



The Green Bay Area Public School District educates approximately 4,500 English Learners, which is about 22% of our district's total enrollment. To look at that number a little differently, about 90% of the public school districts in the state of Wisconsin do not even have a total student population of 4,500 students.

Governor Evers has requested 3.4 million dollars to create a new categorical aid program that will provide aid to school districts in an amount equal to \$100 for each English Learner whose English proficiency level is 1, 2, or 3, which are the students who require the most intense services.

Additionally, Governor Evers has requested funding to create a new grant program for school districts that do not qualify for bilingual-bicultural state aid. In 2017, 305 districts did not receive bilingual-bicultural state aid because they didn't meet trigger numbers, even though they are still required to educate the English Learners in their districts.

Finally, Governor Evers has requested funds for the bilingual-bicultural aid program. The past 24 years has seen the bilingual-bicultural program reimbursement rate decline. In 1995, the reimbursement rate was 32% and in 2018 it was 8.1%. The budget request asks for the reimbursement rate to increase to 20% in 2021 and 30% in 2022, an amount still lower than the reimbursement rates in 1995.

We urge you to support Governor Evers' budget request regarding funds for English Learners. In order to ensure English Learners become proficient in English and become college, career, and community ready, now is the time for the state of Wisconsin to adequately fund English Learners.

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