



2007-09 Biennial Budget Summary Listing of K-12 Education Items Approved by Joint Committee on Finance

Updated As of 6/1/07

General School Aids and Revenue Limits

- Provide \$235 million GPR over the biennium for general school aids. This would result in increases of 1.7% and 1.6%, respectively, in 2007-08 and 2008-09.
- Maintain current law per pupil revenue limit adjustments of \$264 in 2007-08 and an estimated \$270 in 2008-09.
- For declining enrollment districts: 1) modify the revenue limit calculation by increasing the hold-harmless provision for declining enrollment from 75% to 100%; 2) Assure that a district's initial revenue limit in the current year will not decline below the base revenue limit allowed in the prior year.
- Increase the low-revenue ceiling by \$300 each year of the biennium, from \$8,400 to \$8,700 in 2007-08 and to \$9,000 in 2008-09.
- Create a non-recurring revenue limit exemption (increase) for school safety officers and equipment. The amount of the revenue limit increase would be equal to \$25,000 for up to the first 500 pupils enrolled in grades 9 through 12, and would increase by an additional \$25,000 for each additional 500 pupils enrolled in grades 9 through 12.
- Create a non-recurring revenue limit exemption (increase) for teacher mentoring costs under PI 34. The amount of the increase could be up to \$2,160 per initial educator, less any amounts received from the categorical aid districts receive for mentoring initial educators.
- Create a new \$100 million state "first dollar" property tax credit for school property taxes beginning in 2009 (December 2008 tax bills). The credit would not be first paid until July 2009 (in the 2009-11 biennium) so there is no fiscal effect in 2007-09.

Categorical Aids

- Provide an additional \$53.6 million GPR over the biennium for special education aid. It is estimated that the reimbursement rate will increase from 28.6% in 2006-07 to 29% by 2008-09.
- Provide \$20.7 million GPR over the biennium to increase the SAGE per-pupil aid amount from \$2,000 to \$2,250. However, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimated that an additional \$6.1 million would be required to fully fund this level based on updated counts of eligible low-income pupils. This amount was not provided by the Committee.
- Provide \$540,000 GPR in 2008-09 to open a fourth round of SAGE contracts. It is estimated this would fund approximately five new SAGE schools, but there is no limit on the number of schools that could join.
- Provide \$15 million GPR over the biennium for a new categorical aid program to fund grants to Milwaukee Public Schools to improve academic achievement.
- Increase the per pupil transportation aid rate for pupils transported 12 or more miles from \$180 to \$220.
- Provide \$3.2 million GPR over the biennium to fully fund the base and to increase the reimbursement rate for the school breakfast program from 10 cents to 15 cents per meal.

- Provide \$3.1 million GPR over the biennium for bilingual-bicultural aid to maintain the reimbursement rate at approximately 12%.
- Provide \$3 million GPR in 2008-09 for 4-year-old kindergarten start-up grants.
- Allocate \$30,000 GPR one-time in 2007-08 within the appropriation for Supplemental Aid to provide a grant to the Butternut School District to study consolidation with the Glidden and Park Falls school districts.
- Provide \$250,000 GPR one-time in 2008-09 for grants for school district consolidation feasibility studies. Grants cannot exceed \$10,000 per consortium of two or more districts.
- Provide \$27,812,500 SEG annually and delete \$27,812,500 GPR annually for pupil transportation (\$27,292,500 annually), open enrollment transportation (\$500,000 annually), and youth options transportation (\$20,000 annually). Convert the funding source for these programs from the general fund to the transportation fund.

Choice and Charter

- Provide \$21 million GPR over the biennium for the state to cover 100% of the costs of students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) over 15,000.
- Provide \$154,000 PR over the biennium and 1.0 FTE for an auditor at DPI for the MPCP to be paid for with fees assessed on schools participating in the program.
- Provide \$28.9 million GPR over the biennium as a reestimate of payments needed for the MPCP.
- Provide \$13.9 million GPR over the biennium as a reestimate of payments needed for the Milwaukee and Racine Charter School Program.

