive general equalization aid for expenditures supported by categorical aids.

Per Pupil Aid

- Set the payment at \$742 per revenue limit member in FY20 and in FY21. This is an increase of \$88 per member, compared to the amount provided in FY19 (\$654 per member).

Supplemental Per Pupil Aid

- Create a new aid program, under which the department is directed to distribute \$2,800,000 GPR in FY20, and \$2,500,000 GPR in FY21, to all school districts.

Special Education Categorical Aid

- Increase funding by \$15,533,200 GPR in FY20 and \$81,337,100 GPR in FY21. The funding changes are projected to increase the reimbursement rate for aidable special education costs, from just under 25 percent, to 26 percent in FY20 and 30 percent in FY21.

Supplemental Special Education

- Maintain base funding for FY20, but repeal the supplemental special education categorical aid program beginning in FY21 (decrease of \$1,750,000 GPR).

School Mental Health Categorical Aid Program

- Increase funding by \$3,000,000 GPR annually, to raise funding to \$6,000,000 annually.

Community and School Mental Health Collaborative Grant Program

- Increase funding by \$3,250,000 GPR annually, to raise funding to \$6,500,000 annually.

Sparsity Aid

- Reduce base funding by \$500,000 GPR in FY20 and by \$400,000 GPR in FY21, to reflect the amounts required to fully fund aid eligibility under current law (\$400 per general member for districts with 745 or fewer members, and with fewer than 10 members per square mile).

High Cost Pupil Transportation Aid

- Increase funding by \$800,000 GPR annually, to fund aid claims at 90 percent of projected eligibility.

Personal Electronic Computing Devices Grant

- Partially veto the bill to reduce the appropriation for this grant program to zero, beginning in FY20. As a result of the partial veto, there is no funding for the grant program after FY19.

Rural Teacher Talent Pilot Program

- Increase funding, from \$500,000 GPR to \$1,500,000 GPR, beginning in FY20, for the existing grant program under which the department awards grants to CESAs to coordinate with universities and colleges to provide practicums, student-teacher placement, and internships for undergraduate college students in rural school districts.

Robotics League Participation Grants

- Increase funding by \$250,000 GPR annually, beginning in FY20, to fully fund the anticipated demand for Robotics League Participation grants.

School Day Milk Program

- Increase funding by \$382,900 GPR annually, beginning in FY20, to increase the reimbursement rate for the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program from 58 percent (in FY17) to 100 percent of eligible expenditures. Additionally, eligibility for this program is expanded to include: 1) Independent Charter Schools; 2) the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; 3) the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired; and 4) residential care centers for children & youth.

School Library Aid

- Increase funding for School Library Aids by \$2,400,000 in FY20 and \$3,300,000 in FY21.

School Performance Improvement Grant

- Modify counting of public school students, to be consistent with how students in private schools and independent charter schools are counted for this program. Eliminate funding for this grant program beginning in FY21 (decrease of \$3,690,600 GPR in FY21).

INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS, PRIVATE SCHOOL PARENTAL CHOICE, SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, AND OPEN ENROLLMENT

Formula for the Annual Adjustment to Per Pupil Payments

- Maintain the current law indexing method. The table below shows the estimated per pupil increase and the resulting per pupil payments under each program.
- Modify the appropriations to reflect the reestimates of total costs, district aid reductions, and the net cost to the state’s general fund, based on current law program parameters, projected enrollments, and with the estimated per pupil payment amounts show in the table below.

<u>Program</u>	<u>FY19 (Base)</u>	<u>Annual Increase</u>		<u>Per Pupil Payment</u>	
		<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>
Independent Charter Schools	\$ 8,619	\$292	\$254	\$8,911	\$9,165
Private School Choice (grades K-8)	7,754	292	254	8,046	8,300
Private School Choice (grades 9-12)	8,400	292	254	8,692	8,946
Spec. Educ. OE & SNSP	12,431	292	254	12,723	12,977
OE [reflects additional \$100 each year]	7,379	392	354	7,771	8,125

**For the transfers of aid for non-special education students participating in OE, the per-pupil adjustment would continue to be increased by an additional \$100 in FY20 and in FY21, per 2017 Act 59 (under Wis. Stat. 118.51(16) (a) 3.c.).*

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, AND LIFELONG LEARNING

BadgerLink

- Increase funding by \$345,800 SEG in FY21 to increase funding for the contracts with all current BadgerLink vendors and to maintain the current level of services through Newsline for the Blind.

