

During public hearings, the Commission heard testimony regarding the cost of providing an appropriate education for gifted and talented pupils.

State statute defines gifted and talented pupils as "pupils enrolled in public schools who give evidence of high performance capability in intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership, or specific academic areas and who need services or activities not ordinarily provided in a regular school program in order to fully develop such capabilities." State law requires school districts to ensure that such pupils have access to a gifted and talented program. In its 2019-21 agency request document, DPI estimates that students with exceptional intellectual ability represent approximately 5% of pupils in the state, or 43,000 pupils.

Aid to support programming for gifted and talented pupils is provided in the form of competitive grants, which may be awarded to nonprofit organizations, CESAs, institutions within the University of Wisconsin System, and school districts, either individually or as collaborative projects. In 2018-19, \$237,200 GPR is appropriated for the program. (Prior to 2017-18, Milwaukee Public Schools was the only district eligible to receive funding under the grants. Under 2017 Act 59, eligibility was expanded to include other districts. However, no additional funding was provided.)

ALTERNATIVES

1. Recommend providing an additional \$2.5 million GPR for the grants annually.

ALT 1	2019-20	2020-21
GPR	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

2. Recommend providing an additional \$1 million GPR for the grants annually.

ALT 2	2019-20	2020-21
GPR	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

3. Recommend providing an additional \$500,000 GPR for the grants annually.

ALT 3	2019-20	2020-21
GPR	\$500,000	\$500,000