



2022 Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire

1. What is your motivation to be Wisconsin's governor? What is your vision for PK-12 public education in Wisconsin?
2. Under your leadership as governor, how will you define and shape your relationship with Wisconsin school and district leaders in the development of state education policy? What will be your priorities for working with district leaders to meet the needs of students across the state?
3. As governor, what policies or strategies would you advance to improve academic achievement for all students and close achievement gaps in Wisconsin?
4. A recent report from the Wisconsin Policy Forum discovered that between 2002 and 2020 Wisconsin's per-pupil spending declined from 11th highest in the nation (11% above the national average) to 25th highest in the nation (5.6% below the national average). Compounding Wisconsin's lagging per-pupil spending has been the recognition of growing inequities in our school finance system, making it increasingly difficult for districts to ensure equitable opportunities for all children – no matter their educational needs or their zip code. As governor, how would you address the current inadequacy and inequity of our school finance system?
5. One of the greatest problems in Wisconsin's school finance system is the lack of predictable, sustainable funding for districts to plan and invest to meet the needs of all their students. As governor, how would you address this problem?

6. While other states fund as much as 100 percent of the costs of special needs services for their most vulnerable students, Wisconsin struggles to support just 30 percent of these costs. Wisconsin school districts collectively transfer more than \$1 billion annually from district general funds (used to meet the needs of all students) to cover the funding gap between required special education costs and current state special education funding. As governor, how would you address this problem?

7. Increasingly 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 value the school mental health investments made in the past three state budgets, most believe a much 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?

8. The recruitment, preparation, development, and retention of effective educators is critically important for the development of Wisconsin's future workforce. Increasingly, many Wisconsin school districts face extreme difficulties in filling key instructional positions with highly qualified educators. As governor, what policies would you advance to address this critically important issue?

9. Small, rural schools continue to face many challenges that limit educational opportunities for the children they serve. These include declining enrollment, 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?