

Special Education Funding



Increasing State Support Helps ALL Students

Wisconsin's primary special education aid is the state's main financial support for required special education services to students, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language services, and transportation. Costs of these special education services continues to rise and are considerably higher than general education costs.

Wisconsin currently reimburses school districts for about 30% of those costs, leaving the district to cover the remainder. Districts must transfer resources away from other programs and pull from their general aid to cover the rest.

Gov. Evers' budget supports our school districts and helps cover more of the cost of special education services, which, in turn, supports every student.



Prioritizing Special Education

With 14.5 percent of public school students receiving special education services, Gov. Evers' budget honors his support for them and makes a historic \$1 billion investment in special education categorical aid.



Raising Reimbursement Rates to 60%

In 2019, the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding recommended increasing special education reimbursement to 60 percent. Gov. Evers' budget increases state reimbursement for special education costs from 30 percent to 60 percent, giving school districts additional flexibility in covering these required costs.



Covering Wisconsin's Share of High-Cost Special Education Aid

Gov. Evers' budget increases the reimbursement rate for High-Cost Special Education Aid to 45 percent in FY24 and to 60 percent by FY25. Making progress in fully funding all eligible expenses for students with the greatest needs, the budget provides \$7.5 million in funding to High-Cost Special Education Aid.

