



School Administrators Alliance

Representing the Interests of Wisconsin School Children

2025-27 Biennial Budget Provisions for K-12 Schools

Please note a complete summary including programs administered by other state agencies (DWD, HEAB, etc) is forthcoming. DPI will release an official summary of all budget action.

Revenue Limits

- Per Pupil Adjustment: \$325 in FY26 / \$325 in FY27
- Low Revenue Ceiling: remains at \$11,000.

General / Equalization Aid

- No change (\$0/\$0) – current appropriation is \$5,581,190,000 annually

Categorical Aids

- Special Education Aid: provides \$504.7 million over the biennium designed to reach a reimbursement rate of 42% in FY26 & 45% in FY27. (Reimbursement rate for 2024-25 is 30.6%).
- High-Cost Special Education Aid: \$54.6 million over the biennium, reimbursement rate of 50% in FY26 and 90% in FY27. (Reimbursement rate for 2024-25 was estimated at 25.9%).
- Mental Health – School Based Services: net impact of the JCF motion is to provide the same amount of funding over the 2025-27 biennium as was for 2023-25 (\$50 million total), but it is distributed differently: \$40 million in year one and \$10 million in year two. The biennial budget will again be at only \$10 million for the 2027-29 biennial budget.
- Sparsity Aid: \$2 million over the biennium to fully fund aid eligibility under current law.
- Transportation Aids – the following changes were made to aid program eligibility, but funding levels were not changed:
 - Pupil Transportation Aid: the per pupil payment for pupils transported 12+ miles to & from school is increased, from \$400 to \$450; first effective for aid distributed in FY26.
 - High-Cost Transportation Aid: eligibility criterion for aid is changed from 140% to 135% of the statewide average transportation cost per pupil (districts are reimbursed for the costs above the threshold); first effective aid distributed in FY26.

- Robotics League Participation Grants: increase by \$250,000 each year (raise funding from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 in each year)

Early Literacy

- Early Literacy Grants: provides \$37.1 million in FY26, for reimbursements to schools to offset the costs of purchasing allowable literacy curriculum and for professional development training in literacy required under 2023 Act 20. Due to the biennial nature of the appropriation, unexpended monies at the end of FY26 would carry forward to FY27, and when FY27 closes, any unexpended monies would lapse to the state's general fund. The FY27 base going into the 2027-29 biennium is \$0.
- Early Literacy Diagnostic Assessment Aid: provides \$1.45 million annually to reimburse school districts for costs associated with administering diagnostic assessments of early literacy skills, as required under 2023 Act 20.
- Office of Literacy: move the GPR position authority and funding for the Office from DPI's main general program operations appropriation to the appropriation for the Early Literacy Coaching Program.

On June 27, 2025, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) used its authority under Wis. Stat. sec. 13.10 to release \$9 million for DPI's Early Literacy Coaching program. Because this is a continuing appropriation, any unspent funds at the end of each fiscal year will carry over to the next. The funds released at the end of FY25 will automatically carry over into FY26; however, the FY27 base for the 2027–29 biennium is set at \$0.

Public School Open Enrollment

Public school open enrollment: the transfer amount will increase by the per pupil adjustment amount and an additional \$500 in FY26 and FY27.

- This raises the full-time OE transfer amount significantly, from \$8,962 in FY25, to \$10,102 in FY26, and then to \$11,030 in FY27

Estimated Per Pupil Payments	FY 25 (Base)	FY 26	FY27
Open Enrollment	8,962	10,102	11,030
Open Enrollment (SPED)	13,814	14,454	14,882

(FY27 estimate based on projected FY26 revenue limit members by DPI)

Independent Charter Schools, Private School Choice Programs, and Special Needs Scholarship Program

- Increase to the per pupil payments for these programs +\$640 in FY26 and +\$428 in FY27

Estimated Per Pupil Payments	FY 25 (Base)	FY 26	FY27
Independent Charter Schools	11,729	12,369	12,797
Choice (K-8)	10,237	10,877	11,305
Choice (9-12)	12,731	13,371	13,799
SNSP (full scholarship)	15,409	16,049	16,477

Aids to Individuals & Organizations

- Holocaust Education Resource Center: increase of \$300,000 annually.
- Recovery High Schools: increase of \$250,000 in each year, provided on a one-time basis.
- Wisconsin Reading Core: increase of \$250,000 in each year.