

DPI 2021-23 Biennial Budget Request Summary

K-12 SCHOOL AIDS

Restore the state's commitment to funding two-thirds of K-12 education by providing requisite funding for general & categorical aids to fulfill the former two-thirds funding definition (in effect from FY97–FY03) while holding property taxes increases to zero.

REVENUE LIMITS & GENERAL AIDS

- **Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment:** \$150 in FY22 and \$152.25 in FY23; link adjustments to CPI.
- **Revenue Limit Low Revenue Ceiling:** raise from \$10,000 to \$10,150 in FY22 and \$10,303 in FY23; link adjustment to the dollar changes in revenue limit per pupil adjustment.
- **Pandemic-driven decreases in Fall 2020 enrollments:** temporary change to pupil counts (greater of 2020/2019 count); make FY21 declining enrollment & base hold harmless exemptions be base-building for one year (FY22).
- **Count 4K students enrolled in a full-day, five days/week program as 1.0 FTE** for school district revenue limit and general aid membership, and for payments to private parental choice and independent charter schools.
- **State General Aid:** increase by \$356.9 M in FY22 & \$487.1 M in FY23 (biennial total \$844 M, 8.6%).
- Raise the **Special Adjustment Aid** eligibility threshold from 85 % to **90 % of prior year aid** (FY22 & FY23).

CATEGORICAL AIDS (total funding for the biennium unless otherwise indicated)

➤ **Special Education**

- **Categorical Aid: \$371 M** to raise reimbursement rates to **35% in FY22 & 40% in FY23**; ask state to commit to reimbursing 50% in FY24 & 60% by FY25 (specify target in statute, make sum-sufficient).
- **High-Cost Aid: \$12.7 M** to raise reimbursement rates to **40% in FY22 & 60% in FY23**; ask state to commit to reimbursing 80% in FY24 & 100% by FY25 (specify target in statute, make sum-sufficient).
- **Transition Readiness Grant: \$4.5 M** (raise base funding from \$1.5 M to \$3.0 M in FY22 & \$4.5 M in FY23).

➤ **Mental Health**

- **Aid for Mental Health & Student Wellness: \$46.M** to expand aid for all pupil support categories & reimburse ~10% of eligible costs; aid eligibility based on prior expenditures (not the increase in expenditures).
- **School Based Services Grant: \$7.0 M** (raise funding from \$6.5 M to \$10.0 M in FY22 & FY23).

➤ **English Learners**

- **Categorical Aid: \$36.6 M** to aid all school districts & Independent Charter Schools that educate English Learner students (ELs) with a minimum grant of \$10,000 for 1-20 ELs, and \$500 for each additional EL. *(This would replace the current Bilingual-Bicultural (BLBC) Aid program, but not change BLBC program requirements in statute; also, provides a temporary hold harmless payment for districts that do not receive more state aid under the proposal).*
- **Capacity Grants: \$750,000 annually** (begins in FY23) for a new grant program to increase the number of English Learner- and Bilingual-licensed educators.

➤ **Rural Schools**

- **Sparsity Aid: \$6.2 M** to fully fund Sparsity Aid at \$400 per pupil and create a new tier of aid for sparse districts with up to 1,000 members, at \$100 per pupil.
- **Pupil Transportation Aid:** increase reimbursement for students transported 12+ miles, from \$365 to \$375 per pupil and eliminate the proration of summer school transportation aid.
- **High-Cost Transportation Aid: \$4 M** to increase reimbursements to eligible school districts.

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➤ Targeted Supports

- **Drivers Education Aid: \$5.8 M** (beginning in FY23) to create a new categorical aid program to offset the costs of providing driver education (DE) instruction to qualified students, for school districts, CESAs, and private providers.
- **Out of School Time Grant: \$20 M** (beginning in FY23) to create a new state-funded grant program to provide ongoing support to out-of-school time programs.
- **Per Pupil Aid: \$113.4 M** to provide \$750 per pupil in FY22 & FY23, plus \$150 for each low-income student.
- **School Breakfast Grant: \$5 M** to fully fund school breakfast aid at 15 cents/meal and expand the program to include independent charter schools, the state residential schools, and residential childcare institutions.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Aid: \$4.9 M** for a new aid program to reimburse LEAs for meals served to students who meet the eligibility criteria for a reduced-price meal and prohibit schools that receive aid from charging a price to reduced price-eligible students (i.e., make meals free for these students).
- **Transportation Aid for Open Enrolled Students and Early College Credit Program Participants: \$3.8 M** to fully fund aid eligibility, to offset transportation costs to families of students who open enroll to a non-resident district or who participate in the ECCP.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND AGENCY OPERATIONS

➤ **PUBLIC LIBRARIES & LIFELONG LEARNING** (total funding for the biennium unless otherwise indicated)

- **Public Library System Aid: \$6.5 M** to increase the rate at which the state supports public library systems.
- **Recollection Wisconsin: \$450,000** to provide a dedicated funding source to support libraries in digitally archiving documents of Wisconsin cultural and historical significance.

➤ **AGENCY OPERATIONS**

- **Academic and Career Planning (ACP): \$555,000** to maintain current services to school districts across the state under the ACP program.
- **General Educational Degree (GED):**
 - **\$1.3 M** to subsidize testing fees for Wisconsin residents taking the GED tests; and
 - **\$1 M** to create an automated, online GED credentialing system and to digitize paper GED/HSED (High School Equivalency Diploma) records.
- **Mental Health Training: \$1.0 M** to increase support for existing mental health training programs, expand offerings, and increase the capacity of the WISH Center to deliver training.

The department proposes to reallocate \$2 M annually from other state operations appropriations, so that there would be no net increase in GPR for state operations resulting from the agency operations proposals above.