

## Guest Editorial

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### Fair Funding lifts all public school districts

*A guest editorial by State Superintendent Tony Evers*

MADISON – Creating a system of public education is one of the most critical duties each state has. How we accomplish that goal is a source of consistent debate and discussion. A discussion that revolves around how we regulate, manage, and importantly, how we distribute dollars that improve the lives of kids through teaching and learning.

In each of my five budget proposals, I have included a provision to overhaul our school funding formula. Our current system is overly complicated, does not account for the unique challenges of our students, and short-changes too many districts. My plan, Fair Funding for our Future, guarantees a minimum dollar amount for every student (\$3,000), accounts for the impact of poverty on education, and brings transparency to the system by transferring tax credits that don't go to schools into the fund that directly pays for education.

Change inevitably invites critics. Change to a complex system, even more so. Therefore, one of the things I prioritized in building this proposal is the idea that no district would receive fewer dollars in tax credits and aid than they did in the old system. My plan greatly benefits communities in the northern parts of the state that were otherwise on the outside of the old system looking in. For example, Tomahawk would see a 24.8 percent increase in overall dollars (\$769,650) from the state, Rhinelander would see a 31.7 percent increase (\$2,813,572), and Hayward would see a 54.2 percent increase (\$2,106,806).

So take a look at our plan, and learn how it will impact your district at

<https://dpi.wi.gov/budget/funding-reform>.

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**NOTES:** For a complete list of how Fair Funding will impact the state's 421 public school districts, visit the department's [Funding Reform web page](https://dpi.wi.gov/budget/funding-reform), <https://dpi.wi.gov/budget/funding-reform>. This news item is available electronically at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2018-93.pdf>.