Library Service Contracts

- Increase funding by \$133,200 SEG in FY20 and \$168,100 SEG in FY21 to fully fund the estimated costs of the library service contracts maintained by the department.

Public Library System Aid

- Increase funding by \$1,000,000 SEG in FY20 and in FY21, compared to base funding.

AIDS TO INDIVIDUALS ORGANIZATIONS / AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

Special Olympics Wisconsin

- Increase funding by \$25,000 GPR in FY20 and FY21 to increase funding for Special Olympics Wisconsin.

Very Special Arts Wisconsin

- Increase funding by \$25,000 GPR in FY20 and FY21 to increase funding for Very Special Arts Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Reading Corps

- Increase funding by \$700,000 GPR in FY20 and FY21 to restore funding for the Wisconsin Reading Corps to the amount provided in FY19, and remove the sunset on state funding.

HOPELINE

- Provide \$110,000 GPR annually in the JCF Supplemental appropriation for HOPELINE, a text-based suicide prevention program operated by the Center for Suicide Awareness.

Standard Budget Adjustments

AGENCY REQUEST/ GOVERNOR/FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Turnover reduction (-\$440,500 GPR and -\$525,900 FED, in FY20 and FY21).
- Remove non-continuing items from the base (federal project positions; -8.0 FTE and -\$455,700 FED in FY20, and -8.0 FTE and -\$844,300 FED in FY21).
- Full funding of continuing salaries and fringe (\$425,900 GPR, \$127,900 PR, \$245,800 PR-S, and \$1,143,300 FED, in FY20 and FY21).
- Reclassification and semiautomatic pay progression (\$8,900 PR in FY20 and FY21).
- Overtime (\$273,500 GPR, \$3,600 PR, \$10,200 PR-S, and \$50,100 FED, in FY20 and FY21).
- Night and weekend differential (\$55,500 GPR, \$200 PR-S, and \$400 FED, in FY20 and FY21).
- Full funding of lease and directed moves costs (\$4,700 GPR and -\$10,500 FED in FY20 and \$52,100 GPR and -\$9,900 FED in FY21).

ITEMS INCLUDED IN OTHER AGENCY BUDGETS

Following is a summary of proposed changes to programs that are administered by other state agencies, but have an impact on schools. The specific details of these budget proposals can be found in the sources as indicated for each item below.

Broadband Expansion Grant (Public Service Commission)

- Increase total funding for grants by \$32 million over the biennium (amount provided over the 2017-19 biennium was \$16 million). The budget provides a total of \$48 million throughout the biennium to expand the Broadband Expansion grant program to reach more underserved areas of the state.
- Support the funding increases with a transfer of \$22 million annually in federal E-rate funds to the Broadband Expansion Grant program.

Career and Technical Education Incentive Grants (Department of Workforce Development)

- Increase funding for these grants by \$3 million annually, beginning in FY20 (from \$3.5 to \$6.5 million).

Technical Education Equipment Grants (Department of Workforce Development)

- Increase funding for these grants by \$500,000 annually, beginning in FY20 (from \$500,000 to \$1 million).

Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) Program Changes

- Extend the information technology infrastructure block grants through June 30, 2021, at \$3,000,000 SEG annually.
- Eliminate the educational technology training and technical assistance (schools and libraries) grants and technology educational technology curriculum grants, effective with FY20.
- Eliminates references to video links under the TEACH program.

Read to Lead (Department of Children and Families/DPI)

- Reduce funding by \$23,600 SEG annually, and repeal the Read to Lead Development Council, the Read to Lead development fund, and the GPR and SEG appropriations that fund the program.

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