



Questions for 2018 Gubernatorial Candidates

1. What is your motivation to be Wisconsin's governor?
2. What is your vision for K-12 public education in Wisconsin?
3. As governor, what policies or strategies would you advance to improve academic achievement for all students and close achievement gaps in Wisconsin?
4. Numerous studies have shown that improving early learning opportunities can help reduce achievement gaps for children. In Wisconsin, the good news is families now have access to quality 4K programming in over 98 percent of our school districts. We simply need greater access to high quality birth-to-three programming for those children who have a high probability of not being ready for school. As governor, what policies or strategies would you advance to improve early learning opportunities in Wisconsin?
5. In Wisconsin, too many children have unmet mental health needs which, in turn, result in negative consequences for those children, their families, our schools and our communities. While school leaders greatly appreciate the school mental health investments made in the 2017-19 State Budget, most believe a stronger, long-term commitment from the state is required to meet this challenge. As governor, what next steps would you take to address this problem?
6. The recruitment, preparation, development and retention of effective educators is vitally important for our children's future. As governor, what policies would you advance to address this important issue?
7. Do you support the expansion of taxpayer-funded private school vouchers in Wisconsin? Why or why not? What is your position on requiring greater accountability for schools participating in the voucher programs?

8. One of the greatest problems in Wisconsin's school finance system is the systemic gap between allowable revenue growth and school district cost increases and the investments necessary to meet student needs. As governor, would you support annual inflationary increases in school revenues?
9. In *Vincent v. Voight* (2000), the State Supreme Court found the Wisconsin school finance system constitutional, so long as the legislature provided sufficient resources to ensure that all students are offered an equal opportunity for a sound, basic education. The court specifically enumerated three classes of students to which the state has a special obligation for ensuring equitable opportunities: economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English language learners. Since 2000, the rising costs to meet the growing needs of students in these enumerated classes have far outstripped the limited school funding directed to each of these student classes; thereby challenging the abilities of local school districts to meet the Court's standard. As governor, how would you address this problem?
10. Geographically large, sparsely populated rural school districts are hit especially hard by the state's inadequate support for school transportation costs. Even with the increases to the high cost transportation aid program in the 2017-19 State Budget, state reimbursement to local school districts is still only about 10.4% of actual school transportation costs. As governor, how would you address this problem?
11. Small, rural schools continue to face many challenges that limit educational opportunities for the children they serve. These include: declining enrollment, a lack of economies of scale, difficulties in recruiting/retaining qualified staff contributing to reduced programming options, and distance from post-secondary education institutions. As governor, what policies/initiatives would you advance to reduce the disparities in educational opportunities for children in rural Wisconsin?