

# **2019 Wisconsin Act 9**

## **2019-21 Biennial Budget**

***Policy and Budget Team***

***July 2019***



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent

# 2019 Wisconsin Act 9

Signed into law on July 3, 2019

- Sets appropriations for FY20 & FY21
  - ✓ 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years
- Relatively “skinny” budget compared to prior budget acts
  - ✓ fewer policy changes

# 2019 Wisconsin Act 9

- Excludes many items included in the Governor's proposal,  
but ...
- Provides increases in a number of school aid programs  
as well as other non-school aid programs (public libraries, etc.)

# Act 9 – School Finance

## School Finance – *Revenue Limits & General Aid*

- **Revenue limits:** provides per pupil adjustments of  
\$175 for 2019-20 school year and  
\$179 for 2020-21 school year
- ✓ Provides additional, base-building revenue raising capacity
- ✓ First time districts will receive a revenue limit increase since 2014-15

# Act 9 – School Finance

## School Finance – *Revenue Limits & General Aid*

- **Low Revenue Ceiling:** increased from \$9,400 (FY19) to \$9,700 (FY20) and \$10,000 (FY21)
  - ✓ Provides low-spending districts with ability to raise revenue without going to referendum

# Act 9 – School Finance

## School Finance – *Revenue Limits & General Aid*

- **No changes to general equalization aid formula, but increases funding**
  - ✓ By \$83.2 million in FY20 (1.8%) and
  - ✓ \$246.7 million in FY21 (5.2%)
  - ✓ (\$330 million, +3.5%, over the biennium)

# Act 9 – School Finance

## School Finance – *Per Pupil Categorical Aid*

- **Per Pupil Aid:** raises payment to \$742/revenue limit member in FY20 and FY21
  - ✓ Increase of \$88/member compared to FY19
  - ✓ Every school district receives this aid

# Act 9 – School Finance

## School Finance – *Per Pupil Categorical Aid*

- **Supplemental Per Pupil Aid:** new aid program
  - ✓ \$2.8 million in FY20 and \$2.5 million in FY21
  - ✓ To be distributed similarly as Per Pupil Aid
    - estimated at \$3/member\*



# Act 9 – School Finance

**School Finance** – Combined effect of the revenue limit per member adjustment, the increase to regular PPA, and the new supplemental PPA – provides additional, base-building revenue/spending capacity for school districts.

School Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Combined Per Pupil Aid + Supplemental Per Pupil Aid	\$654	\$745	\$745
<i>Change to Prior Year</i>		\$91	\$0
Revenue Limit Per Member Adjustment (change to prior year)	\$0	\$175	\$179
<b>Combined Total Change to <i>Prior Year</i></b>		<b>\$266</b>	<b>\$179</b>

# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids - *Special Education*

- *Increases funding for main categorical aid program – first increase in a decade:*
  - ✓ Provides \$15.5 million in FY20 and \$81.3 million in FY21 (\$96.9 million, +13% over the biennium)
  - ✓ Raises reimbursement rate from <25% to estimated 26% in FY20 and estimated 30% in FY21

# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids - *Special Education*

- Maintains most other special education categorical aids at current law funding levels
- Eliminates Supplemental Special Education Aid beginning in FY21 (-\$1.75 million annually)

# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids – *Mental Health Programs*

- *Doubles funding for existing aid and grant program:*
  - ✓ Mental Health categorical aid (social workers)
    - from \$3 million to \$6 million annually (effective FY20)
  - ✓ School-Based Services/Collaboration grant
    - from \$3.25 million to \$6.5 million annually (effective FY20)

# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids – *Mental Health Programs*

- Maintains existing funding level for DPI’s mental health training programs – e.g., SBIRT, TSS, YMHFA\* (\$420,000 annually)
- No changes to program structure

*\*Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment; Trauma-Sensitive Schools; Youth Mental Health First Aid.*

# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids – *Supports for Rural Schools*