Libraries

- Provide \$1.9 million SEG (Universal Service Fund [USF]) over the biennium to increase public library system aid. In addition, reduce GPR and increase SEG by \$9,200,000 in 2007-08 and direct the Public Service Commission to fund the SEG increase with unencumbered carryover balance funds from the USF. Total public library funding would equal \$2,097,400 GPR and \$14,040,600 SEG in 2007-08 and \$11,297,400 GPR and \$5,486,100 SEG in 2008-09.
- Provide an additional \$477,600 GPR over the biennium for library service contracts.
- Provide \$111,700 SEG (USF) over the biennium to fund cost-to-continue of Badgerlink contracts.
- Provide funding of \$214,000 SEG (USF) and -\$135,000 PR over the biennium for the Newsline for the Blind services provided by the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Provide that the current Badgerlink SEG appropriation from the USF could also fund the Newsline for the Blind. Newsline is currently funded by the USF, but funds are first transferred to a program revenue appropriation under DPI from the Public Service Commission.
- Provide \$17 million SEG (Common School Fund) over the biennium as a reestimate of school library aids.
- Expand the purposes for which school library aid may be used to include the purchase of library-related computers and software. Specify that at most 25% of a school district's school library aid could be used for such purposes, and these expenditures would be subject to approval by the school district's library media coordinator.

Agency Administration and Other Funding

- Provide \$2.8 million GPR over the biennium for pupil assessment to continue to contract for, and administer, the components of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination required by state law.

- Provide \$173,300 GPR over the biennium to expand the National Teacher Certification program to provide grants to teachers receiving master educator licenses under PI 34.
- Provide \$166,800 GPR over the biennium for additional grants to nationally certified teachers working in high poverty schools. Continuing nationally certified or master educators would receive \$5,000 annually, rather than \$2,500, if employed in schools in which at least 60% of the pupils enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.
- Provide \$630,200 GPR over the biennium as a reestimate for National Teacher Certification grants under current law.
- Provide an additional \$217,600 GPR over the biennium for the Precollege Scholarship Program. In addition, modify statutory references to the program to rename the program the "Precollege Scholarship Program" and drop the term "Minority" from the name of the program.
- Provide \$76,000 GPR over the biennium in DPI for international education activities.
- Provide \$555,200 PR over the biennium and 4.0 FTE positions to support and maintain the Wisconsin student locator system, the individual student enrollment system, the school performance report, and the Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools (WINSS).
- Provide \$162,100 GPR over the biennium to reflect estimated costs for fuel and utilities at the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Delevan and the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Janesville.
- Provide \$71,600 GPR over the biennium for the WESPDH in Delavan to provide an occupational therapy program during the evening hours.
- Provide \$47,500 GPR over the biennium for the WESPDH in Delavan for additional distance learning equipment.
- Remove restoration of 10.0 GPR FTE power plant positions from biennial budget bill. 2007 Wisconsin Act 5 previously approved the restoration of 270.92 FTE positions, including the 10.0 FTE positions at the two residential schools which had been deleted in the 2005-07 biennial budget.

Items in Other Agencies

- (DWD) Provide \$1,629,400 GPR over the biennium, and 2.0 GPR positions beginning in 2007-08, to increase funding for the youth apprenticeship program.
- (DOA) Require DOA to annually determine the amount of funding for administrative support of the National Community Service Board that is required to qualify for federal assistance to the Board. Specify that DOA would assess these costs to DOA, the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), DPI, and the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).
- (DOA) Implement new Information Technology project oversight requirements as described in Alternatives 1-7 in the following budget briefing paper: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/2007-09budget/Budget%20Papers/115.pdf>
- (DOA) Provide a reduction of -\$1,312,600 GPR annually for loans to school districts (\$1,310,900 annually) and public libraries (\$1,700 annually) for wiring loans and grants to reflect a reestimate of bond debt service costs.
- (DOA) Specify that any excess federal educational telecommunications access (e-rate) funds could be used to make payments to telecommunications providers for telecommunications services at 5 facilities, defined as educational agencies.
- (DOA) Delete the provision allowing DOA to make new grants to private schools or public school districts for payments to telecommunications providers for access to data lines and video links under contracts that were in existence on October 14, 1997.