

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Summary of 2025-27 Biennial Budget Request and Governor Evers' Budget Proposal

**Provisions Related to
Elementary and Secondary Education, Public Libraries, and
Agency Operation**

**Prepared by the Policy, Budget, and Research Team
Department of Public Instruction**



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**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTES

Commonly Used Acronyms

- **CESA** – cooperative educational services agency
- **DIN** – decision item narrative
- **FTE** – full time equivalent (positions)
- **FY** – fiscal year*
- **JCF** – Joint Committee on Finance
- **LEA** – local educational agency
- **SEA** – state educational agency

Fund Sources

- **GPR** – general purpose revenue
- **PR** – program revenue
- **PR-S** – program revenue-service**
- **SEG** – segregated revenue
- **FED** – federal revenue

**The state fiscal is the same as the school district fiscal year: July 1 – June 30*

***PR-S funding includes revenue from fee-generating activities and funding from revenue that is received from another state agency.*

FY25 Base – The total FY25 authorized funding level for an agency or program. The base equals FY25 appropriations, adjustments resulting from legislation in the 2023-2024 legislative sessions, pay plan modifications, and any other ongoing supplements provided by the Legislature. It is this “adjusted” base that serves as the beginning point for calculating budget changes for the 2025-27 biennium.

References to Members, Pupils, and Students – Throughout this document there are references to “student(s)”, “pupil(s)”, “member(s)”, and “membership”. These are all references to K-12 students, but the terms “member(s)” and “membership” reflect how students are counted under state law for purposes of state general equalization aid, certain categorical aids, and revenue limits.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

A district's "membership" is the total full time equivalent (FTE) of students who are residents of the school district and for whom the district pays the cost of educating. As an example: a district's "membership" includes residents who attend a public school in a different school district from where they reside under the public school open enrollment program (and conversely, excludes non-resident students who attend a public school in the district under the open enrollment program). This is because each school district incurs a cost, via a reduction in its state general aid, for each resident student who enrolls into a public school in a different school district under the open enrollment program. State law provides for similar adjustments to a district's membership for other circumstances.

Membership for general equalization aid purposes uses prior year data. A district's total membership includes the average of the September and January pupil counts (converted to FTE) and adds in the district's FTE pupils for summer school and interim session, as applicable. General aid membership now also includes resident students of the district who enroll in the Racine and the Wisconsin private school parental choice programs (if the student first enrolled in those programs in the 2015-16 school year or after), and for a subset of independent charter schools. Finally, adjustments are made to reflect students enrolled part-time in the school district, in the Youth Challenge Academy program, and for some students in foster care placements.

Membership for revenue limit purposes uses current and prior year data. It is comprised of the three-year rolling average of FTE of the third Friday in September student count, plus 40 percent of summer school FTE (if applicable).

While general equalization aid membership is calculated differently than membership for revenue limit purposes, the concept of a member (a resident for whom the district pays the cost of educating) is the same for both purposes. The singular term "member" generally means 1.0 FTE pupil, unless otherwise stated (e.g., with respect to four-year-old kindergarten, which may reference 0.5 FTE or 0.6 FTE pupil).

In this document, references to "pupil" (e.g., "per pupil adjustment"), in the context of state aids and revenue limits, has the same meaning as "member", as described above.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL FOR K-12 SCHOOL AIDS

	<u>FY25 Base</u>	<u>FY26</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>Biennial Change</u>
Categorical Aid Programs				
Per Pupil Aid	587,812,400	676,394,300	711,244,300	212,013,800
Special Education Categorical Aid	574,777,700	1,117,726,800	1,162,435,900	1,130,607,300
Achievement Gap Reduction Contracts	109,184,500	109,184,500	109,184,500	-
Sparsity Aid	28,614,000	38,630,800	38,850,800	20,253,600
Pupil Transportation Aid	24,000,000	24,000,000	24,000,000	-
High-Cost Transportation Aid	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000	-
High-Cost Special Education Aid	14,480,000	23,269,000	24,200,000	18,509,000
Aid for school mental health programs	12,000,000	74,752,000	79,237,000	129,989,000
Bilingual-Bicultural Aid/English Learner Aid	10,089,800	10,089,800	10,089,800	-
School-based mental health service grants	10,000,000	93,888,000	93,888,000	167,776,000
State Tuition Payments	8,242,900	8,242,900	8,242,900	-
Head Start Supplement	6,264,100	-	-	(12,528,200)
Educator Effectiveness Grants	5,746,000	5,746,000	5,746,000	-
School Lunch Match	4,218,100	4,218,100	4,218,100	-
Aid for CCDEB's	4,067,300	4,067,300	4,067,300	-
Special Education Transition Incentive Grant	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	-
School Breakfast Grant	2,510,500	5,537,900	5,592,600	6,109,500
Peer Review and Mentoring Grant	1,606,700	2,410,000	2,410,000	1,606,600
Rural Teacher Talent Pilot Program	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
Special Education Transition Readiness Grant	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000
Summer School Programs Grant (MPS only)	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	-
4K Start Up Grant	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	-
School Day Milk Grant	1,000,000	1,211,100	1,247,800	458,900
Grant for information technology education	875,000	875,000	875,000	-
Robotics League Participation Grant	750,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000
ECCP State Aid*	-	-	-	-
Gifted and Talented Grant	474,400	474,400	474,400	-
Transportation Aid for Open Enrollment & ECCP	454,200	454,200	454,200	-
Peer to Peer Support Grants	250,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
SAGE Debt Service Aid	133,700	133,700	133,700	-
Supplemental Aid	100,000	100,000	100,000	-
TEACH Debt Service Aid (DOA appropriation)	98,200	155,800	156,000	115,400
Summer Reading Program (Act 20)	-	-	2,625,500	2,625,500
Diagnostic Assessments Grants (Act 20)	-	1,450,000	1,450,000	2,900,000
Grow Your Own Grant (Educator Workforce)	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
CTE Expansion Grant	-	10,000,000	-	10,000,000
Access to Period Products	-	500,000	500,000	1,000,000
Safe Water Grant	-	-	250,000	250,000
Supplemental Nutrition Aid	-	-	147,720,000	147,720,000
Aid for ELs (English language acquisition)	-	26,750,000	26,750,000	53,500,000
Computer Sci Education Grants (Item #23)	-	5,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000
HELP Grants (Item #30)	-	10,000,000	-	10,000,000
Personal Financial Literacy Grants (Item #34)	-	2,500,000	2,500,000	5,000,000
GPR Categorical Aids	1,439,899,500	2,291,911,600	2,512,793,800	1,924,906,400

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

DPI- Request for School Aids (continued)

	<u>FY25 Base</u>	<u>FY26</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>Biennial Change</u>
Tribal Languages (PR)	222,800	500,000	500,000	554,400
Grants to replace Race-base nicknames, etc. (Item #51)	-	200,000	200,000	400,000
Aid for AODA (PR)	1,284,700	1,284,700	1,284,700	-
PR Categorical Aids	1,507,500	1,984,700	1,984,700	954,400
School Library Aids, SEG-USF	52,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000	36,000,000
Educ Telecomm Access (DOA), SEG-USF	12,283,300	9,505,900	7,361,900	(7,698,800)
SEG-USF** Categorical Aids	64,283,300	79,505,900	77,361,900	28,301,200
Total Categorical Aids	1,505,690,300	2,373,402,200	2,592,140,400	1,954,162,000
General Equalization Aids	5,581,190,000	6,074,990,000	6,281,090,000	1,193,700,000
High Poverty Aid	-	-	-	-
Total General Aids	5,581,190,000	6,074,990,000	6,281,090,000	1,193,700,000
Total State School Aids	7,086,880,300	8,448,392,200	8,873,230,400	3,147,862,000
School Levy Tax Credit	1,425,000,000	1,550,300,000	1,674,700,000	375,000,000
Total Categorical & General School Aids & Tax Credits	8,511,880,300	9,998,692,200	10,547,930,400	3,522,862,000
State Residential Schools (GPR)	14,281,400	14,887,500	14,887,500	1,212,200
TOTAL STATE SUPPORT	8,526,161,700	10,013,579,700	10,562,817,900	3,524,074,200

^DIN: DIN Narrative number; "no DIN" means the department is not making a request to change the existing funding level for the program (i.e., funding would continue at the FY25 base appropriation).

*ECCP State Aid: Early College Credit Program State Aid for schools. Funding is appropriated in the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) chapter 20 schedule under current law. The department requests to transfer the appropriation from DWD to DPI and to increase funding to avoid proration of aid payments to schools.

**SEG-USF: Segregated funds from the Universal Services Fund, which is overseen by the Public Service Commission.

PREDICTABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

General Aid, Revenue Limits, Per Pupil Aid, Tax Credits

DIN 6000 – GENERAL EQUALIZATION AID AND REVENUE LIMITS

General Equalization Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$332,759,000 GPR in FY26 and \$672,316,000 in FY27 in the appropriation for general equalization aid to mitigate increases in the school property tax levy arising from proposed increases in revenue limit authority.
- Raise the secondary cost ceiling from 90 percent to 100 percent of the prior year state average shared costs (results in a larger portion of shared costs being aided at the secondary level).
- Raise the special adjustment aid amount from 85 percent to 90 percent of the district's prior year aid eligibility (protects districts from significant decreases in aid from year to year).
- Count students who attend a full-day, full week 4K program as 1.0 FTE, for purposes of general aid membership and revenue limit membership for school districts, as well as for pupil counts for independent charter schools, for private schools participating in one of the state's parent choice programs, and for the Special Needs Scholarship Program.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase funding by \$493,800,000 GPR in FY26 and \$699,900,000 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: +\$160,041,000 in FY26 / +\$27,584,000 in FY27.*
- Adopt the department's requests raise the special adjustment aid amount from 85 percent to 90 percent of the district's prior year aid eligibility, and to count students who attend a full-day, full week 4K program as 1.0 FTE.
- Deny the department's request to raise the secondary cost ceiling from 90 percent to 100 percent of the prior year state average shared costs.

Revenue Limits

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request that the per pupil revenue limit adjustment be raised to \$425 in FY26, and beginning in FY27, restore prior law practice of indexing the per pupil revenue limit adjustment to inflation – i.e., the March Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). The department estimates the per pupil revenue limit adjustment will be \$437.75 in FY27 under the CPI-U index method.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

- Beginning in FY26, set the low revenue ceiling to equal 98 percent of the prior year's state average revenue per member attributable to the per pupil revenue limit adjustment, the low revenue ceiling, and the base hold harmless adjustment. The department estimates that the resulting low revenue ceiling will equal \$11,700 for FY26 and \$12,400 for FY27.
- Repeal the statutory limitation currently in effect, under Wis. Stats. sec. 121.905 (1)(b), for districts that have held a referenda for school operations, so that any district whose per-member revenue limit authority falls below the low revenue ceiling threshold can make use of the low-revenue adjustment as intended (current law freezes the applicable low revenue ceiling for three years for a district that is unsuccessful in passing an operating referenda).
- Restore school district's ability to make use of the revenue limit exemption for energy efficiency purchases and projects, under Wis. Stat. sec. 121.90 (4)(o). – i.e., restore prior law regarding the energy efficiency revenue limit exemption.
- Create a new, non-recurring revenue limit exemption for school safety and cybersecurity to allow a school district to raise its revenue limit to pay for school safety and/or cybersecurity purchases, including staff, equipment, software, security systems, and services that relate to improving safety and security in schools, including protecting against cybersecurity attacks. The amount would be the greater of \$60,000 or \$100 per revenue limit member for a single school year.

GOVERNOR:

- Beginning in FY26, index the per pupil revenue limit adjustment to inflation (i.e., the March CPI-U). Estimated per pupil revenue limit adjustments are \$334 in FY26 and \$345 in FY27. Set the low revenue ceiling to \$12,000 in FY26 and \$12,400 in FY27.
- Adopt the department's request to repeal the prohibition on a school district to use the low revenue ceiling adjustment in the event of a failed operating referendum.
- Deny the department's requests to 1) restore the revenue limit exemption for energy efficiency projects and 2) to created a new, non-recurring revenue limit exemption for school safety and cybersecurity.

DIN 6001 – PER PUPIL AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$88,581,900 GPR in FY26 and \$123,431,900 GPR in FY27 for to fully fund the projected costs of the Per Pupil Aid program.
- Request the payment to school districts be increased, from \$742 to \$800 per pupil in FY26 and to \$850 per pupil in FY27. Request that payments be weighted for students in poverty by adding a 20 percent weight for economically disadvantaged students.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

SCHOOL LEVY TAX CREDIT (SLTC)

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase funding for the SLTC by \$125,300,000 GPR in FY26 and by \$249,700,000 in FY27. The SLTC is a tax relief mechanism, reducing the amount of all property taxpayers based on their taxation district's proportion of the state's total school levy.

COMMUNITY-BASED FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Require DPI to work in consultation with the Department of Children and Families to develop a standard per pupil payment amount applicable to, and model contract for, school district agreements with child care providers in school districts participating in mixed delivery models through the community approach to four-year-old kindergarten.

See item "[Community-Based Four-Year-Old Kindergarten](#)" under the Other Agencies section of this summary.

Categorical Aids

DIN 6002 – SPECIAL EDUCATION CATEGORICAL AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$820,517,300 GPR in FY26 and \$1,166,550,300 GPR in FY27 to increase the reimbursement rate for special education expenditures to 75 percent in FY26 and 90 percent in FY27. Request that the targeted reimbursement rates be specified in statute and that the appropriation type be changed from sum certain to sum sufficient.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$542,949,100 GPR in FY26 and \$587,658,200 GPR in FY27 to increase the reimbursement rate for special education expenditures to 60 percent in FY26 and in FY27. Adopt the department's request to make the appropriation sum-sufficient. *Change to department's request: -\$277,568,200 in FY26 / -\$578,892,100 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6003 – HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION CATEGORICAL AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$20,424,000 GPR in FY26 and \$21,820,000 GPR in FY27 for High-Cost Special Education Aid, to reimburse allowable costs at 60 percent in FY26. Request that the targeted reimbursement rates be specified in statute and that the appropriation type be changed from sum certain to sum sufficient.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$8,789,000 in FY26 GPR and \$9,720,000 GPR in FY27 to increase the reimbursement rate for special education expenditures to 40 percent in FY26 and in FY27. Adopt the department's request to make the appropriation sum-sufficient. *Change to department's request: -\$11,635,000 in FY26 and -\$12,100,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6004 – EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$600,000 GPR in FY26 and \$10,600,000 GPR in FY27, for a new program to support local education agencies (LEAs) and non-school childcare settings in providing required special education services to young children. Funding would be provided to CESAs for supporting the work (\$600,000 annually); state aid for reimbursable expenditures would begin in FY27 (\$10,000,000).

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request for \$600,000 GPR annually to support early childhood special education identification efforts, which will provide training and support to school districts, ICS and child care providers through partnership with CESAs. Deny the department's request to dedicated state funding for a new aid program. *Change to department's request: -\$10,000,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6006 – TRANSITION INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases \$300,000 GPR in FY26 and \$400,000 GPR in FY27 to fully fund anticipated claims for the Special Education Transition Incentive Grant program.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.

DIN 6007 – TRANSITION READINESS INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases \$1,500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$1,500,000 GPR in FY27 to expand access to the Transition Readiness Investment Grant program. Request elimination of the statutory minimum and maximum grant awards.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$500,000 GPR in FY27. Deny the department's requested program changes. *Change to department's request:* - \$1,000,000 in FY26 / -\$1,000,000 in FY27 (GPR).

DIN 6060 – BILINGUAL-BICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$18,125,500 GPR in FY26 and \$24,389,700 GPR in FY27, to increase the state reimbursement rate for Bilingual-Bicultural (BLBC) education program state aid, from 9.2 percent under current law, to 25 percent in FY26 and to 30 percent in FY27.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.

DIN 6061 – ENGLISH LEARNER CATEGORICAL AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$26,750,000 GPR in FY26 and \$26,750,000 GPR in FY27, to create a new categorical aid program to support English Learner (EL) pupils in school districts and independent charter schools across the state. Funding would provide \$500 per EL student, to ensure state support for ELs in all public schools.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request to create the new aid program, but provide each school district and independent charter school with at least one EL pupil, and up to 20 EL pupils, an award of \$10,000, plus \$500 for each additional EL pupil (above 20) in the district or independent charter school. (Same funding level as requested by the department).

DIN 6062 – TRIBAL LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION GRANT

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$277,200 PR-S in FY26 and \$277,200 PR-S in FY27 (Tribal Gaming Revenues) to support grants for the purpose of providing effective, innovative instruction in American Indian languages under the Tribal Language Revitalization Grant program. Request that independent charter schools be added as eligible grant applicants.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 6063 – PUPIL TRANSPORTATION AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request that for the Pupil Transportation Aid program, the aid payment for pupils who live 12 or more miles from the school they attend be increased, from \$400 to \$450, beginning with aid distributed in FY26 (no funding increase required).

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

HIGH COST TRANSPORTATION AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Modify the eligibility threshold for high-cost transportation aid from 140 percent to 135 percent of the statewide average transportation costs.

DIN 6065 – SPARSITY AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$896,000 GPR in FY26 and \$1,116,000 GPR in FY27 for Sparsity Aid for school districts to fully fund projected aid eligibility for qualifying school districts
- Request a modification to the current law "stopgap" payment so that a district that loses eligibility for Sparsity Aid because it no longer meets the sparsity criteria (fewer than 10 members per square mile) would be eligible for the stop gap payment, equal to 50 percent of the district's prior year aid payment. Under current law, a school district is eligible for the stopgap payment only if it loses eligibility due to exceeding the membership criteria.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase the per pupil payments to eligible school districts, from \$400 to \$500 for tier 1 (745 or fewer members) eligible school districts, and from \$100 to \$200 for tier 2 (between 746 and 1,000 members) eligible school districts.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

- Increase base funding by \$10,016,800 GPR in FY26 and \$10,236,800 GPR in FY27 to fully fund aid eligibility. *Change to department's request: +\$9,120,800 in FY26 / +\$9,120,800 in FY27 (GPR).*
- Adopt the department's request for stop gap payments.

DIN 6068 – SCHOOL LIBRARY AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$18,000,000 SEG in FY26 and \$18,000,000 SEG in FY27 in the existing appropriation for school library aid. The funding for this aid program is derived from interest earnings on amounts in the Common School Fund, which is overseen by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL).

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 6009 – DISTRICT REORGANIZATION - FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANT

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$300,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, continuing appropriation, for grants to districts conduct feasibility studies for potential school district reorganization.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.

DIN 6080 – PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY GRANTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$2,500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$2,500,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, biennial appropriation, for grants to school districts and independent charter schools to implement or expand personal financial literacy curriculum and programming, with an emphasis on innovation in personal financial literacy instruction.

DIN 6081 – COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION GRANTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Create a requirement that each high school in the state be required to offer at least one computer science class.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

- Provide \$5,000,000 GPR in FY26 and \$5,000,000 GPR in FY27 for a new grant program to help school districts increase foundational computer science offerings and the digital literacy of students.
- Provide position and expenditure authority for a computer science education coordinator in the department, and funding for costs related to a computer science education task force, to be chaired by the new computer science education coordinator (1.0 FTE GPR permanent position; \$72,500 GPR in FY26 and \$76,600 GPR in FY27).

DIN 6082 – ROBOTICS LEAGUE PARTICIPATION GRANTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$250,000 GPR in FY26 and by \$250,000 GPR in FY27 for the current law Robotics League Participation grant program.

DIN 6086 – GRANTS TO REPLACE CERTAIN RACE-BASED NICKNAMES, LOGOS, MASCOTS, AND TEAM NAMES

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$200,000 PR-S in FY26 and \$200,000 PR-S in FY27 in a new appropriation for a grant program to assist certain school districts in adopting and implementing a nickname, logo, mascot or team name that is not race-based. (Tribal Gaming Revenue).

EARLY LITERACY – IMPLEMENTATION OF 2023 ACT 20

DIN 6010 – EARLY LITERACY COACHES

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$11,018,000 GPR in FY26 and \$11,018,000 GPR in FY27 to contract for literacy coaches, and to provide required professional development training, as part of implementing 2023 Act 20.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$7,045,200 GPR in FY26 and \$11,018,000 GPR in FY27 to support 64 literacy coaches in FY26 and 100 literacy coaches in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$3,972,800 in FY26 (GPR) [no change for FY27].*

DIN 6011 – EARLY LITERACY – SUMMER READING PROGRAM

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$5,000,000 GPR in FY27 for aid to LEAs to offset the costs of providing intensive summer reading programs required under 2023 Act 20.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request but increase funding by \$2,625,500 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$2,374,500 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6012 – EARLY LITERACY – TUTORING

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$5,000,000 GPR in FY26 and \$5,000,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, annual appropriation, for grants to non-profit community organizations to provide tutoring services for pupils in 5K through grade three, to improve early literacy.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request but increase funding by \$3,000,000 GPR in FY26 and \$3,000,000 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$2,000,000 in FY26 / -\$2,000,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6013 – EARLY LITERACY – DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$2,500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$2,500,000 GPR in FY27 to provide aid to local education agencies (LEAs) to offset the costs of administering diagnostic assessments required under 2023 Act 20.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request but increase funding by \$1,450,000 GPR in FY26 and \$1,450,000 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$1,050,000 in FY26 / -\$1,050,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

EARLY LITERACY INVESTMENTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase funding by \$50,000,000 GPR in FY26 to replace unreleased funding appropriated for use in the 2023-25 biennium, for implementation of the literacy program created under 2023 Wisconsin Act 20 (in addition to DINs 6010 through 6013, below). Funding is provided in the department's continuing appropriation for Office of Literacy [s. 20.255 (1)(fc)] *Change to department's request: +\$50,000,000 in FY26 (GPR).*

BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE

Preparing, Recruiting, and Retaining Teachers

DIN 6020 – SUPPORTING FUTURE EDUCATORS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request a total of \$46,800,000 GPR beginning in FY27, in new sum-sufficient appropriations, to support the department's future educator stipend proposal.
- Of the total, \$36,000,000 is requested for a program to provide state-funded stipend payments to teacher candidates in a student teaching placement (\$10,000 stipend). In addition, \$10,800,000 is requested for a program to provide state-funded stipend payments to cooperating teachers (\$3,000 stipend).

The department also requests the creation of a similar stipend program for individuals pursuing a master's degree in library and information sciences who are placed in an internship in a public library. [See DIN 5004 - Supporting Future Librarians](#).

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the departments request to create the stipend programs, but modify stipend amounts. Increase base funding by \$12,862,500 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$34,062,500 in FY27 (GPR).*
- Change stipend amounts to \$2,500 for teacher candidates in a student teaching placement and for future librarians completing a public library internship or supervised school district placement.
- Change the stipend amount to \$1,000 for cooperating teachers involved in supervising during the student teaching or apprenticeship process.
- Recommend that University of Wisconsin System provide student enrolled in a UWS institution's educator preparatory program with tuition remission for the semester in which the student is teaching in a K-12 classroom as part of the program's graduation requirements.

DIN 6021 – GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATORS PROGRAM

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request \$5,000,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, annual appropriation, for a competitive grant program to reimburse local educational agencies for the cost related to "Grow Your Own" initiatives and programs, as a strategy for building the educator workforce in Wisconsin schools.
- The department also requests authority for a 1.0 FTE GPR position to administer the proposed grant program.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request to create the new aid program but deny the request for position authority. Increase base funding by \$5,000,000 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$72,500 in FY26 / -\$96,600 in FY27 (GPR) [related to denying the requested position authority].*

DIN 6022 – PEER REVIEW AND MENTORING GRANTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$3,713,400 GPR in FY26 and \$3,713,400 GPR in FY27, for increases in funding to support the development of mentoring programs and peer assistance for new teachers, under the existing grant program for peer review and mentoring.
- Requests that the appropriation for the grant program be changed from a sum certain to a continuing appropriation, allowing the department to carry over any uncommitted budget authority each year for use in making grant awards in subsequent years.
- Proposed program changes:
 - Increase the cap on grant awards under the grant program to \$50,000
 - Eliminate the requirement that school districts must apply as a consortium.
 - Modify the 20 percent match requirement to be the lesser of 20 percent of the amount of the grant awarded or \$5,000 for participating districts.
 - To accommodate participation by the state's largest school districts in the grant program, the proposed statutory changes also include a maximum grant award of \$100,000 annually and a \$10,000 match requirement for those districts.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$803,300 GPR in FY26 and \$803,300 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$2,910,100 in FY26 / -\$2,910,100 in FY27 (GPR).*
- Deny the department's request for program changes.

DIN 6023 – EDUCATORS RISING

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$500,000 GPR FY27 to support Educators Rising-Wisconsin efforts to encourage more high school students to explore future career opportunities in education.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$250,000 GPR in FY26 and \$250,000 GPR in FY27 for the proposed grant program. *Change to department's request: -\$250,000 in FY26 / -\$250,000 in FY27 (GPR).*
- Modify the department's request: provide funding for a competitive grant program for entities that provide cocurricular opportunities to public school pupils in grades 6 to 12 that encourage pupils to pursue a career in teaching elementary and secondary grades.

DIN 6026 – TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP / LICENSING

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$10,000,000 GPR in FY26 and \$10,000,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, continuing appropriation, to support the department's work with institutions of higher education, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the Department of Workforce Development, in developing a Teacher Apprenticeship program.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.
- Require the department to grant an initial teaching license to an individual who completes a teacher apprenticeship as defined by the Department of Workforce Development.

See item "[Wisconsin Fast Forward](#)" under the Other Agencies section of this summary.

DIN 6027 – FOUNDATIONS OF READING TEST

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request that the current law requirement that an individual successfully pass the Foundations of Reading Test as a requirement for obtaining certain licenses to teach in the state of Wisconsin be eliminated from state law.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.

DIN 6008 – REHIRED ANNUITANTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request that current law be modified to adjust the criteria under which retired Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) annuitants could be rehired to work, without suspending their annuity, such that only 30 days (rather than 75 days) must pass since the employee left employment with a participating WRS employer, provided that at the time of retirement, the employee does not have an agreement to return to work. The change would be broadly applicable to all WRS annuitants, including rehiring WRS annuitants who are retired former teachers to work in schools.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

Preparing Students for Career and College

DIN 6030 – ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$86,700 GPR in FY26 and \$307,000 GPR in FY27 to support Academic and Career Planning services to school districts throughout the state.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$18,300 GPR in FY26 and \$213,300 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$64,700 in FY26 / -\$93,700 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6031– EXPANDING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$44,815,000 GPR in FY27, for a new categorical aid program designed to expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses and career pathway offerings for students in schools throughout Wisconsin.
- Request authority for 1.0 FTE GPR position to administer the proposed new aid program.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request to create the new CTE/Career Pathways aid program, but modify the proposed grant program as follows:
 - Create a categorical aid for school districts and independent charter schools (collectively, LEAs) for the purpose of increasing high school career and technical education pathways in public high schools.
 - Under the bill, DPI must pay each LEA a proportional amount of the amount appropriated for this purpose, based on the number of pupils in the high school grades in those LEAs in the previous school year divided by the total number of pupils in the high school grades in all LEAs (prior year enrollment data).
- Increase base funding by \$10,000,000 GPR in FY26, in a new biennial appropriation. *Change to department's request for aid: +\$10,000,000 in FY26 / -\$44,911,600 in FY27 (GPR).*
- Deny the request for position authority.

DIN 6032 – CAREER AND TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$4,500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$4,500,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, annual appropriation for grants to Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), to increase membership and promote robust participation in CTSOs among all students in Wisconsin's schools. The six subject areas identified for CTSO in state statute are: agriculture education, business education, technology education, family and consumer sciences education, marketing education, and health science education.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$1,500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$1,500,000 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$3,000,000 in FY26 / -\$3,000,000 in FY27 (GPR).* Specify that aid would be distributed to each of the six CTSOs based on their share of student members in all CTSOs.

DIN 6033 – EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM – STATE AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$802,000 GPR in FY26 and \$926,000 GPR in FY27, in a new, sum-sufficient appropriation in the department's Chapter 20 appropriations schedule, to fully fund the anticipated claims for tuition reimbursement from schools for ECCP state aid. Request that responsibility for administering the Early College Credit Program (ECCP) state aid program be transferred from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to the department*.

Base funding for tuition reimbursement to schools under the ECCP is appropriated in the DWD appropriation under Wis. Stat. sec. 20.445 (1)(d). Base FY25 funding for the appropriation is \$478,500 GPR annually; thus, the net impact of this request on the state's general fund is an increase of \$323,500 GPR in FY26 and \$447,500 GPR in FY27.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request. Instead, increase funding for the existing ECCP State Aid program located in DWD: provide \$323,500 GPR in FY26 and by \$447,500 GPR in FY27.

DIN 6034 – GED TEST SUBSIDY

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$194,500 GPR in FY26 and \$408,500 GPR in FY27 for a new sum-sufficient appropriation to subsidize testing fees for individuals taking the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) tests.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 6035 – INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PRACTICES

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$500,000 GPR in FY26 in a new biennial appropriation to create a model "Portrait of a Graduate" (POG) resource for schools, focusing on career-connected learning and Personalized Competency-Based Learning (PCBL). Request an increase of \$2,000,000 GPR in FY27 in new continuing appropriation for a new grant program that would award funding to school districts to implement a POG program and facilitate the implementation of innovative education practices in schools. Request authority for 1.0 FTE GPR position to coordinate the creation of the model POG resource and to administer the proposed implementation grant program.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.

DIN 6036 – PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES

AGENCY REQUEST:

- The department requests a statutory language change to state law to prohibit schools from restricting students who have unpaid fees from participating fully in graduation ceremonies.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 5005 – GRANT FOR IT EDUCATION

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$625,000 GPR in FY26 and \$625,000 GPR in FY27, for the Information Technology (IT) Education Grant program. Request changes to the statutory language for this program to allow for more flexible use of funds by recipients and to expand the eligibility for receiving funding from the program.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request for increased funding, but adopt the department's requested program changes.

DIN 5006 – GRANTS FOR IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CYBERSECURITY

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$13,500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$13,500,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, annual appropriation for a formula grant program to improve information technology (IT) infrastructure in public school districts, independent charter schools, the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, tribal schools, and public libraries.
- The requested funding would be allocated as follows: \$12,000,000 would be dedicated to serving LEAs; \$1,000,000 would be dedicated to serving public library systems; and \$500,000 would be used to purchase software licenses and/or other services that would be made available to libraries and LEAs but purchased by the department.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request, but provide funding under the existing Technology for Educational Achievement program located in the Department of Administration.

See "[Technology for Educational Achievement Program](#)" under the Other Agencies section of this summary.

STUDENT WELLNESS: MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

Mental Health Programs

DIN 6040 – MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$380,000 GPR in FY26 and \$380,000 GPR in FY27 to increase support for existing mental health training programs and to expand the types of mental health trainings that can be offered beyond the three specific program strategies authorized under current law. Request that the mental health trainings be made available for staff working in out-of-school time programs serving school-aged children and youth.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request for funding and to expand the types of mental health trainings offered and permit trainings to include staff working in out-of-school time programs that serve school-aged children and youth.

DIN 6041 – SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$83,888,000 GPR in FY26 and \$83,888,000 GPR in FY27, in the existing appropriation for the school-based mental health service grant program. The increase in funding is intended to expand capacity of school districts and independent charter schools to offer support and resources to students and families in need of mental health services in schools. The department also requests the following changes for this program:
 - Modify the allocation of aids so that each district or ICS is awarded \$100 per pupil, with a guaranteed minimum payment of \$100,000 for the smallest districts and ICS. (Current law provides flat dollar amount per pupil).
 - Expand the allowable purposes for which the funding may be used.
 - Specify that aid would be determined based on prior year (rather than current year) membership and enrollment data.
 - Change the appropriation title to "Aid for comprehensive school mental health services", to better reflect the intended purpose of the aid program.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request for funding and requested program changes.

DIN 6042 – MENTAL HEALTH CATEGORICAL AID – STAFF

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$62,752,000 GPR in FY26 and \$67,237,000 GPR in FY27, to expand the current law Aid for School Mental Health Programs to include reimbursement for expenditures made for pupil services staff, rather than just for school social workers.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

- Request that the aid program be restructured to eliminate the current law two-tiered aid model (reimburse all allowable expenditures at the same rate).
- Request to change the name of the program to “Aid for school mental health programs; pupil services staff” to better reflect the purpose of this aid program.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department’s request for funding and requested program changes.

DIN 6043 – PEER-TO-PEER SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$350,000 GPR in FY26 and \$350,000 GPR in FY27, to expand the use of peer-to-peer suicide prevention programs in more Wisconsin schools.
- Request a statutory change to increase the maximum grant award for Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grants from \$1,000 to \$6,000.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$250,000 GPR in FY26 and \$250,000 GPR in FY27 and adopt the department’s request to raise the maximum award amount. *Change to department’s request: -\$100,000 in FY26 / -\$100,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6044 – AODA PREVENTION GRANTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$233,900 PR-S in FY26 and \$233,900 PR-S in FY27 to expand support for alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) prevention programs in schools that are provided under the current law AODA programs.
- Request an increase of \$4,520,000 GPR beginning in FY27 to restore funding for the AODA program that existed under prior law [Wis. Stat. sec. 20.255 (2) (dm), Grants for alcohol and other drug programs], as a continuing appropriation, to increase support to school districts to expand existing programs and/or implement new AODA prevention programs.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department’s request.

Physical Health & Wellness

DIN 6045 – ACCESS TO PERIOD PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Propose that all school districts and independent charter schools (collectively, local educational agencies, or LEAs) be required to provide access to feminine hygiene products to any student who needs them, at no charge to the student.
- Request increases of \$500,000 GPR in FY26 and \$500,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, annual appropriation, to be distributed as aid to LEAs with the highest concentrations of economically disadvantaged students to reduce the financial burden on LEAs associated with purchasing feminine hygiene products.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 6046 – GRANTS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request and increase of \$20,000,000 GPR in FY27 for a new, continuing appropriation, for a grant program to support the expansion of out-of-school time programs offered through local educational agencies and community-based organizations providing out-of-school time programming for school-aged children and youth.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.

DIN 6047 – SAFE DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$2,500,000 GPR in FY27, in a new, annual appropriation, to provide grants to school districts and independent charter schools to purchase water bottle filling equipment that includes a water filtration component.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request to create the new safe drinking water grant program but provide \$250,000 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: -\$2,250,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6092 – HEALTH EMERGENCIES IN LEARNING PLACES (HELP) GRANTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$10,000,000 GPR in FY26 in a new, biennial appropriation, for a new grant program to help school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program prepare for and respond to health emergencies in school buildings.
- Allow LEAs and private parental choice schools to use HELP grants to support the purchase of automated external defibrillators, carbon monoxide detectors, and opioid antagonists to place in school buildings.
- Requires LEAs and private parental choice schools to maintain the following:
 - A cardiac emergency response plan for cardiac emergencies that occur on school property.
 - An adequate supply of opioid antagonists on site.
 - A carbon monoxide detector in each room of a school that contains a fuel-burning, forced-air furnace or a boiler, or as otherwise required by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Healthy Meals for All

DIN 6050 – SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$146,328,000 GPR in FY26 and \$147,816,600 GPR in FY27 in a new, sum sufficient appropriation, to provide supplemental aid payments to schools participating in the national school lunch and breakfast programs. Schools receiving the supplemental aid payments would be required to eliminate fees charged to any student for meals served in schools under the national school lunch/breakfast programs.
- Request authority for 1.0 FTE GPR permanent position.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request to create the new program, but begin funding in FY27. Increase base funding by \$147,720,000 GPR in FY27 (reflects reestimates of projected costs). *Change to department's request: -\$146,328,000 in FY26 / -\$96,600 in FY27 (GPR).*
- Deny the department's request for 1.0 FTE GPR permanent position.

DIN 6051 – SCHOOL BREAKFAST GRANT

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$3,027,400 GPR in FY26 and \$3,082,100 GPR in FY27 for reimbursements under the School Breakfast Program (SBP), to fully fund the statutory rate of 15.0 cents for each breakfast served.
- Request to allow reimbursements for institutions that are not eligible for participation in the SBC under current law: independent charter schools, the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and residential care centers for children and youth (RCCs), as defined under Wis. Stat. sec. 115.76 (14g).
- Request a change in statute to cease payment of aid under the SBP to an institution that ceased to operate at any point during or at the end of the previous school year.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 6052 – SCHOOL DAY MILK PROGRAM

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$211,100 GPR in FY26 and \$247,800 GPR in FY27 to fully fund projected claims under the Wisconsin School Day Milk program.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 6053 – GRANT FOR MILK COOLERS AND DISPENSERS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Requests increases of \$150,000 GPR annually, beginning in FY27, in a new, annual appropriation, for a competitive grant program that would reimburse School Food Authorities (SFAs) for the cost of purchasing milk coolers and milk dispensers that do not qualify for reimbursement under a federally funded program for purchase of equipment.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.

DIN 6054 – LOCAL FOOD TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$5,000,000 GPR in FY26 and \$5,000,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, annual appropriation, for the creation of a new Local Food to School grant program.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's request.

DIN 6055 – AMERICORPS FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$250,000 GPR in FY26 and \$250,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, annual appropriation, to be a dedicated source of state match for the AmeriCorps Farm-to-School federal grant program.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

PARENT CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Change in Per Pupil Payments and Open Enrollment Full-Time Transfer Payments

AGENCY REQUEST:

- The department proposes that the per pupil payments for the following programs be modified in FY26 and FY27:

Program	Per Pupil Payment			Change to Prior Year	
	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Public School Open Enrollment	\$8,962	\$9,445	\$9,933	\$483	\$488
Public School Open Enrollment - Special Education	\$13,814	\$14,297	\$14,785	\$483	\$488
Independent Charter Schools	\$11,729	\$11,729	\$12,400*	\$0	\$571
Private School Parental Choice (grades K-8)	\$10,237	\$10,237	\$10,237	\$0	\$0
Private School Parental Choice (grades 9-12)	\$12,731	\$11,700	\$12,400*	\$(1,031)	\$600
Special Needs Scholarship Program	\$15,409	\$14,297	\$14,785	\$(1,112)	\$488

*For FY27, the per pupil payment amount is to be equal to the low revenue ceiling (LRC) amount for school districts, which is estimated at \$12,400 for the 2026-27 school year (FY27). See [DIN 6000](#) – General Equalization Aid and Revenue Limits.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the department's proposed changes to per pupil payments for the open enrollment (OE) transfer amounts, for independent charter schools (ICS), and for private schools participating in one of the state's private school parental choice programs (Choice) or the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP).
- Modify the current law method for adjusting per pupil payments for these programs by indexing payments to increases in public school revenue limit per pupil adjustment and the change in the payment to school districts under the Per Pupil Aid program each year. Based on the Governor's budget recommendations, the per pupil adjustment amounts for these programs would be as follows:

Year over Year Change in:	FY26	FY27
Per Pupil Revenue Limit Adjustment	\$334	\$345
Per Pupil Aid Payment	\$58	\$50
Total Adjustment for OE, ICS, Choice, SNSP	\$392	\$395

- The per pupil payment amounts for these programs would be as follows:

Program	Per Pupil Payment		
	FY25	FY26	FY27
Public School Open Enrollment	\$8,962	\$9,354	\$9,749
Public School Open Enrollment - Special Education	\$13,814	\$14,206	\$14,601
Independent Charter Schools	\$11,729	\$12,121	\$12,516
Private School Parental Choice (grades K-8)	\$10,237	\$10,629	\$11,024
Private School Parental Choice (grades 9-12)	\$12,731	\$13,123	\$13,518
Special Needs Scholarship Program	\$15,409	\$15,801	\$16,196

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

PROGRAM CHANGES

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No Request.

GOVERNOR:

- Implementing the following changes to current law:
 - Require all teachers providing instruction in schools participating in a parental choice program or the SNSP, with some exceptions, to hold a license or permit issued by DPI (beginning July 1, 2028).
 - Require the inclusion of the gross reduction in state general aid as a result of private choice and special needs scholarship programs on property tax bills to increase public awareness of parental choice program costs.
 - Cap the number of available seats in each parental choice program and the SNSP beginning in FY27 using the respective program's FY26 headcount.
 - Continuing the 10 percent maximum participation of school district membership in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program.

DIN 6070 – INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS - REESTIMATE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request adjustments of \$ GPR in FY26 and \$GPR in FY27 in the appropriation for independent charter schools (ICS) under Wis. Stat. sec. 20.255 (2)(fm) [“2r” charter schools].
- Request adjustments of -\$4,990,400 GPR in FY26 and -\$1,879,500 in the appropriation for ICS under Wis. Stat. sec. 20.255 (2)(x). The requested changes reflect enrollment estimates and the department’s proposal for per pupil payments in FY26 and FY27.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$10,245,700 in FY26 and \$18,477,300 in FY27 to reflect estimates of enrollment and state aid payments for independent charter schools authorized by the city of Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Waukesha County Executive and University of Wisconsin-Parkside.
Change to department’s request: +\$10,929,500 in FY26 / +\$9,932,400 in FY27 (GPR).
- Adjust base funding by -\$4,107,600 in FY26 and -\$1,608,500 in FY27 to reflect estimates of enrollment and state aid payments for independent charter schools authorized by the Office of Educational Opportunity at the University of Wisconsin System.
Change to department’s request: \$6,013,900 in FY26 / -\$7,129,400 in FY27 (GPR).

DIN 6071 – MILWAUKEE PRIVATE SCHOOL PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM – REESTIMATE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$1,068,700 GPR in FY26 and \$21,071,700 GPR in FY27 in the appropriation for the MPCP. The requested changes reflect enrollment estimates and the department's proposal for per pupil payments in FY26 and FY27.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$20,723,100 GPR in FY26 and \$34,248,300 GPR in FY27.
Change to department's request: +\$19,654,400 in FY26 / +\$14,023,600 in FY27 (GPR).

DIN 6072 – RACINE AND WISCONSIN PRIVATE SCHOOL PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAMS - REESTIMATE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$16,813,500 GPR in FY26 and \$58,661,000 GPR in FY27 in the appropriation for the Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP) and the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). The requested changes reflect enrollment estimates and the department's proposal for per pupil payments in FY26 and FY27.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$33,915,500 GPR in FY26 and \$47,105,400 GPR in FY27.
Change to department's request: +\$17,102,000 in FY26 / -\$10,864,100 in FY27 (GPR).

DIN 6073 – SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – REESTIMATE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$2,755,100 GPR in FY26 and \$10,326,600 GPR in FY27 in the appropriation for the Special Needs Scholarship Program. The requested changes reflect enrollment estimates and the department's proposal for per pupil payments in FY26 and FY27.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$7,446,700 GPR in FY26 and \$8,493,300 GPR in FY27.
Change to department's request: +\$4,691,600 in FY26 / -\$1,827,300 in FY27 (GPR).

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

DIN 5001 – PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AID

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$2,000,000 SEG in FY26 and \$4,000,000 SEG in FY27, for the appropriation for aid to public library systems to support the operations and maintenance of public library services in Wisconsin. (Revenue transferred to the department from the Universal Service Fund (USF), one of the state's segregated (SEG) funds).

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 5002 – LIBRARY SERVICE CONTRACTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$619,200 SEG in FY26 and \$666,600 SEG in FY27 to fully fund the estimated costs of the library service contracts maintained by the department. The library service contracts are supported with funds transferred to the department from the Universal Service Fund (USF), one of the state's segregated (SEG) funds.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 5003 – BADGERLINK AND NEWSLINE FOR THE BLIND

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$96,600 SEG in FY27 to increase funding for the contracts with all current BadgerLink vendors and to maintain the current level of services through Newsline for the Blind. Both services are supported with revenue transferred from the Universal Service Fund (USF), one of the state's segregated (SEG) funds.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 5004 – SUPPORTING FUTURE LIBRARIANS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of \$125,000 GPR in FY27 in a new, sum-sufficient appropriation, for a \$5,000 stipend payment program to support individuals pursuing a career as a public library professional and placed as an intern in a public library setting.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request to create the stipend programs, but modify stipend amount. Provide \$62,500 GPR in FY27 (\$2,500). *Change to department's request: -\$62,500 in FY27 (GPR).*

AIDS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

DIN 7001 – ADULT LITERACY GRANTS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$66,800 GPR in FY26 and \$66,800 GPR in FY27 in the appropriation for adult literacy grants.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$716,800 GPR in FY26 and \$716,800 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: \$650,000 in FY26 / \$650,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 7002 – ARTS FOR ALL

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$100,000 GPR in FY26 and \$100,000 GPR in FY27 in the appropriation for the organization Arts for All (formerly, Very Special Arts). The department also requests the appropriation title be changed from Very Special Arts to “Arts for All” to reflect the organization’s legal name change.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department’s request.

DIN 7003 – SPECIAL OLYMPICS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$100,000 GPR in FY26 and \$100,000 GPR in FY27 in the appropriation for the organization Special Olympics Wisconsin.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$300,000 GPR in FY26 and \$300,000 GPR in FY27. *Change to department's request: \$200,000 in FY26 / \$200,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 6087 – MENTOR GREATER MILWAUKEE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$150,000 GPR in FY26 and \$150,000 GPR in FY27 in a new appropriation for MENTOR Greater Milwaukee, to support relationships between kids and trained, caring adults to assist the kids in fulfilling their potential.

DIN 6088 – GRADUATION ALLIANCE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$3,000,000 GPR in FY26 and \$3,000,000 GPR in FY27 in a new appropriation for the Graduation Alliance, which works to reengage high school students who have, or are in danger of, dropping out of school.

DIN 6089 – LITERACY LAB

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$1,092,500 GPR in FY26 and \$1,125,300 GPR in FY27 in a new appropriation for The Literacy Lab, which will provide evidence-based literacy interventions in Milwaukee and Racine schools.

AGENCY OPERATIONS

DIN 7030 – IT SYSTEMS MODERNIZATIONS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$5,000,000 GPR in FY26 and \$1,000,000 in FY27 in a new GPR continuing appropriation to be used to support the work of modernizing several major information technology (IT) systems maintained by the department for administering core agency functions.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$1,000,000 GPR in FY26 and \$500,000 GPR in FY27 to. *Change to department's request: -\$4,000,000 in FY26 / -\$500,000 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 7031 – SUPPLIES & SERVICES INFLATIONARY INCREASE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases to provide a five percent increase for the supplies and services budget line for sum certain operations appropriations in the departments chapter 20 appropriations schedule (program 01 only): \$1,477,000 GPR in FY26 and FY27; \$683,400 PR in FY26 and FY27; and \$105,500 SEG in FY26 and FY27.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 7032 – SUPPORT FOR STATE PROGRAMS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request increases of \$381,800 GPR in FY26 and \$564,200 GPR in FY27, and the creation of 5.0 FTE GPR permanent positions, to support the existing core functions of the department.
- Request an increase of \$85,300 PR in FY26 and \$111,100 PR in FY27, and the creation of 1.0 FTE PR permanent position, funded with a fee assessed on private schools participating in the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP), to support a dedicated auditor position for the SNSP.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$170,600 GPR in FY26 and \$222,200 GPR in FY27 for 2.0 FTE GPR permanent positions. *Change to department's request: -\$211,200 in FY26 / -\$342,000 in FY27 (GPR).*
- Deny the department's request for a 1.0 FTE PR permanent position. *Change to department's request: -\$85,300 in FY26 / -\$111,100 in FY27 (GPR).*

DIN 7033 – TRANSFER HEAD START STATE SUPPLEMENT GRANT PROGRAM TO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request that statutory authority for administering the Head Start State Supplement (HSSS) program under Wis. Stat. sec. 115.3615, and the GPR budget authority that supports the HSSS program under Wis. Stat. sec. 20.255 (2) (eh), be moved from the department to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), effective with FY26.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

DIN 7034 – LICENSING OPERATIONS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request that the current law requirement that ten percent of licensing application fee revenue be lapsed to the state general fund at the end of each fiscal year be repealed, to allow the department to utilize the revenue from application fees to support agency operations associated with teacher licensing. The estimated revenue gained by the department as a result of eliminating the lapse is estimated at \$450,000 PR annually (FY26 and FY27).
- Request the creation of 3.0 FTE PR permanent positions for agency operations associated with teacher licensing and educator preparation program approval. Rather than lapsing amounts to the state's general fund, this proposal would allocate the retained revenue for the proposed positions and other operational costs (supplies and services).

GOVERNOR:

- Provide authority for 2.0 FTE PR permanent positions.

DIN 7050 – PROGRAM REVENUE REESTIMATES

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request adjustments to program revenue appropriations to reflect anticipated revenue and expenditures: \$506,200 PR-S in FY26 and in FY27; -\$59,000 PR in FY26 and in FY27.

GOVERNOR:

- Adopt the department's request.

FUEL AND UTILITIES REESTIMATE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Increase base funding by \$58,800 GPR in FY26 and by \$87,000 GPR in FY27 for expected changes in prices and to reflect statistically normal weather conditions.

DEBT SERVICE REESTIMATE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Decrease base funding by \$177,400 GPR in FY26 and by \$452,300 GPR in FY27 to reflect a reestimate of debt service on authorized bonds.

Standard Budget Adjustments

The Governor adopted all of the department's requests under the following Standard Budget Adjustments DINs.

DIN 3001 – TURNOVER REDUCTION

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request the following changes: -\$537,100 GPR and -\$510,200 PR-FED in FY26 and in FY27 as the department's required turnover reduction in appropriations funding more than 50 FTE permanent positions.

DIN 3002 – NONCONTINUING ITEMS

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request adjustments: -\$657,300 PR-F in FY26 and -\$1,561,400 FY27 to remove project positions expiring as of December 31, 2026 (9.0 PR-F FTE in FY26, 16.0 PR-F FTE in FY27).

DIN 3003 – FULL FUNDING OF CONTINUING SALARIES AND FRINGE

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request the following changes: \$1,273,600 GPR, \$251,700 PR, \$332,900 PR-S, and \$3,829,300 PR-FED in FY26 and FY27 to adjust the amount needed to fully fund salary and fringe costs at base FY25 levels.

DIN 3007 – OVERTIME

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request the following changes: \$274,660 GPR, \$3,600 PR, \$10,300 PR-S, and \$41,900 PR-F in FY26 and FY27 to restore funds for overtime differential.

DIN 3008 – NIGHT AND WEEKEND DIFFERENTIAL

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request the following changes: \$55,500 GPR, \$200 PR-S and \$400 PR-F in FY26 and FY27 to restore funds for night and weekend differential removed in the full funding calculation.

OTHER STATE AGENCY PROPOSALS IMPACTING K-12 EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Department of Administration (DOA)

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AUDIT RESPONSE SUPPORT

GOVERNOR:

- Provide \$5,000,000 GPR in FY26 for payments to the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) District to implement recommendations from instructional and operational audits of the school district initiated by the Governor.
- The payments would be awarded only if the Secretary of the DOA is satisfied the district is making substantial progress on implementation of audit recommendations, and could be used by MPS only for items addressed in the audits, financial reporting software, and data compatibility with state and local finance systems.

GOVERNOR:

- Require MPS to reimburse the City of Milwaukee for the costs of providing school resource officers for 25 percent of school days to assist in meeting the requirements under 2023 Wisconsin Act 12.

TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

GOVERNOR:

- The Governor recommends making several adjustments to the Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) program, including the following:
 - Reduce existing universal service fund expenditure authority to accommodate increases in spending from the fund at DPI and the University of Wisconsin System.
 - Creating a GPR appropriation to replace the universal service fund reduction.
 - Modifying current law to increase the minimum broadband speed benchmark to align with modern standards.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

COMMUNITY-BASED FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

GOVERNOR:

- Require DPI, in consultation with DCF, to develop a standard per pupil payment amount to child care providers in school districts participating in mixed delivery models through the community approach to four-year-old kindergarten, and to develop a model contract for school district agreements with child care providers.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME GRANT

GOVERNOR:

- Providing \$11,500,000 GPR in FY27 to establish an out-of-school time grant program to deliver services to school-age youth with the goal of improving social, emotional, academic or career readiness competencies and providing a safe out-of-school time environment.

Department of Workforce Development (DWD)

WISCONSIN FAST FORWARD

GOVERNOR:

- Provide funding for job training support through Wisconsin Fast Forward, including:
 - \$2,000,000 GPR in FY26 for green jobs training
 - \$500,000 GPR in each year for grants to support health care industry training
 - **\$1,000,000 GPR in each year for incentives for school districts to hire teacher apprentices**
 - **\$200,000 GPR in each year for technical education equipment grants, which may help school districts prepare students for a future that includes artificial intelligence.**

University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

TUITION REMISSION FOR STUDENT TEACHING

GOVERNOR:

- The Governor recommends that the system provide a student in an institution's educator preparatory program with tuition remission for the semester in which the student is teaching in a K-12 classroom as part of the program's graduation requirements.

SUMMARY OF DPI 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

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