

Special Education Funding



Increasing Aid Helps ALL Students

Wisconsin's primary special education aid, which had been frozen for more than a decade until 2019, is the state's main financial support for required special education services such as speech language pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and transportation. Investing in these required services allows money to be freed up within a school budget to fund educational opportunities for all students.

Moving Towards Full Funding

The department is requesting an additional \$371 million for the special education categorical aid. As the department looks to fully fund all eligible expenses for our students with the greatest needs, the budget request also includes \$13 million for High Cost Special Education.



Reimbursement Rate Commitment

The proposal puts forward the responsibility of the state to cover a greater proportion of special education costs. The budget increases the state reimbursement rate from 28% to 40% of costs by the end of the biennium. It provides certainty by making this reimbursement sum sufficient, ensuring promised funds are available. It also charts a path to a 60% reimbursement rate in the 2023-25 biennial budget, providing a target for the state's minimum commitment to students and schools.