- **High Cost Transportation Aid**
  - ✓ +\$800,000 annually (effective FY20) to fund aid claims at ~90% of projected eligibility
- **Sparsity aid**
  - ✓ Appropriation was reestimated to fully fund aid claims; no changes to program structure (no additional tiers of aid eligibility)

# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids – *Supports for Rural Schools*

- **Rural Teacher Talent Program**
  - ✓ Triples current funding level, from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million annually
  - ✓ Intended to build teacher pipeline to rural schools

# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids – *Targeted Supports*

- **Robotics League Participation Grants:** +\$250,000 annually (double funding, effective FY20).
- **School Library Aid:** reestimates available funding from the Common School Fund (+\$2.4 million in FY20 and +\$3.3 million in FY21).



# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids – *Targeted Supports*

- **School Day Milk Program:** +\$382,900 annually to fully fund projected aid eligibility
  - ✓ *Expands eligibility* to independent charter schools, the state's two residential schools, and residential care centers for children & youth (county-operated).

# Act 9 – Categorical Aids

## Categorical Aids – *Targeted Supports*

- **School Performance Improvement Grant:**  
eliminates funding (effective FY21, -\$3.7 million)
- **Personal Electronic Computing Devices Grant:**  
eliminates funding (effective FY20, -\$9.2 million)

# Act 9 – Libraries/Lifelong Learning

## Information Technology, Public Libraries, And Lifelong Learning

- **BadgerLink:**
  - ✓ +\$345,800 in FY21 to increase funding for contracts with all current vendors and to maintain current level of services through Newsline for the Blind
- **Library Service Contracts:**
  - ✓ +\$133,200 in FY20 and \$168,100 in FY21 to fully fund estimated contract costs

# Act 9 – Libraries/Lifelong Learning

## Information Technology, Public Libraries, And Lifelong Learning

- **Public Library System Aid:**
  - ✓ +\$1 million in FY20 and in FY21  
(\$2 million, +6.7%, over the biennium)
  - ✓ Makes permanent (base-building) the one-time increase from 2017-19 budget

# Act 9 – Other Aids

## Aids To Individuals/Organizations

- **Special Olympics Wisconsin:** +\$25,000 in FY20 and FY21
- **Very Special Arts Wisconsin:** +\$25,000 in FY20 and FY21
- **Wisconsin Reading Corps:**
  - ✓ +\$700,000 annually beginning in FY20  
(makes one-time funding permanent)

# Act 9 – Other Aids

## Aids To Individuals/Organizations

- HOPELINE:
  - ✓ +\$110,000 annually in the JCF supplemental appropriation to support text-based suicide prevention program

# 2019 Wisconsin Act 9

- **No changes to private school parental choice, independent charter schools, special needs scholarship program or open enrollment**
  - ✓ No freezes or phase outs
  - ✓ No changes to program structure or funding mechanisms
- **No other policy changes to DPI programs/functions**
- **No change to permanent position authority in DPI**

# Act 9 – Programs in Other Agencies

- **Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH)  
Program Changes – DOA:**
  - ✓ Extends the information technology infrastructure block grants through June 30, 2021
  - ✓ Provides \$3 million annually  
(SEG funding from Universal Services Fund)
  - ✓ Eliminates the educational technology training & technical assistance grants, as well as the educational technology curriculum grants (to schools and libraries)



# Act 9 – Programs in Other Agencies

- **Broadband Expansion Grants – PSC:**
  - ✓ Provides \$48 million over the biennium (largest amount ever) to Broadband Expansion grant program to reach more underserved areas of the state.
  - ✓ An increase of \$32 million over the 2017-19 biennium (\$16 million)
  - ✓ Supported with a transfer of \$22 million annually in federal E-rate funds

# 2019 Wisconsin Act 9

Information on the 2019-21 Biennial Budget on P&B Team's webpage:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget/biennial-budget/current>

*Questions on specific provisions in the budget should be directed to the Policy & Budget Team*

**Contact information:**

<https://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget>