

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Budget Summary						FTE Position Summary				
Fund	2024-25	Governor		2025-27 Change Over		2024-25	Governor		2026-27	
	Adjusted Base	2025-26	2026-27	Base Year Doubled	Amount		%	2025-26	2026-27	Over 2024-25
GPR	\$7,868,908,000	\$9,354,243,400	\$9,786,310,500	\$3,402,737,900	21.6%	247.29	250.29	250.29	3.00	1.2%
FED	886,146,800	888,745,300	888,113,100	4,564,800	0.3	332.99	323.99	316.99	- 16.00	- 4.8
PR	55,396,000	57,606,800	57,606,800	4,421,600	4.0	75.99	77.99	77.99	2.00	2.6
SEG	82,196,900	102,921,600	105,065,600	43,593,400	26.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N.A.
TOTAL	\$8,892,647,700	\$10,403,517,100	\$10,837,096,000	\$3,455,317,700	19.4%	656.27	652.27	645.27	-11.00	- 1.7%

Budget Change Items

General School Aids and Revenue Limits

1. STATE SUPPORT FOR K-12 EDUCATION

Governor: Provide \$8,457,858,700 in 2025-26 and \$8,882,215,400 in 2026-27 for general and categorical school aids. Compared to the 2024-25 base level funding of \$7,101,005,600, school aids would increase by \$1,356,853,100 (19.1%) in 2025-26 and \$1,781,209,800 (25.1%) in 2026-27. These proposed funding levels would represent annual changes to the prior year of 19.1% in 2025-26 and 5.0% in 2026-27.

Under the historic definition of state funding for support of K-12 education (the sum of state general and categorical school aids, the school levy and first dollar credits, and the general program operations appropriation for the program for the deaf and hard of hearing and the center for the blind and visually impaired), the bill would increase state support from the base amount of \$8,539,338,000 in 2024-25 to \$10,023,046,200 in 2025-26 and \$10,571,802,900 in 2026-27. These proposed funding levels would represent annual changes to the prior year of 17.4% in 2025-26 and 5.5% in 2026-27.

Using the historic definition of partial school revenues (the sum of state school aids and property taxes levied for school districts, less community service levies and a portion of the referenda-approved debt levy), the Administration estimates that state support of partial school revenues would increase from 68.0% in 2024-25 to 71.4% in 2025-26 and 72.7% in 2026-27. These estimates incorporate the state support funding in the bill, which is presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1**State Support for K-12 Education**

<u>State Funding</u>	2024-25 <u>Base Year</u>	<u>Governor</u>	
		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
General School Aids	\$5,581,190,000	\$6,074,990,000	\$6,281,090,000
Categorical Aids	1,519,815,600	2,382,868,700	2,601,125,400
School Levy Tax Credit	1,275,000,000	1,400,300,000	1,524,700,000
First Dollar Credit	150,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000
State Residential Schools	<u>13,332,400</u>	<u>14,887,500</u>	<u>14,887,500</u>
Total	\$8,539,338,000	\$10,023,046,200	\$10,571,802,900
Change to Prior Year:			
	Amount	\$1,483,708,200	\$548,756,700
	Percent	17.4%	5.5%
Change to Base:			
	Amount	\$1,483,708,200	\$2,032,464,900
	Percent	17.4%	23.8%

Table 2 provides an outline of state support for K-12 education by individual fund source. Table 3 presents the Governor's funding recommendations for each general and categorical school aid program as compared to the 2024-25 base funding level. The Governor's recommendations relating to individual school aid programs are summarized in the items that follow.

TABLE 2**State Support for K-12 Education by Fund Source**

	2024-25 <u>Base Year</u>	<u>Governor</u>	
		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
GPR			
General School Aids	\$5,581,190,000	\$6,074,990,000	\$6,281,090,000
Categorical Aids	1,454,024,800	2,301,378,100	2,521,778,800
School Levy Tax Credit	1,275,000,000	1,400,300,000	1,524,700,000
First Dollar Credit	150,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000
State Residential Schools	<u>13,332,400</u>	<u>14,887,500</u>	<u>14,887,500</u>
GPR Subtotal	\$8,473,547,200	\$9,941,555,600	\$10,492,456,300
PR			
Categorical Aids	\$1,507,500	\$1,984,700	\$1,984,700
SEG			
Categorical Aids	<u>\$64,283,300</u>	<u>\$79,505,900</u>	<u>\$77,361,900</u>
Total State Support - All Funds	\$8,539,338,000	\$10,023,046,200	\$10,571,802,900

TABLE 3

**General and Categorical School Aid by Funding Source
2024-25 Base Year Compared to the Governor's Budget**

Agency	Type and Purpose of Aid	2024-25	Governor		2025-27 Change to	
		Base Year	2025-26	2026-27	Base Year Doubled	Percent
	General Aid					
DPI	General School Aids	\$5,581,190,000	\$6,074,990,000	\$6,281,090,000	\$1,193,700,000	10.7%
	Categorical Aid--GPR Funded					
DPI	Per Pupil Aid	\$587,812,400	\$676,394,300	\$711,244,300	\$212,013,800	18.0%
	Special Education	574,777,700	1,117,726,800	1,162,435,900	1,130,607,300	98.4
	High-Cost Special Education Aid	14,480,000	23,269,000	24,200,000	18,509,000	63.9
	Spec. Ed. Transition Incentive Grants	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	0	0.0
	Transition Readiness Investment Grant	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	33.3
	Achievement Gap Reduction	109,184,500	109,184,500	109,184,500	0	0.0
	SAGE--Debt Service	133,700	133,700	133,700	0	0.0
	Sparsity Aid	28,614,000	38,630,800	38,850,800	20,253,600	35.4
	Pupil Transportation	24,000,000	24,000,000	24,000,000	0	0.0
	High-Cost Transportation Aid	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000	0	0.0
	Aid for Comprehensive Sch. Mental Health Services	0	93,888,000	93,888,000	187,776,000	N.A.
	Aid for School Based Mental Health Professionals	0	74,752,000	79,237,000	153,989,000	N.A.
	School-Based Mental Health Services Grants	25,000,000 *	0	0	-50,000,000	-100.0
	Aid for School Mental Health Programs	12,000,000	0	0	-24,000,000	-100.0
	Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grants	250,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	100.0
	Aid for English Language Acquisition	0	26,750,000	26,750,000	53,500,000	N.A.
	Bilingual-Bicultural Aid	10,089,800	10,089,800	10,089,800	0	0.0
	Tuition Payments	8,242,900	8,242,900	8,242,900	0	0.0
	Head Start Supplement	6,264,100	6,264,100	6,264,100	0	0.0
	Educator Effectiveness Grants	5,746,000	5,746,000	5,746,000	0	0.0
	School Lunch	4,218,100	4,218,100	4,218,100	0	0.0
	County Children with Disabilities Educ. Boards	4,067,300	4,067,300	4,067,300	0	0.0
	School Breakfast	2,510,500	5,537,900	5,592,600	6,109,500	121.7
	Peer Review and Mentoring	1,606,700	2,410,000	2,410,000	1,606,600	50.0
	Rural School Teacher Talent Pilot Program	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	0.0
	MPS Summer School Grant Program	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	0	0.0
	Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Grants	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	0	0.0
	School Day Milk	1,000,000	1,211,100	1,247,800	458,900	22.9
	Robotics League Participation Grants	750,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000	33.3
	Gifted and Talented	474,400	474,400	474,400	0	0.0
	Aid for Transportation--Open Enr./Early College	454,200	454,200	454,200	0	0.0
	Supplemental Aid	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0.0
	Supplemental Nutrition Aid	0	0	147,720,000	147,720,000	N.A.
	Aid For Career and Technical Education	0	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	N.A.
	Computer Science Education Grants	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000	N.A.
	Health Emergencies in Learning Places Grants	0	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	N.A.
	Teacher Pipeline Capacity Building	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	N.A.
	Personal Financial Literacy Grants	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	5,000,000	N.A.
	Aid for Period Products	0	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	N.A.
	Water Bottle Filling Station Grants	0	0	250,000	250,000	N.A.
DOA	Telecommunications Access for Educ. Agencies	0	5,527,400	7,671,400	13,198,800	N.A.
	Debt Service--Tech. Infrastructure Bonding	98,500	155,800	156,000	114,800	58.3
	Total Categorical Aid--GPR Funded	\$1,454,024,800	\$2,301,378,100	\$2,521,778,800	\$1,915,107,300	65.9%
	Categorical Aid--PR Funded					
DPI	AODA	\$1,284,700	\$1,284,700	\$1,284,700	\$0	0.0%
	Tribal Language Revitalization Grants	222,800	500,000	500,000	554,400	124.4
	Grants to Replace Race-Based Nicknames	0	200,000	200,000	400,000	N.A.
	Total Categorical Aid--PR Funded	\$1,507,500	\$1,984,700	\$1,984,700	\$954,400	31.7%

Agency	Type and Purpose of Aid	2024-25 Base Year	Governor		2025-27 Change to Base Year Doubled	
			2025-26	2026-27	Amount	Percent
	Categorical Aid--SEG Funded					
DPI	School Library Aids	\$52,000,000	\$70,000,000	\$70,000,000	\$36,000,000	34.6%
DOA	Telecommunications Access for Educ. Agencies	<u>12,283,300</u>	<u>9,505,900</u>	<u>7,361,900</u>	<u>-7,698,800</u>	-31.3
	Total Categorical Aid--SEG Funded	\$64,283,300	\$79,505,900	\$77,361,900	\$28,301,200	22.0%
	Total Categorical Aid--All Funds	\$1,519,815,600	\$2,382,868,700	\$2,601,125,400	\$1,944,362,900	64.0%
	Total School Aid--All Funds	\$7,101,005,600	\$8,457,858,700	\$8,882,215,400	\$3,138,062,900	22.1%

*Includes \$15 million in one-time funding.

2. GENERAL SCHOOL AIDS

GPR	\$1,193,700,000
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Governor: Provide \$493,800,000 in 2025-26 and \$699,900,000 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$5,581,190,000 for general school aids. The general school aids appropriation funds equalization, integration, and special adjustment aid. The bill funding would represent increases of 8.8% in 2025-26 and 3.4% in 2026-27 compared to the prior year.

3. SPECIAL ADJUSTMENT AID

Governor: Specify that special adjustment aid would be calculated based on 90% of a district's prior year general aid payment, beginning with the distribution of general school aids in the 2025-26 school year.

Under current law, special adjustment aid is equal to the amount needed to make an eligible district's total general aid eligibility equal to 85% of the district's prior year general aid payment. This item would raise the percentage to 90%, further limiting year-to-year declines in a district's general aid payment.

[Bill Sections: 2139, 2140, and 9334(9)]

4. REVENUE LIMIT PER PUPIL ADJUSTMENT

Governor: Specify that, in 2025-26 and each year thereafter, the per pupil adjustment under revenue limits would equal the amount from the previous year adjusted for inflation, using the percentage change, if positive, in the consumer price index for all urban consumers between the preceding March and second-preceding March. (A technical correction would be needed to accomplish the Administration's intent.)

Under revenue limits, the amount of revenue a school district can raise from general school aids, property taxes, and exempt property aids is restricted. A district's base revenue in a given year is equal to the restricted revenues received in the prior school year. Base revenue is divided by the average of the district's enrollments in the prior three years to determine its base revenue per pupil. Under current law, in 2024-25 and each year thereafter until 2425 (due to a gubernatorial veto), a \$325 per pupil adjustment is made to base revenue per pupil to determine a district's current

year revenue per pupil. Current year revenue per pupil is then multiplied by the average of the district's enrollments in the current and prior two years to determine the district's initial revenue limit.

The inflationary adjustment that would begin in 2025-26 under the bill is the same measure used to index per pupil adjustment amount prior to 2009-10.

The following table shows the per pupil adjustment under the bill (using the Administration's estimates) compared to current law.

Per Pupil Adjustment

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Current Law	\$325	\$325	\$325
Bill	325	334	345

[Bill Sections: 2146 thru 2152]

5. LOW REVENUE ADJUSTMENT

Governor: Set the low revenue adjustment amount under revenue limits at \$12,000 per pupil in 2025-26 and \$12,400 per pupil in 2026-27 and in any subsequent school year. Also, beginning in 2025-26, delete the statutory provisions restricting otherwise-eligible districts from any low revenue adjustment increases for three years after a failed operating referendum.

Under the low revenue adjustment, if the sum of the base revenue per pupil and the revenue limit per pupil adjustment for a district is below the statutorily-specified amount, a district may increase its revenue to that amount. Under current law, the low revenue adjustment amount in 2024-25 and each year thereafter is \$11,000 per pupil.

Under current law, if the voters in a district reject an operating referendum, the low revenue adjustment amount for that district remains at the amount for the school year during which the referendum was held for the following three school years. If the voters in such a district subsequently approve an operating referendum during the three-year period, however, the district's low revenue adjustment in the school year after the referendum equals the amount for that year.

The following table shows the low revenue adjustment amount under the bill compared to current law.

Low Revenue Adjustment - Per Pupil Amount

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Current Law	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Bill	11,000	12,000	12,400

[Bill Sections: 2145 and 9334(10)]

6. TREATMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REPEAL AID UNDER REVENUE LIMITS

Governor: Modify the definition of revenue under revenue limits to include the personal property tax repeal aid provided under current law and the locally-assessed pipeline aid created under the bill. Specify that this provision would first apply to the calculation of school district revenue limits for the 2025-26 school year.

[Bill Sections: 2144 and 9334(12)]

7. FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN MEMBERSHIP

Governor: Specify that a four-year-old kindergarten (K4) pupil enrolled in a program that requires full-day attendance by the pupil for five days a week would be counted as 1.0 pupil for membership purposes, beginning with the distribution of school aid in, and the calculation of, revenue limits for 2026-27. This membership change would apply to school district revenue limits and general aid and to payments to schools in private school choice programs and the independent charter school program.

Under current law, a K4 pupil is counted as 0.5 member if the pupil attends for at least 437 hours, unless the program provides at least 87.5 additional hours of outreach activities, in which case the pupil is counted as 0.6 member. Under the bill, a K4 pupil enrolled in a program requiring less than full-day attendance by the pupil for five days a week would be counted as 0.5 or 0.6 member, depending on whether the additional outreach is provided.

[Bill Sections: 2134 thru 2136 and 9334(8)]

Categorical Aids

1. PER PUPIL AID

GPR	\$212,013,800
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Governor: Provide \$88,581,900 in 2025-26 and \$123,431,900 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$587,812,400 for per pupil aid.

Each school district receives a statutorily-specified, flat per pupil aid payment, outside of revenue limits, from the sum sufficient appropriation for per pupil aid. Under current law, this payment is \$742 per pupil in 2024-25 and each year thereafter. A district's current three-year rolling average pupil count under revenue limits, less the independent charter pupils included in those counts, is used to calculate the aid payment.

There are three components in the bill relating to per pupil aid. The funding levels for each, and in total, are based on the administration's enrollment estimates of 779,975 pupils in 2025-26

and 771,917 pupils in 2026-27.

a. *Current payment reestimate.* Delete \$9,070,900 in 2025-26 and \$15,050,000 in 2026-27 as a reestimate of payments using the current payment amount.

b. *Per pupil payment increase.* Provide \$45,238,600 in 2025-26 and \$83,367,000 in 2026-27 to increase the per pupil payment from \$742 in 2024-25 to \$800 in 2025-26 and \$850 in 2026-27 and each year thereafter.

c. *Additional payment for economically disadvantaged pupils.* Provide \$52,414,200 in 2025-26 and \$55,114,900 in 2026-27 for an additional payment for each economically disadvantaged pupil equal to 20% of the standard per pupil aid amount, beginning in the 2025-26 school year. These funding levels would provide an additional \$160 per pupil for an estimated 327,590 economically disadvantaged pupils in 2025-26 and an additional \$170 per pupil for an estimated 324,205 economically disadvantaged pupils in 2026-27.

Define "economically disadvantaged pupil" as a pupil who satisfies either the income eligibility criteria for a free or reduced-price lunch under federal law or other measures of poverty, as determined by the Department. (In 2024-25, a family of four qualifies for a free or reduced-price lunch with an income of less than \$57,720.) Specify that, in the 2025-26 school year and each year thereafter, the additional payment would equal to the district's enrollment multiplied by the district's rate of economically disadvantaged pupils in the previous school year multiplied by 20% of the regular payment amount. Define "rate of economically disadvantaged pupils" as the number of economically disadvantaged pupils enrolled in a district divided by the number of pupils enrolled in the district.

[Bill Sections: 1936 thru 1940]

2. PER PUPIL AID -- CLARIFY CURRENT LAW

Governor: Delete obsolete statutory language relating to the delayed payment of per pupil aid for the 2015-16 school year.

Also, change the cross-reference for the exclusions from per pupil aid enrollment to a current reference, rather than an outdated one. Under current law, pupils who attend certain independent charter schools are included in their resident districts' enrollments for revenue limit purposes. The revenue limit count is used for per pupil aid, but the provision excluding these pupils for per pupil aid refers to an outdated statutory paragraph.

[Bill Sections: 1936 and 1941]

3. SPECIAL EDUCATION

GPR	\$1,130,607,300
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Governor: Provide \$542,949,100 in 2025-26 and \$587,658,200 in 2026-27 for special education categorical aid and modify the appropriation from sum certain to be a sum sufficient appropriation paying 60% of eligible costs beginning in 2025-26 and annually thereafter. Base

level funding is \$574,777,700, which DPI estimates will reimburse approximately 32.1% of eligible costs in 2024-25.

[Bill Sections: 191 and 1998]

4. HIGH COST SPECIAL EDUCATION AID

GPR	\$18,509,000
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Governor: Provide \$8,789,000 in 2025-26 and \$9,720,000 in 2026-27 for high cost special education categorical aid and modify the appropriation from sum certain to be a sum sufficient appropriation paying 40% of eligible costs beginning in 2025-26 and annually thereafter. Base level funding is \$14,480,000, which DPI estimates will reimburse approximately 25.9% of eligible costs in 2024-25.

Under the program, school districts, independent charter schools, cooperative educational service agencies, and county children with disabilities education boards are eligible for high cost aid for 90% of non-administrative costs above \$30,000 for an individual pupil in the previous school year, if the costs were not reimbursed by the state special education categorical aid, the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or the federal Medicaid program. If funding is insufficient, payments are prorated.

[Bill Sections: 192, 1996, and 1997]

5. SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSITION READINESS GRANTS

GPR	\$1,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$500,000 annually above base level funding of \$1,500,000 to expand access to the special education transition readiness grant program.

Under the program, grants of not less than \$25,000 nor more than \$100,000 are awarded to school districts and independent charter schools to fund special education workforce transition support services, including pupil transportation, professional development for school personnel, and employing adequate school personnel.

6. AID FOR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

GPR	\$167,776,000
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Governor: Provide \$83,888,000 annually above base level funding of \$10,000,000 for school-based mental health services to expand the capacity of school districts and independent charter schools to offer mental health services and support to pupils, and rename the appropriation to "aid for comprehensive school mental health services."

Specify that under this aid program, school districts and independent charter schools would each be eligible to receive reimbursements for eligible expenditures, not to exceed \$100,000 plus \$100 per pupil enrolled in the school district or charter school in the prior year. Specify that funds could be used to provide allowable services during the school day and during after-school or other

out-of-school time programs. Define the following as expenses eligible for reimbursement under the program: (a) mental health evidence-based improvement strategies; (b) mental health literacy and stigma reduction programs for pupils and adults; (c) collaborating or contracting with community mental health providers, consultants, organizations, cooperative educational service agencies, and other experts to provide consultation, training, mentoring, and coaching; (d) parent training and informational events; (e) assistance programs for pupils and families; (f) mental health navigators; (g) mental health system planning; (h) translator and interpreter services; (i) offsetting the costs associated with school-employed mental health professionals accessible to all pupils; (j) the costs of setting up spaces and purchasing equipment suitable for mental health telehealth service delivery; (k) the costs of projects designed to assist minors experiencing problems resulting from the use of alcohol or other drugs or to prevent alcohol or other drug use by minors; and (l) telehealth services. Specify that the following costs would be ineligible for reimbursement: (a) payments for direct treatment services or insurance deductibles; (b) non-mental health-related training; (c) staff salaries for non-mental health-related positions; and (d) indirect costs of regular school operations such as existing overhead expenses. Specify that if funding in the appropriation is insufficient to pay the full amount of aid, payments would be prorated among the school districts and independent charter schools that are eligible for aid.

Under current law, aid is distributed on a per pupil basis using the current year revenue limit membership for school districts and the third Friday in September enrollment count for independent charter schools. In 2024-25, it is estimated that payments will equal approximately \$31 per pupil. Funds may be used for the purpose of collaborating with mental health providers to provide mental health services to pupils.

Under 2023 Act 19, one-time funding of \$15 million annually increased total funding for the program to \$25 million annually. Under current law, base level funding is \$10 million annually, and it is estimated that the per pupil payment in 2025-26 and 2026-27 will equal approximately \$12.50.

[Bill Sections: 201 and 1920]

7. AID FOR SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STAFF	GPR \$129,989,000
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Governor: Provide \$62,752,000 in 2025-26 and \$67,237,000 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$12,000,000 to expand aid for school mental health programs, and rename the appropriation to "aid for school mental health programs; pupil services professionals."

Modify current law to include expenditures for any pupil services professional, rather than only social workers as under current law. Define pupil services professional as a school counselor, school social worker, school psychologist, or school nurse. Modify the program to specify that beginning in the 2025-26 school year, school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in one of the private school choice programs would be eligible for reimbursement of any expenditures made in the preceding school year to employ, hire, or retain pupil services professionals, rather than only 50% of the increase in expenditures to employ, hire, or retain school social workers. Specify that if funding in the appropriation is insufficient to pay

the full amount of aid, payments would be prorated among the school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools that are eligible for aid.

Under current law, the program reimburses eligible districts and schools for expenditures on school social workers as follows: (a) 50% reimbursement of the increase in expenditures for school social worker services from one year to the next; and (b) a proportion of unreimbursed expenditures for social workers, based on the amount remaining in the appropriation after payments are made under (a). Eligible districts and schools are defined as school districts, independent charter schools, and private choice schools that increased their expenditures on social workers from one year to the next.

[Bill Sections: 198 and 1912 thru 1918]

8. PEER TO PEER SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM

GPR	\$500,000
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Governor: Provide \$250,000 annually above base level funding of \$250,000 to expand the peer-to-peer suicide prevention grant program and modify the program to increase the maximum grant award for the peer-to-peer suicide prevention grants from \$1,000 to \$6,000.

In 2023-24, 90 grants were awarded totaling \$89,500. In its agency budget request, DPI indicated that suicide prevention programming from Hope Squad or Sources of Strength totals \$4,000-\$5,000, and other costs (such as transportation to regional trainings and materials) brings the total cost of a program to approximately \$6,000.

[Bill Section: 1919]

9. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AID

GPR	\$147,720,000
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Governor: Provide \$147,720,000 in 2026-27 in a new, sum-sufficient appropriation to reimburse educational agencies for the cost of meals served in schools, so that those meals would be provided at no cost to pupils, regardless of family income.

Under the program, an educational agency would be eligible to receive an annual payment equal to the sum of the following: (a) the number of school lunches provided to pupils eligible for a reduced-price lunch multiplied by the difference between the reimbursement amount for a reduced-price lunch and a free lunch in the previous school year; (b) the number of school lunches provided to pupils ineligible for a free or reduced-price lunch multiplied by the difference between the reimbursement amount for a paid lunch and a free lunch in the previous school year; (c) the number of school breakfasts provided to pupils eligible for a reduced-price breakfast multiplied by the difference between the reimbursement amount for a reduced-price breakfast and a free breakfast in the previous school year; (d) the number of school breakfasts provided to pupils ineligible for a free or reduced-price breakfast multiplied by the difference between the reimbursement amount for a paid breakfast and a free breakfast in the previous school year; (e) the number of meal supplements provided to pupils eligible for a reduced-price meal supplement multiplied by the difference between the reimbursement amount for a reduced-price meal

supplement and a free meal supplement in the previous school year; and (f) the number of meal supplements provided to pupils ineligible for a free or reduced-price meal supplement multiplied by the difference between the reimbursement amount for a paid meal supplement and a free meal supplement in the previous school year. An educational agency would be defined as a school board, an operator of an independent charter school, a private school, a tribal school, an operator of a residential care center for children and youth, and the state's Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. To be eligible for reimbursement, the educational agency could not charge pupils for school meals for which the educational agency receives reimbursement under the federal school lunch program or federal school breakfast program.

The basic cash reimbursement rates for all schools or institutions participating in the federal school lunch and breakfast programs in 2024-25 are \$4.52 for a free lunch, \$4.12 for a reduced-price lunch, and \$0.51 for a paid lunch; \$2.37 for a free breakfast, \$2.07 for a reduced-price breakfast, and \$0.39 for a paid breakfast; and \$1.21 for a free snack, \$0.60 for a reduced-price snack, and \$0.11 for a paid snack. In the same year, a family of four qualifies for a free lunch with an annual income of less than \$40,560, and a reduced-price lunch with an income of between \$40,560 and \$57,720. In the 2023-24 school year, approximately 345,000 public school pupils in Wisconsin qualified for free meals, or approximately 45% of pupils statewide, and 35,000 pupils qualified for reduced-price meals, or approximately 4.5% of pupils statewide.

[Bill Sections: 197 and 1907]

10. SCHOOL BREAKFAST REIMBURSEMENT

GPR	\$6,109,500
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Governor: Provide \$3,027,400 in 2025-26 and \$3,082,100 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$2,510,500 for the school breakfast program. Under the program, participating agencies are eligible for reimbursements of 15.0 cents per meal served if funding is available. DPI estimates that payments will be prorated at approximately 7 cents per meal served in 2024-25. It is estimated that the additional funding would increase the state reimbursement rate to 15.0 cents per meal served.

Additionally, modify statutory language to allow independent charter schools, the state's Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and residential care centers for children and youth to be eligible for reimbursement. Specify that schools that ceased operations during the prior school year would not be eligible for reimbursement for any breakfasts served during that year.

[Bill Sections: 1904 thru 1906]

11. SCHOOL DAY MILK PROGRAM

GPR	\$458,900
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Governor: Provide \$211,100 in 2025-26 and \$247,800 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$1,000,000 to fully fund projected claims for the school day milk program. Under the program, DPI is required to reimburse the cost of milk provided to low-income children in preschool through

fifth grade in public, private, and tribal schools that do not participate in the federal special milk program. If funding is insufficient, payments are prorated. In 2024-25, it is estimated that payments will be prorated at approximately 85%.

12. AID FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

GPR	\$53,500,000
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Governor: Provide \$26,750,000 annually in a new sum sufficient appropriation for a new categorical aid program to support limited-English proficient (LEP) pupils in school districts and independent charter schools. Specify that under the program, \$500 would be provided for each LEP pupil enrolled in the district or attending the school in the previous school year.

Require school boards and operators of independent charter schools to annually, on or before August 15, report to DPI the number of LEP pupils enrolled in the school district or attending the charter school in the previous school year and the classification of those pupils by language group. Require DPI to pay each school district and independent charter school \$500 per LEP pupil beginning in the 2025-26 school year based on the reported number of LEP pupils. The amount of funding provided is based on an estimate of 53,500 LEP pupils in each year of the biennium.

[Bill Sections: 194, 195, and 2000 thru 2005]

13. SPARSITY AID

GPR	\$20,253,600
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Governor: Provide \$10,016,800 in 2025-26 and \$10,236,800 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$28,614,000 for sparsity aid. Modify the program beginning in the 2025-26 school year to increase per pupil payment amounts from \$400 to \$500 if the school district's membership in the previous school year did not exceed 745 pupils, and from \$100 to \$200 if the school district's membership in the previous school year was between 745 and 1,000 pupils.

Under current law, districts qualify for \$400 per pupil if, in the prior school year, they had an enrollment of less than 745 pupils and had a population density of fewer than 10 pupils per square mile of district attendance area. Districts qualify for \$100 per pupil if, in the prior school year, they had an enrollment between 745 and 1,000 pupils and a population density of fewer than 10 pupils per square mile of district attendance area. If funding is insufficient, payments are prorated. In 2024-25, 156 districts qualified for \$400 per pupil aid and 27 districts qualified for \$100 per pupil aid. Payments were prorated at 96.9%.

Additionally, modify the provision that exists under current law under which any district that qualified for sparsity aid in one year but did not qualify the following year due to an increase in its enrollment is eligible to receive 50% of its prior year award. Instead, allow a district that loses its eligibility as a result of an increase in its enrollment or its pupil population density to receive up to 50% of its prior year award. One district (Durand-Arkansaw) qualified for aid under this provision in 2024-25. This modification would first apply to sparsity aid in the 2025-26 school year.

[Bill Sections: 1932 thru 1935 and 9334(1)]

14. COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION GRANTS

	Funding	Position
GPR	\$10,189,100	1.00

Governor: Provide \$5,092,500 and 1.0 FTE positions in 2025-26 and \$5,096,600 in 2026-27 to create a grant program to provide funds to school districts to expand computer science educational opportunities in all grade levels operated by the district. Specify that funds could be used to provide professional development, purchase curricula and related materials, and apply programming or coding concepts or integrate computer science fundamentals into other subjects. Specify that funds could not be used to purchase personal electronic computing devices, computers, or computer hardware.

Of the total funding amount, \$5,000,000 annually would be used to award grants to school districts. An additional \$72,500 in 2025-26 and \$96,600 in 2026-27 would be provided in DPI's general program operations appropriation for a statewide computer science education coordinator (\$42,200 salary, \$17,700 fringe, and \$12,600 supplies and services in 2025-26 and \$56,200 salary, \$23,600 fringe, and \$16,800 supplies and services in 2026-27). The remaining \$20,000 in 2025-26 would be for costs associated with a computer science education task force, to be chaired by the computer science education coordinator.

[Bill Sections: 200 and 1893]

15. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AID

GPR	\$10,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$10,000,000 in 2025-26 in a new biennial appropriation to create a categorical aid program to increase high school career and technical education pathways in school districts and independent charter schools. Define "high school career and technical education pathway" as a series of career and technical education opportunities that prepare a pupil for a postsecondary option in a specific career area. Specify that funding could be used for expenses related to creating career and technical education courses and high school career and technical education pathways and for expanding access to existing career and technical education courses and high school career and technical education pathways.

Require DPI to pay each school district and independent charter school a proportional amount of the applicable amount based on the number of pupils in high school grades enrolled in the school district or independent charter school divided by the total number of pupils in high school grades in all school districts and independent charter schools in the previous school year. Specify that the applicable amount equals \$5,000,000 in the 2025-26 school year, the unencumbered balance of the appropriation in the 2026-27 school year, and one-half of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal biennium in the 2027-28 school year and each school year thereafter. Permit DPI to promulgate administrative rules to implement administer the program.

[Bill Sections: 199 and 1931]

16. HEALTH EMERGENCIES IN LEARNING PLACES GRANTS

GPR	\$10,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$10,000,000 in 2025-26 in a new biennial appropriation to fund grants

to help school districts, independent charter schools and private schools participating in a private school choice program or the special needs scholarship program prepare for and respond to health emergencies in school buildings. Specify that funds may be used for any of the following: (a) automated external defibrillators; (b) automated external defibrillator maintenance; (c) cardiopulmonary resuscitation training supplies and materials; (d) cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for school personnel, including coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers; (e) first aid training and education materials; (f) other activities that promote preparedness for using cardiac emergency response plans in a school or athletic activity; (g) carbon monoxide detectors; and (h) opioid antagonists.

Require operators of independent charter schools to provide a standard first aid kit for use in cases of emergency. Under current law, school boards and governing bodies of private schools are required to provide standard first aid kits for use in cases of emergency, but the requirement does not apply to independent charter schools.

Require school boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a private school choice program or the special needs scholarship program, beginning in the 2025-26 school year, to have an adequate, usable supply of opioid antagonists on site in a location that is easily accessible at all times.

Require school boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a private school choice program or the special needs scholarship program, beginning in the 2025-26 school year, to have in effect a cardiac emergency response plan that establishes specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in cardiac emergencies that occur on school property and at school-sponsored athletic practices or events. Require cardiac emergency response plans to include all of the following: (a) a cardiac emergency response team; (b) information on how the team is activated in response to a sudden cardiac arrest; (c) requirements for automated external defibrillator placement, including that each device is retrievable within three minutes and that placement complies with American Heart Association guidelines, and routine maintenance; (d) information on how the cardiac emergency response plan is shared; (e) requirements for ongoing training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and automated external defibrillator use for certain school personnel, including coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers, and a requirement that at least three individuals participate in the training; (f) a requirement to practice the cardiac emergency response plan using drills; (g) information on cooperating with local emergency medical service; and (h) a requirement to review and evaluate the cardiac emergency response plan at least annually and after each time the plan is activated.

Require DPI, by July 1, 2026, to include in its model management plan and practices for maintaining indoor environmental quality in schools a requirement that public and private schools install and maintain 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 (DSPA).

Require operators of independent charter schools, by October 1, 2026, to develop a plan for maintaining indoor environmental quality in schools. Under current law, school boards and governing bodies of private schools participating in a private school choice program are required

to implement plans for maintaining indoor environmental quality in schools, but the requirement does not apply to independent charter schools.

Require school boards, operators of independent charter schools, and governing bodies of private schools participating in a private school choice program to do the following: (a) by October 1, 2026, include in their plans for maintaining indoor environmental quality in schools a requirement to provide and maintain a carbon monoxide detector in each room of a school that contains a fuel-burning, forced-aid furnace or a boiler, or as otherwise required by DSPS; and (b) by July 1, 2027, provide a carbon monoxide detector in each applicable room of its schools and reasonably maintain every carbon monoxide detector in its schools. (For private choice schools, carbon monoxide detectors must be provided by July 1, 2027, or the beginning of the school's second year of participation in the program, whichever is later.)

Require each operator of an independent charter school to provide a copy of its plan for maintaining indoor environmental quality in schools to any person upon request. Under current law, school boards are required to provide a copy of their plans to any person upon request.

[Bill Sections: 193, 1898, 2006 thru 2015, 2110, 2111, 2129, and 2130]

17. PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY GRANTS

GPR	\$5,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$2,500,000 annually in a biennial appropriation for a new personal financial literacy grant program for school districts and independent charter schools to develop, implement, or improve financial literacy curricula. Require the State Superintendent to prioritize grant applications related to innovative financial literacy curricula, as determined by the State Superintendent.

Under current law, school districts are required to adopt academic standards for financial literacy and incorporate financial literacy instruction into the curriculum in grades kindergarten through 12.

[Bill Sections: 205 and 1902]

18. GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAMS

GPR	\$5,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$5,000,000 beginning in 2026-27 for a new grant program to reimburse school districts and independent charter schools for programs and initiatives to build the educator workforce in Wisconsin schools. Define a "grow your own program" as a program to encourage individuals to pursue a career in teaching or to facilitate teacher licensure. Funds could be used on activities such as paying the costs associated with current staff completing education necessary to obtain licensure, partnering with community organizations to attract and develop new teachers, support for career pathways using dual enrollment, incentives for paraprofessionals to gain licensure, and supporting student organizations that encourage high school students to pursue careers in teaching. Require DPI to promulgate rules to implement and administer the program, including criteria for awarding grants.

Specify that the program does not apply to any school in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) that was transferred to the opportunity schools partnership program, which transfers the operation and management of a school that either received the lowest rating on the most recent school accountability report or was identified as a vacant or underutilized building. No schools have been transferred into the opportunity schools partnership program to date.

[Bill Sections: 207, 1929, and 2112]

19. PEER REVIEW AND MENTORING GRANT

GPR	\$1,606,600
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Governor: Provide \$803,300 annually above base level funding of \$1,606,700 for the peer review and mentoring grant program. Under current law, the program provides grants of up to \$25,000 to cooperative educational service agencies (CESAs) or consortia consisting of two or more school districts or CESAs, or a combination thereof, to provide technical assistance and training for teachers to implement peer review and mentoring programs. Grantees are required to provide at least 20% matching funds, which may be in the form of money, in-kind services, or both.

20. ACCESS TO PERIOD PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS

GPR	\$1,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$500,000 annually in a new appropriation for aid for school districts and independent charter schools to offset the costs of purchasing feminine hygiene products. Require school districts to provide access to feminine hygiene products to pupils who need them while at school, at no cost to the pupil, beginning in the 2025-26 school year. Require independent charter schools with a contract that is entered into, renewed, or modified beginning on the effective date of the bill to provide access to feminine hygiene products to pupils who need them while at school, at no cost to the pupil.

Define eligible local educational agencies as school districts or independent charter schools for which the percentage of economically disadvantaged pupils, defined as those who satisfy the federal income eligibility criteria for a free or reduced price lunch, who were enrolled in the school district or attended the independent charter school in the previous year is greater than the percentage of economically disadvantaged pupils who were enrolled in school districts or attended independent charter schools statewide in the previous year.

Require DPI to distribute funding to eligible local educational agencies in an amount equal to the greater of the following: (a) \$100; or (b) an amount calculated by dividing the total available funding by the number of economically disadvantaged pupils enrolled in or attending eligible local educational agencies statewide in the previous school year to determine a per pupil amount, multiplied by the number of economically disadvantaged pupils enrolled in or attending the eligible local educational agency in the previous school year. Specify that if funding in the appropriation is insufficient, payments would be prorated.

[Bill Sections: 202, 1909, 2054, 2059, 2137, 9334(3) and 9334(4)]

21. ROBOTICS LEAGUE PARTICIPTION GRANTS

GPR	\$500,000
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Governor: Provide \$250,000 annually above base level funding of \$750,000 for the robotics league participation grants.

Under the robotics league participation program, grants of up to \$6,000 are available to eligible teams from public schools, private schools, independent charter schools, or home-based educational programs. Eligible teams must include pupils in grades 9-12 and at least one mentor, and may include one or more pupils in grades 6-8. Funds must be used to participate in a competition sponsored by a non-profit organization that requires teams to design and operate robots. Eligible expenses include fees, kits, supplies, travel expenses, and a stipend for the team's mentor. Teams must provide matching funds equal to the amount of the grant. In 2023-24, 248 grants were awarded, and payments were prorated at 75.7%.

22. WATER FILTRATION GRANTS

GPR	\$250,000
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Governor: Provide \$250,000 in 2026-27 in a new, annual appropriation to provide grants to school districts and independent charter schools to modify water fountains to include water bottle filling equipment that include a water filtration component. Provide that DPI may promulgate rules to implement and administer the program.

[Bill Sections: 203 and 1903]

23. TRANSFER HEAD START STATE SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM TO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

GPR	- \$12,528,200
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Governor: Modify statutes to transfer authority for administering the Head Start state supplement program and related funding of \$6,264,100 annually from DPI to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) beginning in 2025-26. Head Start is a federal program that supports the growth and development of children under the age of five from low-income families. Participating children and families engage in a variety of educational and health activities.

The Head Start state supplement supports quality improvement efforts and expands Head Start enrollment for children who may be on waiting lists to access federally-funded programming. For additional information see "Department of Children and Families -- TANF and Economic Support."

[Bill Sections: 206 and 1910]

24. GRANTS FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Governor: Modify the grant for information technology education program to allow DPI to award grants to multiple entities and rename the appropriation grants for information technology education.

Eliminate the request for proposal process and specify that grants are for the provision of certification opportunities in addition to information technology education. Modify eligibility criteria to require grant recipients to develop an instructional program that includes at least one of the eight components specified under current law and to maximize the number of sites at which the instructional program will be operated. Require DPI to give preference in awarding grants to entities that will develop an instructional program that includes more than one of the eight components specified under current law. Specify that these requirements would first apply to grants awarded on the effective date of the bill.

Under current law, the program awards a grant to an entity to develop an instructional program to be operated in 225 sites, including 16 public libraries, and to provide information technology opportunities to public school pupils in grades 6 to 12, technical college district students, and patrons of public libraries. The program is required to include the following eight components: (a) a research-based curriculum; (b) online access; (c) instructional software for use in the classroom and at home; (d) alignment with coding and other techniques on the computer science Advanced Placement examination; (e) certifications of skills and competencies in a broad range of IT related skills areas; (f) professional development for teachers; (g) deployment and program support; and (h) opportunities for pupils completing the program to earn college credit.

[Bill Sections: 204, 1947 thru 1951, and 9334(2)]

25. PUPIL TRANSPORTATION AID

Governor: Modify statutory language to increase the reimbursement rate for pupils transported over 12 miles to and from school in the regular school year from \$400 to \$450 beginning in the 2025-26 school year. It is estimated that the current funding level (\$24.0 million GPR annually) would fully fund payments at the increased rate.

<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Current Law</u>		<u>Bill</u>	
	<u>School Year</u>	<u>Summer School</u>	<u>School Year</u>	<u>Summer School</u>
0-2 miles (hazardous area)	\$15	--	\$15	--
2-5 miles	35	\$10	35	\$10
5-8 miles	55	20	55	20
8-12 miles	110	20	110	20
Over 12 miles	400	20	450	20

[Bill Section: 2141]

26. HIGH COST TRANSPORTATION AID

Governor: Modify the eligibility threshold for the high cost transportation aid program from 140% of the statewide average transportation costs to 135% of the statewide average beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

Under current law, districts qualify for aid if they meet the following eligibility requirements: (a) a transportation cost per member greater than 140% of the state average in the prior year; and (b) a pupil population density of 50 pupils per square mile or less, calculated by dividing the school district's membership in the previous school year by the district's area in square miles. Any district that qualified for aid in the preceding school year but is ineligible for aid in the current school year is eligible to receive an amount equal to 50% of its prior year award. In 2023-24, 136 districts were eligible for aid under the program. Twenty-nine districts had been eligible in the previous year but did not meet the eligibility requirements in the current year, and received payments equal to 50% of their prior year payment. In 2023-24, funding was sufficient to pay 100% of eligible costs.

[Bill Sections: 2142 and 9334(11)]

27. TRIBAL LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION GRANT

PR	\$554,400
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Governor: Provide \$277,200 annually above base level funding of \$222,800 for the tribal language revitalization grant program and modify the program to include independent charter schools as eligible grant applicants.

Under current law, a school district, cooperative educational service agency (CESA), or federal head start agency, in conjunction with a tribal authority, may apply for a grant for the purpose of supporting innovative, effective instruction in one or more American Indian languages. Funding is provided from tribal gaming program revenue transferred from the Department of Administration.

[Bill Section: 1952]

28. GRANTS TO REPLACE CERTAIN RACE-BASED NICKNAMES, LOGOS, MASCOTS, AND TEAM NAMES

PR	\$400,000
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Governor: Provide \$200,000 annually in a new appropriation for grants to school boards for the costs associated with adopting and implementing a nickname, logo, mascot, or team name that is not race-based. The State Superintendent could award a grant to a school board that adopts a resolution to terminate the use of a race-based nickname, logo, mascot, or team name that is associated with a federally-recognized American Indian tribe or American Indians in general, regardless of whether the board has received an objection from a school district resident or an order to terminate the use of the nickname, logo, mascot, or team name from the Division of Hearings and Appeals in the Department of Administration (DOA). Specify that the amount of the grant could not exceed the greater of \$50,000 or the school board's actual costs to adopt and implement the new team name.

The program revenue would be from tribal gaming revenue transferred from DOA. The unencumbered balance on June 30 of each year would revert to the appropriation for tribal gaming receipts.

[Bill Sections: 208, 370, 376, and 2016]

29. SCHOOL LIBRARY AIDS REESTIMATE

SEG	\$36,000,000
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Governor: Reestimate school library aids by \$18,000,000 annually. Base level funding is \$52,000,000 annually. Revenues are from interest earned on the segregated common school fund, administered by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

Choice, Charter, and Open Enrollment

1. MILWAUKEE PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FUNDING

GPR	\$54,971,400
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Governor: Provide \$20,723,100 in 2025-26 and \$34,248,300 in 2026-27 over base year funding of \$313,658,100 for the Milwaukee private school choice program to reflect changes in pupil participation and per pupil payments under the bill. This would reflect an increase in pupil participation from 28,900 pupils in 2024-25 to an estimated 29,440 pupils in 2025-26 and 2026-27. The table below shows the per pupil payments under the bill based on the increases in the per pupil aid and adjustment under revenue limits provided under the bill.

Per Pupil Payments Under the Bill, 2025-26 and 2026-27

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
K-8	\$10,237	\$10,629	\$11,024
9-12	12,731	13,123	13,518
Change to prior year		392	395

The total change in funding provided for the Milwaukee choice program under this item includes the following changes attributable to other modifications made to the program under the bill, and summarized under other summary items: (a) capping program participation; (b) counting certain pupils enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten as 1.0 pupil for membership purposes; and (c) modifying the payment indexing mechanism.

2. RACINE AND STATEWIDE PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FUNDING

GPR	\$81,020,900
GPR Effect of Aid	
Reductions	- 92,337,400
Net GPR	- \$11,316,500

Governor: Provide \$33,915,500 in 2025-26 and \$47,105,400 in 2026-27 over base year funding of \$275,299,900 for the Racine and statewide private school choice programs to reflect changes in pupil participation and per pupil payments under the bill.

The table below shows the per pupil payments under the bill based on the increases in the

per pupil aid and adjustment under revenue limits provided in the bill.

Per Pupil Payments Under the Bill, 2025-26 and 2026-27

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
K-8	\$10,237	\$10,629	\$11,024
9-12	12,731	13,123	13,518
Change to prior year		392	395

Estimated per pupil participation in each year of the biennium is shown in the table below.

Estimated Racine and Statewide Private School Choice Program Participation

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Racine	4,100	4,200	4,200
Statewide	<u>21,100</u>	<u>23,400</u>	<u>23,400</u>
Total	25,200	27,600	27,600

Under current law, the cost of payments for legacy pupils (pupils who first participated in the programs in the 2014-15 school year or earlier) is fully funded through GPR. Payments for all other pupils are fully funded through an aid reduction in the general school aids that would otherwise be paid to those pupils school districts of residence. School districts receive a revenue limit adjustment equal to the amount of the aid reduction in the current year.

Under the bill, the aid reduction for the programs would total \$305,147,200 in 2025-26 and \$319,836,800 in 2026-27 from the base choice aid reduction of \$266,323,300. The net general fund fiscal effect for the Racine and statewide programs would be decreased expenditures of \$4,908,400 in 2025-26 and decreased expenditures of \$6,408,100 in 2026-27 compared to the base.

The total change in funding provided for the Racine and statewide choice programs under this item includes the following changes attributable to other modifications made to the program under the bill, and summarized under other summary items: (a) capping program participation; (b) counting certain pupils enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten as 1.0 pupil for membership purposes; and (c) modifying the payment indexing mechanism.

3. PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE AND SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS -- CAP PARTICIPATION AT 2025-26 LEVELS

Governor: Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, specify that the total number of pupils who can participate in each of the three choice programs and the special needs scholarship program could not exceed a program cap. For the Milwaukee, Racine, and special needs scholarship programs, "program cap" would be defined as the total number of pupils who attended private

schools under that program in the 2025-26 school year. For the statewide program, the program cap for each school district would be defined as the total number of pupils residing in that district who attended a private school under the statewide choice program in 2025-26. Additionally, specify that the current law participation limits for the statewide choice program, which limits enrollment to a percentage of total district enrollment, would continue to equal 10% of the district's prior year membership beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

Current law limits the total number of pupils residing in a school district who can participate in the statewide choice program to no more than 9% of the district's prior year membership in 2024-25. The limit will increase to 10% in 2025-26. Beginning in 2026-27, no limit will apply. Current law does not limit the number of pupils who can participate in the Milwaukee or Racine choice programs or the special needs scholarship program.

Specify that a private school participating in the program could accept applications from eligible pupils during application periods determined by DPI. For the Racine and Milwaukee choice programs, require DPI to establish one or more application periods, the first of which may begin no earlier than the first weekday in February of the previous school year and the last of which may end no later than September 14 of the applicable school year. For the statewide choice program, maintain the application period under current law (the first weekday in February to the third Thursday in April of the previous school year). For the special needs scholarship program, require a participating private school to notify DPI of its intent to participate in the program by January 10 of the previous school year, and specify that the school could accept applications for the following school year between the first weekday in February and the third Thursday in April. Delete current law allowing a pupil to apply to the special needs scholarship program at any time during the school year.

Require each private school to report to DPI the number of pupils who applied to attend the school under each program, and the names of those applicants who have siblings who also applied to attend the school under the program. For the choice programs, require that this information is reported no later than 10 days after each application period ends, and for the special needs scholarship program, require that this information is reported no later than the first weekday in May immediately following the application period.

At the end of each application period, require DPI to determine the sum of all applicants, counting a pupil who has applied to attend more than one private school under a choice program or under the special needs scholarship program only once. If the sum exceeds the program cap (or, for the statewide program, the district participation limits under current law), require DPI to determine which applications to accept on a random basis, with the following exceptions: (a) for the choice programs, the pupil preferences established under current law; and (b) for the special needs scholarship program, children who attended a different eligible school under the special needs scholarship program in the previous school year, and siblings of pupils who already attend the private school.

Require DPI to establish a waiting list for those pupils whose applications are not accepted in accordance with the current law preferences. Require a private school to notify DPI if an accepted pupil will not attend the school, and require DPI to fill any available slot with a pupil

from the waiting list. Allow a pupil on the waiting list under the choice programs to be admitted for the following school year without submitting additional financial information, provided that the applicant continues to meet the residency requirements for the program for which the pupil is applying.

No later than 60 days after the end of the application period for the special needs scholarship program, require DPI to notify each applicant and each eligible school, in writing, whether the applicant has been approved to receive a scholarship. For the Milwaukee, Racine, and statewide choice programs, require a private school to notify each applicant who is not eligible to participate in the programs for any reason, including the program caps, that their application has been rejected. Require that the notification be made in writing, and that it includes the reason the application was rejected.

Specify that current law that creates an exception under which pupils who accept a space at a private school under the statewide choice program but move to Milwaukee or Racine before the third Friday in September and continue to attend the same private school under the Milwaukee or Racine choice programs are not counted for the school district participation limits would also apply to the program caps for that school year.

Additionally, specify that if a pupil who accepts a space at a private school participating in the Milwaukee, Racine, or statewide choice program changes their residence before the third Friday in September and continues to attend the same private school under a separate program, other than pupils who move from Racine to Milwaukee, the pupil would not be counted under the program caps for that school year.

Specify that these provisions would first apply to program caps and applications or transfer of applications for the 2026-27 school year.

[Bill Sections: 1961, 1964, 1965, 1972, 1973, 1975 thru 1985, 2083, 2084, 2088 thru 2092, 2094 thru 2103, 2107 thru 2109, 2113, 2117, 2119 thru 2121, 2125 thru 2128, and 9334(5) thru 9334(7)]

4. PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE AND SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS -- TEACHER LICENSURE REQUIREMENT

Governor: Require that beginning on July 1, 2028, all of a participating private school's teachers have a teaching license or permit issued by DPI, except teachers who teach only rabbinical studies. This requirement would apply to the Milwaukee, Racine, and statewide choice programs, and the special needs scholarship program.

Specify that any teacher employed by the school on July 1, 2028, who has been teaching for at least the five consecutive years immediately preceding that date and who does not have a teaching license or permit issued by DPI could apply for a temporary, nonrenewable waiver on a form prepared by DPI. Require DPI to promulgate rules to implement this provision, including the form of the application and the process by which the waiver application would be reviewed. Require that the waiver application require the applicant to submit a plan for satisfying the

licensure requirement. Specify that no waiver would be valid after July 1, 2033.

Modify current law teacher licensure requirements to include private schools participating in these programs, including the following: (a) specify that an individual located in another state may teach an online course without a Wisconsin license if he or she is properly licensed in the state from which the course is provided; (b) allow a faculty member of an institution of higher education to teach without a license or permit if the faculty member satisfies certain requirements, including a background investigation; (c) prohibit a teaching license from being issued to any individual without a bachelor's degree, except for an individual certified to teach native American languages and cultures or an individual with an experience-based license for technical and vocational education subjects, or anyone who completed a professional training program outside of Wisconsin that did not include a student teaching component; (d) specify that an individual certified to teach native American languages and culture cannot teach other courses unless otherwise qualified; (e) allow a private school participating in these programs to employ an individual who teaches a technical or vocational education subject with an experience-based license if the school and individual fulfill certain requirements; and (f) require that a private school participating in the private school choice programs employing a person who holds a professional teaching permit does not fill the position following the removal of a regularly licensed teacher. Specify that these provisions would first take effect on July 1, 2028.

[Bill Sections: 1891, 1974, 2019 thru 2030, 2085, 2086, 2093, 2114, 2115, 2118, and 9434(1)]

5. PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE AND SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS -- INFORMATION REQUIRED ON PROPERTY TAX BILL

Governor: Require property tax bills to include information from the school district where the property is located regarding the amount of any gross reduction in state aid to the district under the private school choice and special needs scholarship programs in the previous year and the current year and the percentage change between those years, if such a reduction occurs in that year.

Require the following insert to also be included in substantially similar form: "The gross reduction in state aid to your school district in the (current year) is \$... as a result of pupils enrolled in the ... (statewide choice program) (Racine choice program) or as a result of payments to ... (a private school) under the special needs scholarship program. Your school district had the option to increase property taxes to replace this aid reduction."

[Bill Section: 1440]

6. SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING

Governor: Provide \$7,446,700 in 2025-26 and \$8,493,300 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$45,143,200 for the special needs scholarship program to reflect changes in pupil participation and per pupil payments under the bill. This would reflect changes in pupil participation from 3,000 pupils in

GPR	\$15,940,000
GPR Effect of Aid	
Reductions -	<u>15,561,000</u>
Net GPR	\$379,000

2024-25 to 3,440 pupils in 2025-26 and 2026-27. Based on the increases in the per pupil aid and revenue limit adjustment provided in the bill, the per pupil payment under the program would increase from \$15,409 in 2024-25 to \$15,801 in 2025-26 and \$16,196 in 2026-27.

Under current law, the cost of payments for pupils attending a private school under the special needs scholarship program are fully offset through an aid reduction in the general school aids that would otherwise be paid to those pupils' school districts of residence and a corresponding revenue limit increase.

The total change in funding provided for the program under this item includes the following changes attributable to other modifications made to the program under the bill, and summarized under other summary items: (a) capping program participation; (b) counting certain pupils enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten as 1.0 pupil for membership purposes; (c) modifying the payment indexing mechanism; and (d) deleting the actual cost reimbursement provision.

7. SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -- DELETE ACTUAL COST REIMBURSEMENT PROVISION

Governor: Delete current law allowing a private school to submit a financial statement showing the actual costs that the private school incurred to implement a participating pupil's most recent individualized education program or services plan, as modified by an agreement between the private school and the pupil's parent, and specifying that the financial statement would be used to calculate the per pupil payment for that pupil in the following school year. Specify that the last payments using this provision would be those made in the 2024-25 school year. As a result of deleting this provision, payments for all pupils would be equal to the amount specified in current law, with adjustments for increases in the revenue limit per pupil adjustment and per pupil aid for public school districts.

Under current law, if a private school chooses to submit a financial statement, payments of up to 150% of the per pupil payment amount for that year are fully funded through a reduction in the general aid that is otherwise paid to each pupil's school district of residence, offset with an equal revenue limit adjustment for the district. If the costs incurred by the school in the previous school year exceed 150% of the per pupil payment, the school is reimbursed for 90% of the remaining costs, but no corresponding aid reduction would occur. (As a result, payments made for 90% of costs incurred above 150% of the per pupil payment are funded with state GPR; the private school would pay for the other 10% of costs.) The first payments under the actual cost reimbursement provision were made in the 2019-20 school year. In 2024-25, a total of \$386,090 was paid to 10 schools on behalf of 11 participating pupils, based on the actual costs of educating those pupils in the 2023-24 school year.

[Bill Sections: 190, 1986, 1988, and 1990 thru 1994]

8. SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -- PRIVATE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Governor: Require that a private school that participates in the special needs scholarship program obtain accreditation by August 1 of the school year in which the private school

participates or that the private school participates in the Milwaukee, Racine, or statewide parental choice program. Additionally, require a private school that is participating in the special needs scholarship program in the 2025-26 school year and is not accredited by August 1, 2025, to obtain preaccreditation by August 1, 2026, apply for accreditation by December 31, 2026, and obtain accreditation by December 31, 2029. Specify that a private school could apply for and seek to obtain preaccreditation from only one preaccrediting entity. If the school failed to obtain preaccreditation, the school could not participate in the program in the 2026-27 school year or any school year thereafter until the school obtained accreditation.

Under current law, a private school may participate in the special needs scholarship program if the private school is accredited or if the private school's educational program meets certain criteria, such as providing at least 875 hours of instruction each school year and a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health.

[Bill Sections: 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963, and 1966 thru 1971]

9. SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -- RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY OPT-OUT

Governor: Require a private school participating in the special needs scholarship program to allow a pupil attending the school under the program to refrain from participating in any religious activity if the pupil's parent submits to the pupil's teacher or the private school's principal a written request that the pupil be exempt from such activities.

[Bill Section: 1995]

10. INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FUNDING

GPR	\$23,011,900
GPR Effect of Aid	
Reductions	<u>3,479,000</u>
Net GPR	\$26,490,900

Governor: Provide \$10,245,700 in 2025-26 and \$18,477,300 in 2026-27 as a reestimate of sum sufficient funding in the main appropriation for the independent charter school program. Base level funding is \$115,485,600.

The main appropriation for the program currently funds payments to charter schools that the City of Milwaukee, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, and the Waukesha County Executive contract to operate. The Administration estimates that 10,288 pupils in 2025-26 and 10,621 pupils in 2026-27 will attend schools funded from this appropriation and that, based on the relevant provisions in the bill, the per pupil payment under the program would increase from \$11,729 in 2024-25 to \$12,121 in 2025-26 and \$12,516 in 2026-27.

Delete \$4,107,600 in 2025-26 and \$1,603,500 in 2026-27 as a reestimate of sum sufficient funding in the appropriation for independent charter schools authorized by the Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO) in the UW System. Base level funding is \$31,504,100.

The Administration estimates that 2,252 pupils in 2025-26 and 2,379 pupils in 2026-27 will

attend schools funded from this appropriation. DPI pays the operators of these charter schools the same per pupil payment as other independent charter schools.

Pupils that attend charter schools authorized by the OEO or the Waukesha County Executive are counted by their district of residence for revenue limit and general aid purposes. DPI is required to reduce the district's general aid payment in an amount equal to the total of the per pupil payments made for pupils residing in the district. Districts are not allowed to levy to backfill, or replace, that aid reduction. By law, there is no general aid reduction related to payments to schools authorized by the City of Milwaukee, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Parkside.

Under the bill, the aid reduction for these pupils would decrease by \$3,314,200 in 2025-26 and \$164,800 in 2026-27 from the base reduction of \$37,837,800. The net general fund fiscal effect for the charter program would be increased expenditures of \$9,452,300 in 2025-26 and \$17,038,600 in 2026-27.

The total change in funding provided for the charter program under this item includes the changes attributable to other provisions in the bill, and summarized under other summary items, related to modifying the payment indexing mechanism for the program and counting full-day four-year-old kindergarten pupils as 1.0 pupil for payment purposes.

11. CHOICE, CHARTER, AND OPEN ENROLLMENT PAYMENT INDEXING MECHANISM

Governor: Modify the indexing mechanism for the payments for the private school choice programs, the special needs scholarship program, the independent charter school program, and the open enrollment program to specify that, beginning in 2025-26, these payments would increase by an amount equal to the per pupil adjustment under revenue limits for the current year, if positive, plus the change in the per pupil aid payment amount between the previous year and the current year, if positive. These provisions would also apply to payments for children with disabilities under a whole grade sharing agreement and for payments under a school board contract with Second Chance Partners for Education or similar nonprofits. (A technical correction would be needed to accomplish the Administration's intent.)

Under current law, the various per pupil payment amounts under these programs are equal to the sum of the payment amount for the program in the previous year plus the following amounts: (a) the per pupil adjustment under revenue limits for the current year, if positive; (b) a statutorily-specified percentage, which differs by program, of the change in the low revenue adjustment amount under revenue limits between the previous year and the current year, if positive; and (c) the change in the amount of statewide categorical aid per pupil, including per pupil aid, between the previous year and the current year, if positive.

Under the bill, the revenue limit per pupil adjustment would be an estimated \$334 per pupil in 2025-26 and \$345 per pupil in 2026-27. The per pupil aid payment amount would increase by \$58 in 2025-26 and an additional \$50 in 2026-27. Thus, under the bill, the various per pupil aid payments would increase by \$392 per pupil in 2025-26 and a further \$395 per pupil in 2026-27 as a change to the prior year.

If the bill provisions for the per pupil adjustment and low revenue adjustment under revenue limits and for categorical aid funding were included in the current law indexing calculation, it is estimated that the various program payments would increase by approximately \$1,430 to \$2,430 per pupil in 2025-26 and a further \$625 to \$1,025 per pupil in 2026-27, depending on the program, as a change to the prior year.

[Bill Sections: 1911, 1987 thru 1989, 2056 thru 2058, 2063, 2064, 2072, 2073, 2076 thru 2078, 2104 thru 2106, and 2122 thru 2124]

12. OPEN ENROLLMENT AID TRANSFER AMOUNT -- SPECIAL EDUCATION

Governor: Delete the current law provisions under which the aid transfer amount for special education students participating in the open enrollment program can be increased, and restore prior law under which a single aid transfer amount applied to all of these students, beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

Under the 2017-19 budget act, a process was created under which the open enrollment aid transfer amount for a special education pupil (\$13,814 in 2024-25) could be adjusted. Under this process, at the end of a school year in which a special education pupil has participated in the program, a nonresident district may submit to DPI a financial statement that shows the actual costs the nonresident district incurred to provide a free appropriate public education to the pupil during that year. DPI is required to provide the resident district with a copy of any financial statement it receives. The aid transfer amount for a pupil for whom the nonresident district does not submit a financial statement equals the standard amount noted above. The aid transfer amount for a pupil for whom the nonresident district has submitted a financial statement equals the amount shown on the financial statement for that child for the previous school year, up to a maximum of \$30,000.

[Bill Sections: 196, 1957, 1958, 2065 thru 2071, 2074 thru 2082, 2143, and 2153]

School District Operations and Curriculum

1. COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE REQUIRED IN CURRICULUM

Governor: Require school boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program that offer one or more grades between nine and 12 to make available to pupils in grades nine to 12 at least one computer science course, which must include concepts in computer programming or coding. Specify that the requirement first applies to independent charter schools that enter into, renew, or modify their contract on the effective date of the bill, and first applies to private schools participating in a private school choice program in the 2026-27 school year.

[Bill Sections: 2055, 2060, 2087, 2116, 2138, and 9334(13)]

2. PARTICIPATION IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Governor: Prohibit a school board, charter school operator, or governing body of a private school participating in a private school choice program or the special needs scholarship program from excluding a pupil from a high school graduation ceremony due to the pupil's or the pupil's family's failure to pay any outstanding fees or charges.

[Bill Sections: 2052 and 2053]

3. FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN MODEL CONTRACT

Governor: Require DPI, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, to: (a) develop by no later than January 1, 2026, a model community-based approach contract for four-year-old kindergarten (K4) programs; and (b) establish by rule the standard per pupil payment amount a school board pays to a community-based provider under the model community-based approach contract.

Define "community-based approach contract" as a written document that defines the roles and responsibilities of a school board and a community-based provider related to the operation of a K4 program. Define "community-based provider" as a head start agency, a family child care center, or a group child care center. Specify that DPI may promulgate emergency rules to implement these provisions without the finding of an emergency or providing evidence that the rules are necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or welfare.

[Bill Sections: 1942 thru 1945 and 9134(1)]

4. MPS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER COST APPORTIONMENT

Governor: Require that the costs of meeting the current law requirement to place school resource officers in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) be apportioned as follows: (a) on school days, 25% of the cost or \$400,000, whichever is greater, to MPS, and the remainder to the City of Milwaukee; and (b) on days other than school days, 100% of the costs to the City of Milwaukee. Specify that beginning in 2026-27, the maximum amount that could be apportioned to MPS is \$400,000. For school years beginning after July 1, 2027, the maximum dollar amount that could be apportioned to MPS would be increased each year by a percentage equal to the percentage change from the U.S. consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, for the month of August of the previous year compared to the month of August, 2025, as determined by the federal Department of Labor.

Under 2023 Act 12, beginning January 1, 2024, the MPS board is required to ensure that no fewer than 25 school resource officers are present at schools within the school district during normal school hours and that school resource officers are available during before-school and after-school care, extracurricular activities, and sporting events as needed. In addition, beginning on January 1, 2024, the District board was required to ensure that the school resource officers complete the 40-hour course sponsored by the National Association of School Resource Officers.

For the purposes of these requirements, a school resource officer is a law enforcement officer who is deployed in community-oriented policing and assigned by the law enforcement agency that employs him or her to work in a full-time capacity in collaboration with the District. A law enforcement officer is a person employed by the state or a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of detecting and preventing crime and enforcing laws or ordinances and who is authorized to make arrests for violations of the laws or ordinances that the person is employed to enforce. As law enforcement officers, school resource officers are hired and employed by a law enforcement agency, most commonly a police department (in this case the City of Milwaukee Police Department). Act 12 requires MPS and the City of Milwaukee to agree to an apportionment of the costs associated with meeting these requirements.

[Bill Sections: 1099 thru 1103]

Administrative and Other Funding

1. STANDARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Governor: Adjust funding for standard budget adjustments as shown in the following table.

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$279,000	0.00
FED	4,564,800	- 16.00
PR	1,206,000	0.00
SEG	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$6,049,800	- 16.00

	<u>GPR</u>	<u>FED</u>	<u>PR</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025-26				
Turnover Reduction	-\$537,100	-\$610,200	\$0	-\$1,147,300
Removal of Noncontinuing Elements	0	-657,300	0	-657,300
Full Funding of Cont. Pos. Salary/Fringe	1,273,600	3,829,300	584,600	5,687,500
Overtime	274,600	41,900	13,900	330,400
Night and Weekend Differential	55,500	400	200	56,100
Full Funding of Lease/Directed Moves	<u>-927,900</u>	<u>-5,600</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>-929,200</u>
Total	\$138,700	\$2,598,500	\$603,000	\$3,340,200
2026-27				
Turnover Reduction	-\$537,100	-\$610,200	\$0	-\$1,147,300
Removal of Noncontinuing Elements	0	-1,289,500	0	-1,289,500
Full Funding of Cont. Pos. Salary/Fringe	1,273,600	3,829,300	584,600	5,687,500
Overtime	274,600	41,900	13,900	330,400
Night and Weekend Differential	55,500	400	200	56,100
Full Funding of Lease/Directed Moves	<u>-926,300</u>	<u>-5,600</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>-927,600</u>
Total	\$140,300	\$1,966,300	\$603,000	\$2,709,600
Biennial Totals	\$279,000	\$4,564,800	\$1,206,000	\$6,049,800

In addition, reduce authorized positions by 9.00 in 2025-26 and 16.00 in 2026-27 under the removal of noncontinuing elements standard budget adjustment.

2. STATE OPERATIONS ADJUSTMENT

GPR	\$2,954,000
PR	1,366,800
SEG	<u>211,000</u>
Total	\$4,531,800

Governor: Provide \$1,477,000 GPR, \$683,400 PR, and \$105,500 SEG annually beginning in 2025-26 to support increased supplies and services costs for the general program operations, operations of the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, pupil assessment, personnel licensure, alcohol and other drug abuse program, services for drivers, and digital learning collaborative appropriations.

3. FUEL AND UTILITIES REESTIMATE

GPR	\$145,800
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Governor: Provide \$58,800 in 2025-26 and \$87,000 in 2026-27 to reflect estimated costs for fuel and utilities for the state residential schools. Base level funding is equal to \$507,600 annually.

4. DEBT SERVICE REESTIMATES

GPR	-\$629,700
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Governor: Modify funding by -\$177,400 in 2025-26 and -\$452,300 in 2026-27 as a reestimate of debt service payments for the state residential schools. Annual base level funding is \$1,360,800.

5. EARLY LITERACY INVESTMENTS

GPR	\$50,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$50,000,000 in 2025-26 to replace unreleased funding appropriated for use in the 2023-25 biennium on a literacy program created under 2023 Wisconsin Act 20.

Act 20 established the Office of Literacy in DPI. The Office is required to establish and supervise a literacy coaching program and provide ongoing training on science-based early literacy instruction and instructional practices. Under 2023 Wisconsin Act 19, \$50,000,000 was placed in the Joint Finance Committee supplemental appropriation for the literacy program. Of the \$50 million, \$327,400 was released by the Committee in December, 2023, for administration of the program. As of March, 2025, the remaining \$49,672,600 has not been released, and the coaching program has not been implemented. The funding will lapse if it is not released by the end of fiscal year 2024-25.

6. EARLY LITERACY COACHES

GPR	\$18,063,200
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Governor: Provide \$7,045,200 in 2025-26 and \$11,018,000 in 2026-27 to contract for literacy coaches and provide professional development to implement the requirements of the early literacy and reading improvement program created under 2023 Wisconsin Act 20.

Modify the program beginning in the 2026-27 school year to increase the maximum number of literacy coaches statewide from 64 to 100, the maximum number located within the boundaries of a first-class city school district from 10 to 16, and the maximum number in other school districts from 4 to 6. Additionally, modify the program to repeal the program the sunset date.

Act 20 requires DPI to contract with up to 64 literacy coaches to work with school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a choice program. Under Act 20, the literacy coaching program will sunset on July 1, 2028.

[Bill Sections: 1921 thru 1925 and 3281]

7. EARLY LITERACY TUTORING GRANTS

GPR	\$6,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$3,000,000 annually in a new appropriation for competitive grants to community-based nonprofit organizations to provide literacy tutoring, including high dosage tutoring, to pupils in five-year-old kindergarten to third grade who have not yet demonstrated the ability to read at grade-level.

Define "literacy tutoring" as tutoring that includes science-based early reading instruction and does not include three cueing. (Three cueing as defined under current law as any model of teaching a pupil to read using meaning, structure or syntax, and visual cues or memory.) Define "high dosage literacy tutoring" as literacy tutoring that is all of the following: (a) provided in a one-on-one or small group setting of no more than four pupils per tutor; (b) provided by the same tutor at least three times per week for at least 30 minutes each session; (c) provided by a tutor who is professionally trained and receives ongoing support and coaching; (d) uses high-quality instructional materials that align with classroom content; and (e) held during school hours. Specify that DPI could promulgate rules to implement and administer the program.

[Bill Sections: 215 and 1926]

8. EARLY LITERACY DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT AID

GPR	\$2,900,000
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Governor: Provide \$1,450,000 annually above base level funding of \$2,151,000 in the appropriation for assessments of reading readiness to provide aid to local educational agencies to offset the costs of administering diagnostic assessments of early literacy skills.

Under 2023 Wisconsin Act 20, school districts and independent charter schools are required to administer a universal screening assessment of early literacy skills to pupils in kindergarten through third grade at least three times each year, and a diagnostic assessment to pupils scoring below a certain level on the universal screening assessment. DPI is required to make a universal screening assessment available at no cost, and to reimburse school districts and independent charter schools for the cost of diagnostic assessments. Payments are prorated if funding is insufficient.

9. EARLY LITERACY SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

GPR	\$2,625,500
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Governor: Provide \$2,625,500 in 2026-27 to reimburse school boards and independent charter schools for costs incurred in the previous school year to provide required intensive summer reading programs to eligible pupils. Define eligible pupils as those promoted to fourth grade who

had a personal reading plan during third grade and who were not considered to have completed the personal reading plan at the time of promotion to fourth grade.

Require DPI to pay aid for intensive summer reading programs by no later than November 15 of each school year. Specify that DPI could promulgate rules to implement and administer the program.

Under current law, DPI is required to establish a model policy for promoting third grade pupils to fourth grade that includes various components, including the requirement to provide an intensive summer reading program to certain specified pupils. School boards, operators of independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a choice program are required, by July 1, 2025, to adopt a written policy for promoting third grade pupils to fourth grade that includes the intensive summer reading program required to be in DPI's model policy.

[Bill Section: 1946]

10. SUPPORTING FUTURE EDUCATORS

GPR	\$12,862,500
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Governor: Provide \$12,862,500 beginning in 2026-27 to create three new sum-sufficient appropriations to provide stipend payments to support future educators, future librarians, and cooperating teachers that supervise those individuals, including: (a) \$9,000,000 for individuals completing a student teaching requirement as part of a DPI-approved educator preparation program; (b) \$3,800,000 for cooperating teachers overseeing student teachers; and (c) \$62,500 for individuals pursuing a master's degree in library and information science and completing an internship in a public library or school library.

Provide semester-long stipends equal to \$2,500 for student teachers and library interns, and \$1,000 for cooperating teachers involved in supervising student teachers. Specify that DPI may promulgate rules to implement and administer the programs.

[Bill Sections: 209 thru 211, 708, 1928, and 1930]

11. TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY TO LICENSURE

Governor: Require DPI to issue an initial license to teach to an individual who meets the following criteria: (a) holds a bachelor's degree; (b) successfully completes a teacher apprenticeship offered through the Department of Workforce Development (DWD); and (c) if the initial license is to teach in grades kindergarten to five, to teach in special education, or as a reading teacher or specialist, passes an examination identical to the Foundations of Reading test. Specify that the license would authorize an individual to teach the subject and educational levels for which the individual completed the apprenticeship, and would be treated in the same manner as other initial teaching licenses. Require DPI to consult with DWD in the creation of DWD's teacher apprenticeship program so that an individual who completes the program will satisfy many of the requirements to obtain a license to teach from DPI, including the requirement that an applicant receive instruction in the study of minority group relations, that an applicant demonstrate

competency related to various conflict resolution skills, and that an applicant for a license to teach reading or language arts to prekindergarten to sixth grade successfully completes instruction in science-based early reading instruction.

