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
• 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.)
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
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
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)
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
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*
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combined Per Pupil Aid + Supplemental Per Pupil Aid</td>
<td>$654</td>
<td>$745</td>
<td>$745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change to Prior Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>$91</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Limit Per Member Adjustment (change to prior year)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Total Change to Prior Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>$266</td>
<td>$179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)
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)
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.
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)
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
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).
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).
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)
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
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
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
Information on the 2019-21 Biennial Budget on P&B Team’s webpage:


Questions on specific provisions in the budget should be directed to the Policy & Budget Team
Contact information:
[https://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget](https://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget)