

News Release

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145 districts receive sparsity aid payment

MADISON – The state’s small, sparsely populated school districts are sharing \$25 million in aid payments that can be used to offset any costs the district incurs in educating its students. Sparsity aid is paid on the third Monday in September.

The 145 districts receiving \$400 per member sparsity aid payments include two new districts: Manawa and Union Grove Union High School. Two districts are receiving new stopgap payments equal to 50 percent of the prior year’s aid. These payments are for districts that lost eligibility because student membership exceeded 745 but continue to have less than 10 members per square mile of district property. Chequamegon has membership of 772 students but has just 1.05 members per square mile. Crivitz has audited membership of 783 and 2.74 members per square mile. The 145 districts receiving aid have total membership of 63,701 students, which is about 7 percent of statewide membership for the 2017-18 school year.

The Department of Public Instruction’s 2019-21 budget request seeks to revise the sparsity aid program to include any school district that has less than 10 members per square mile even if district membership is more than 745. Based on membership projections, approximately 85 school districts would be eligible for the second tier sparsity payment of \$100 per member. The budget request would require an additional \$9.79 million in each year of the biennium for a total allocation of \$70 million for sparsity aid.

“Sparsity aid helps small school districts keep the lights on, the buses running, and staff employed,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Rural school districts face combined challenges of having a sparse student population spread over a large geographic area, fixed costs that don’t go down

(more)

with declining enrollment, and resident families of modest means that makes referenda to raise local property taxes extremely difficult.”

Sparsity aid was enacted as part of the 2007-09 state budget and based on recommendations from the State Superintendent’s Advisory Council on Rural Schools, Libraries, and Communities. The aid program has been revised in subsequent budgets, but retains the intention of providing support to small public school districts that lack economies of scale and experience declining enrollment and escalating fixed costs. Sparsity aid is computed on prior year audited membership, which includes all students receiving services from a public school district and is different from enrollment.

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NOTES: A list of public school districts receiving 2018-19 Sparsity Aid follows. More information about the [sparsity aid program](https://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/aid/categorical/sparsity-aid-program) can be found online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/aid/categorical/sparsity-aid-program>. This news release is available electronically at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2018-83.pdf>.

2018-19 Sparsity Aid to Wisconsin Public School Districts

Based on 2017-18 School Year Data

District	Membership	Aid	District	Membership	Aid
Albany	417	\$166,800	Drummond	404	\$161,600
Alma	219	\$87,600	Edgar	600	\$240,000
Alma Center	554	\$221,600	Elcho	313	\$125,200
Almond-Bancroft	453	\$181,200	Eleva-Strum	634	\$253,600
Argyle	303	\$121,200	Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	459	\$183,600
Athens	445	\$178,000	Elmwood	317	\$126,800
Augusta	586	\$234,400	Erin	227	\$90,800
Bangor	611	\$244,400	Flambeau	617	\$246,800
Barneveld	436	\$174,400	Florence	471	\$188,400
Bayfield	416	\$166,400	Frederic	544	\$217,600
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine	256	\$102,400	Gibraltar Area	522	\$208,800
Belmont Community	361	\$144,400	Gillett	617	\$246,800
Benton	229	\$91,600	Gilman	400	\$160,000
Big Foot UHS	488	\$195,200	Gilmanton	167	\$66,800
Birchwood	234	\$93,600	Glenwood City	726	\$290,400
Black Hawk	399	\$159,600	Goodman-Armstrong	114	\$45,600
Blair-Taylor	628	\$251,200	Granton Area	243	\$97,200
Bowler	419	\$167,600	Green Lake	254	\$101,600
Boyceville Community	740	\$296,000	Greenwood	427	\$170,800
Brighton #1	97	\$38,800	Gresham	269	\$107,600
Bruce	495	\$198,000	Herman-Neosho-Rubicon	346	\$138,400
Butternut	191	\$76,400	Highland	311	\$124,400
Cambria-Friesland	389	\$155,600	Hilbert	453	\$181,200
Cashton	579	\$231,600	Hillsboro	541	\$216,400
Cassville	237	\$94,800	Hurley	554	\$221,600
Chequamegon^	772	\$104,079	Hustisford	440	\$176,000
Clayton	334	\$133,600	Independence	405	\$162,000
Clear Lake	654	\$261,600	Iola-Scandinavia	696	\$278,400
Cochrane-Fountain City	646	\$258,400	Iowa-Grant	741	\$296,400
Coleman	686	\$274,400	Ithaca	321	\$128,400
Cornell	433	\$173,200	Juda	247	\$98,800
Crivitz^	783	\$109,417	Kickapoo Area	479	\$191,600
Cuba City	679	\$271,600	Lac du Flambeau #1	557	\$222,800
De Soto Area	547	\$218,800	La Farge	242	\$96,800
Dover #1	104	\$41,600	Lake Holcombe	308	\$123,200

District	Membership	Aid	District	Membership	Aid
Lakeland UHS	708	\$283,200	Randolph	537	\$214,800
Laona	222	\$88,800	Reedsville	636	\$254,400
Lena	416	\$166,400	Rib Lake	486	\$194,400
Linn J4	103	\$41,200	Rio Community	432	\$172,800
Linn J6	88	\$35,200	River Ridge	555	\$222,000
Loyal	552	\$220,800	Riverdale	715	\$286,000
Luck	503	\$201,200	Rosholt	556	\$222,400
Manawa*	739	\$295,600	Royall	604	\$241,600
Marathon City	690	\$276,000	Seneca	294	\$117,600
Marion	499	\$199,600	Sevastopol	566	\$226,400
Mellen	308	\$123,200	Shell Lake	642	\$256,800
Mercer	147	\$58,800	Shiocton	728	\$291,200
Mineral Point	690	\$276,000	Shullsburg	367	\$146,800
Minocqua J1	590	\$236,000	Siren	480	\$192,000
Montello	740	\$296,000	Solon Springs	308	\$123,200
Monticello	363	\$145,200	South Shore	202	\$80,800
Necedah Area	727	\$290,800	Southwestern Wisconsin	523	\$209,200
New Auburn	305	\$122,000	Stockbridge	240	\$96,000
New Lisbon	633	\$253,200	Suring	391	\$156,400
Niagara	336	\$134,400	Thorp	593	\$237,200
North Cape	198	\$79,200	Three Lakes	486	\$194,400
North Crawford	478	\$191,200	Tigerton	249	\$99,600
North Lakeland	134	\$53,600	Tri-County Area	636	\$254,400
Northwood	341	\$136,400	Turtle Lake	492	\$196,800
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	669	\$267,600	Union Grove UHS*	738	\$295,200
Oakfield	515	\$206,000	Wabeno Area	409	\$163,600
Owen-Withee	490	\$196,000	Washburn	488	\$195,200
Paris J1	162	\$64,800	Washington	72	\$28,800
Pecatonica Area	474	\$189,600	Wausaukee	465	\$186,000
Pepin Area	250	\$100,000	Wauzeka-Steuben	292	\$116,800
Phelps	149	\$59,600	Webster	659	\$263,600
Pittsville	585	\$234,000	Weston	281	\$112,400
Plum City	277	\$110,800	White Lake	154	\$61,600
Port Edwards	406	\$162,400	Wild Rose	557	\$222,800
Potosi	326	\$130,400	Winter	288	\$115,200
Prairie Farm	316	\$126,400	Wonewoc-Union Center	382	\$152,800
Prentice	422	\$168,800	Woodruff J1	453	\$181,200
Princeton	408	\$163,200			

^District lost eligibility for sparsity aid due to FY18 membership exceeding 745 members but is eligible for stop gap payment (50% of prior year aid award).

*District is newly eligible for sparsity aid in FY19.