[Bill Sections: 1890, 1892, and 2031]

12. DELETE LAPSE OF TEACHER LICENSING FEES

	Funding	Positions
GPR-REV -	\$900,000	0.00
PR-REV	<u>900,000</u>	<u>2.00</u>
Total	\$0	2.00

Governor: Specify that all program revenue received in the appropriation for teacher licensure would be credited to the appropriation for that purpose, rather than 90% of certain revenues as under current law. This would result in an estimated decrease of GPR-Earned equal to \$450,000 annually. Additionally, provide 2.0 positions beginning in 2025-26 to support license processing. DPI indicated in its agency budget request that the retained revenue would support these positions and other operating expenses related to licensing.

Modify the appropriation to authorize the expenditure of all moneys received rather than the amounts in the schedule of appropriations as under current law.

Under current law, 90% of revenues received from fees for the licensure of school and public library personnel are retained by DPI. The remaining 10% is credited to the general fund.

[Bill Section: 189]

13. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION

GPR	\$1,500,000
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Governor: Provide \$1,000,000 in 2025-26 and \$500,000 in 2026-27 in a new continuing appropriation to support upgrades to DPI information technology systems, including the school finance dashboards, background check refractor hub, and competitive grant application system.

[Bill Section: 186]

14. EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION COACHES

GPR	\$1,200,000
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Governor: Provide \$600,000 annually for DPI to contract with cooperative educational service agencies (CESAs) to employ regional child care collaboration coaches to promote Child Find, the process of identifying, locating, and evaluating children with disabilities who may need special education or related services. Specify that the coaches would provide training and technical assistance, consultation to, and facilitate collaboration between, child care providers, operators of independent charter schools, and school boards for the purpose of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities.

[Bill Sections: 185 and 1999]

15. MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAMS

GPR	\$760,000
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Governor: Provide \$380,000 annually above base level funding of \$420,000 for mental health training programs. Require DPI to provide training to individuals employed by an out-of-school-time program, in addition to the other staff required under current law. Additionally, modify the training to be a nonexclusive list of topics and add evidence-based strategies related to addressing mental health needs and suicide prevention to the topics to be included in the trainings.

Under current law, DPI is required to provide training to school district staff and the instructional staff of independent charter schools regarding the following: (a) screening, brief interventions, and referral to treatment (SBIRT); (b) trauma sensitive schools; and (c) youth mental health first aid.

[Bill Section: 1896]

16. STAFF SUPPORT FOR STATE PROGRAMS

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$392,800	2.00

Governor: Provide \$170,600 and 2.0 positions in 2025-26 and \$222,200 in 2026-27 in the appropriation for general program operations to support career and technical education, and reductions in seclusion and restraint. The two positions would be funded with a combined total of \$98,600 salary, \$41,200 fringe benefits, and \$30,800 supplies and services in 2025-26 and \$131,400 salary, \$55,000 fringe benefits, and \$35,800 supplies and services in 2026-27.

17. ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING

GPR	\$231,600
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Governor: Provide \$18,300 in 2025-26 and \$213,300 in 2026-27 over annual base level funding of \$1,100,000 to fully fund the estimated costs of the academic and career planning program that was created in the 2013-15 budget.

Under current law, the State Superintendent is required to do the following: (a) ensure that every school board is providing academic and career planning services to pupils in grades 6-12; and (b) procure, install, and maintain information technology, including computer software, to be used statewide by school districts to provide academic and career planning services. DPI provides districts with computer software for college and career planning, and maintains contracts with each of the twelve cooperative educational service agencies (CESAs) to support academic and career planning, including subsidizing the cost of academic and career planning coordinators in each CESA. In its agency budget request, DPI indicated that carryover funding used in previous years will be exhausted in 2025-26 and annual costs associated with program software and contracts with CESAs will exceed annual base level funding.

18. GRADUATION ALLIANCE

GPR	\$6,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$3,000,000 annually in a new appropriation for Graduation Alliance, a Utah-based corporation, to support pupils and their families through a coaching program known

as Engage Wisconsin, which is designed to improve school engagement and academic performance. The program works to reengage high school students who have dropped out of school or are in danger of dropping out of school.

[Bill Sections: 216 and 1900]

19. CAREER AND TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

GPR	\$3,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$1,500,000 annually in a new appropriation for grants to career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). Require DPI to identify one CTSO in each of six educational areas (agriculture, business, technology, family and consumer science, marketing, and health science) and distribute state funding to each identified CTSO based on the number of pupils who were members of the CTSO in the previous school year. The amount for each CTSO would be determined by dividing the number of pupils who were members of that organization in the previous school year by the combined total number of pupils who were members of the six selected CTSOs, and multiplying the result by the total available funding.

Under current law, DPI must maintain a CTSO team that consist of six consultants, each of whom is assigned an educational area, including agriculture, business, technology, family and consumer sciences, marketing, and health science. Funding could be used to defray membership costs and enhance opportunities available to students participating in CTSOs.

[Bill Sections: 212, 1894, and 1895]

20. THE LITERACY LAB

GPR	\$2,217,800
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Governor: Provide \$1,092,500 in 2025-26 and \$1,125,300 in 2026-27 to The Literacy Lab, a Virginia nonstock corporation, to provide an evidence-based literacy intervention program in public schools located in the cities of Milwaukee and Racine.

[Bill Sections: 214 and 1901]

21. ADULT LITERACY GRANTS

GPR	\$1,433,600
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Governor: Provide \$716,800 annually above base level funding of \$83,200 for adult literacy grants, which are awarded to a nonprofit organization to support programs that train community-based adult literacy staff and to establish volunteer-based programs in areas of the state that have a demonstrated need for adult literacy services.

22. EDUCATORS RISING

GPR	\$500,000
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Governor: Provide \$250,000 annually to create a competitive request-for-proposal process to award a grant to an entity for the purpose of subsidizing cocurricular opportunities for public school pupils in grades six to 12 that encourage those pupils to pursue a career in teaching

elementary and secondary grades. Require that an eligible entity demonstrate that it has successfully supported cocurricular opportunities in public schools in this state to encourage pupils to pursue a career in teaching elementary and secondary grades. Create a new appropriation for the purpose of grants for local chapters of Educators Rising.

Educators Rising is an organization that encourages high school students to explore careers in education and works with partners in higher education to create education career pathways. DPI indicates that there are currently 98 chapters across Wisconsin, and funds could be used for fees for new chapters, including student membership fees and advisor stipends, conference attendance, and regional and national competitions.

[Bill Sections: 187 and 1927]

23. GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEST SUBSIDY

GPR	\$603,000
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Governor: Provide \$194,500 in 2025-26 and \$408,500 in 2026-27 in a new, sum-sufficient appropriation to subsidize testing fees for individuals taking the general educational development (GED) test beginning on January 1, 2026. Payments would be made to GED Testing Service LLC for each eligible individual who takes a content area test given under the GED test at a testing site in Wisconsin that is approved by the State Superintendent. Define an eligible individual as one who meets the following criteria before taking the test: (a) meets the eligibility requirements promulgated by DPI by rule for a high school equivalency diploma or certificate of general educational development; and (b) takes and receives a passing score on a practice test for the content area that is developed by GED Testing Service LLC. Specify that for each eligible individual, no more than one testing service fee could be paid for each content area test in a calendar year.

The GED consists of tests to measure competency in math, science, social studies, and language arts. Wisconsin administrative code requires that, to be eligible to take the GED, an individual must meet the following criteria: (a) be a resident of Wisconsin for voting purposes, or have lived in Wisconsin for at least 10 days, or be a migrant worker or the child of a migrant worker; (b) be at least 18 years six months of age, or have entered 9th grade with a class that has graduated from high school; (c) have not graduated from high school, and are not enrolled in a public or private high school; and (d) have completed a career counseling session provided by a high school, technical college district, community-based organization, college, university, licensed psychologist, or licensed school counselor. In 2023, Wisconsin residents took 15,155 GED tests. Each of the four sections of the test costs \$39.75. Of that amount, DPI receives a credentialing fee of \$3.75 per test.

[Bill Sections: 188 and 1897]

24. SPECIAL OLYMPICS WISCONSIN

GPR	\$600,000
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Governor: Provide \$300,000 annually above base level funding of \$200,000 for Special Olympics Wisconsin.

25. FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

GPR	\$500,000
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Governor: Provide \$250,000 annually in a new appropriation to provide matching funds for the Farm to School federal grant program, which promotes the use of locally and regionally grown foods in schools.

[Bill Section: 184]

26. MENTOR GREATER MILWAUKEE

GPR	\$300,000
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Governor: Provide \$150,000 annually in a new biennial appropriation for Mentor Greater Milwaukee, Inc. to expand access to quality youth mentoring in Milwaukee County.

[Bill Sections: 217 and 1899]

27. ARTS FOR ALL

GPR	\$200,000
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Governor: Provide \$100,000 annually above base level funding of \$100,000 for Very Special Arts, which is a statewide arts organization that serves children and adults with disabilities. Additionally, rename the appropriation to Arts for All to reflect the organization's legal name change.

[Bill Section: 213]

28. PROGRAM REVENUE REESTIMATES

PR	\$894,400
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Governor: Reestimate program revenue by \$447,200 annually. The reestimate includes \$514,300 annually in the appropriation for data processing; -\$6,300 annually in the appropriation for professional services center charges; -\$8,100 annually in the appropriation for the state agency library processing center; and -\$52,700 annually in the appropriation for publications.

29. PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AID

SEG	\$6,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$2,000,000 in 2025-26 and \$4,000,000 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$24,013,100 for public library system aid. The segregated revenue is provided from the state universal service fund, which receives its funding through assessments on annual gross operating revenues from intrastate telecommunications providers.

30. LIBRARY SERVICE CONTRACTS

SEG	\$1,285,800
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Governor: Provide \$619,200 in 2025-26 and \$666,600 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$1,397,500 to fully fund the cost of statutorily-required library service contracts for resources of specialized library materials and other information.

DPI contracts with five service providers: (a) the Milwaukee Public Library; (b) the University of Wisconsin-Madison; (c) the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library; (d) the Cooperative Children's Book Center; and (e) AutoGraphics. DPI indicates that projected costs for each of the contracts will increase over the biennium due to general operating cost increases, and insufficient funding would result in a cap on the amount of material that can be requested from the Milwaukee Public Library and the UW Madison library. The segregated revenue is provided from the state universal service fund, which receives its funding through assessments on annual gross operating revenues from intrastate telecommunications providers.

31. BADGERLINK AND NEWSLINE FOR THE BLIND

SEG	\$96,600
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Governor: Provide \$96,600 in 2026-27 above base level funding of \$3,486,300 to increase funding for the contracts with current BadgerLink vendors and to maintain the current level of services through Newsline for the Blind.

BadgerLink is an online library that contracts with vendors to provide access to licensed content such as magazines, newspapers, scholarly articles, videos, images, and music. Newsline for the Blind provides access to newspapers on a daily basis for people who cannot read print newspapers via an automated electronic voice that can be accessed using a telephone. The segregated revenue is provided from the state universal service fund, which receives its funding through assessments on annual gross operating revenues from intrastate telecommunications providers.