



2017 Wisconsin Budget Address K-12 Fact Sheet

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“We are putting more money into education than ever before in the history of Wisconsin.”

- Source: (Budget In Brief)

“We are putting \$11.5 billion of state support for K-12 education.”

- The Governor’s budget will invest \$11.5 billion in public education, the highest amount in state history. (Budget in Brief)

“Specifically, this budget includes a more than half-billion dollar increase in per-pupil aid for public education.”

- The Governor’s budget will increase the per-pupil categorical aid by \$509.2 million over the budget. (Budget in Brief)
- This represents an increase of \$200 per pupil in the first year of the biennium and \$204 in the second year of the biennium. (Budget in Brief)

“In November, the state Department of Public Instruction requested an increase of \$200 per student in the first year and a \$204 increase per student in the second year.” (DPI Budget)

“At the time, some suggested that we could not get close to that request. Well, this budget provides a \$200 per student increase in the first year and a \$204 increase per student in the second year.” (Budget in Brief)

“Because of our Act 10 reforms, these significant new dollars for education will overwhelmingly go into the classroom.”

- The Governor’s budget will require that employees of the school district will be required to pay at least 12 percent of all costs and payments associated with employee health care coverage plans in that school year in order to receive the Per Pupil Increase. (Source: Budget in Brief)

“In the past, our reforms allowed schools districts to achieve substantial savings.”

- According to the analysis by the MacIver Institute, Governor Walker’s Act 10 reforms have saved local governments, including school districts, over \$2.2 billion. (Brett Healy, [Act 10 Saves Wisconsin Taxpayers More Than \\$5 Billion Over 5 Years](#), [MacIver Analysis Finds](#), 2/11/17.)

“We put more into rural schools with unique needs.” (“Every Student Matters: Rural-K-12 Schools Win Big In Governor Walker’s Budget Proposal,” [Office of the Governor](#), 2/1/2017)

- **Increase Sparsity Aid by \$20 million.** Governor Walker’s budget increases Sparsity Aid by \$20 million (\$12.3 million more than DPI requested). This makes for



2017 Wisconsin Budget Address K-12 Fact Sheet

a total investment in Sparsity Aid of \$55.4 million over the two-year budget. Governor Walker's budget will also increase the per-pupil reimbursement rate for districts that previously qualified for Sparsity Aid to \$400 per pupil. Sparsity Aid is for small rural districts that have less than 745 pupils and a population density of less than 10 pupils per square mile of district attendance. As an example, these are flexible funds that can assist in retention and recruitment of teachers in our rural districts.

- **Expand Sparsity Aid.** Governor Walker's budget will create a new \$100 per pupil tier of Sparsity Aid funding for districts with 746-1000 pupils. This buffer will provide more stability for school districts that fall just outside the 745 pupil requirement.
- **Provide 100% reimbursement for rural school districts in the High-Cost Transportation Aid program by investing \$25.4 million over the two-year budget. This is an increase of \$10.4 million over the last budget.** Created in the 2013-15 State Budget, High-Cost Transportation Aid provides additional transportation funding to school districts with a density of 50 pupils per square mile or less and per pupil transportation costs totaling more than 150% of the state average. The 2015-16 reimbursement rate was prorated at roughly is 60%.
- **Fully fund DPI's request for Pupil Transportation Aid.** Governor Walker's budget will provide \$92,000 over the two-year budget for pupil transportation and increase reimbursement rates for pupil transportation to \$365 for 12+ miles (currently this is \$300 per pupil), \$10 for 2-5 miles in summer school, (currently this is \$4 per pupil), and \$20 for 5+ miles in summer school (currently this is \$6 per pupil).
- **Increase funding for the Infrastructure Grant Program through Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) by \$22.5 million.** This will allow more school districts to apply for grants for allowable costs under the Infrastructure Grant Program. Allowable costs include reimbursing eligible school districts for improving information technology infrastructure.
 - The Teacher Training Grant Program will continue to be funded at \$3 million over the biennium, or \$1.5 million per year. This will allow more school districts to apply for grants for allowable costs of training teachers to use educational technology.
 - The budget also will include a provision to allow districts to apply for TEACH grant funding for mobile hot spots on buses and mobile hot spots for students to take home. Access to high-speed internet is particularly challenging in rural areas. When combined with school laptop computers, taking mobile hot spots home allows students online access outside school



2017 Wisconsin Budget Address K-12 Fact Sheet

hours for homework. **The hot spots can only be used for homework, and entertainment sites such as Netflix are blocked.** Wisconsin ranks third among all 50 states for use of mobile hot spots in schools, behind just California and Texas. 15 school districts in Wisconsin currently allow students to check out mobile hot spots to take the internet home. (Rick Barrett, "Schools Lend Out Mobile Hotspots To Get All Students Online," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 4/10/2016)

- **Increase the Broadband Expansion Grant Program by an estimated \$13 million.** Access to fast and reliable high-speed internet remains out of reach for too many Wisconsin families and communities, and this continued state investment will help connect more rural communities.

"We do more to improve schools in Milwaukee."

- Within the Milwaukee Public School district, 42 schools, which accounts for almost one-third of the district's students, are failing to meet expectations on the most recent school report card. To best address the needs of these students, Governor Walker's budget proposal provides \$5.6 million in fiscal year 2018-19 to incentivize improvement through a performance-based funding program made available to public, charter, and choice schools in the Milwaukee Public School district.
- \$500,000 for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Families and Schools Together (FAST) Mental Health Initiative in Milwaukee schools. Governor Walker's budget will provide \$250,000 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding in each fiscal year to support FAST, an evidence-based prevention and early intervention program connecting families, schools, and communities of young students in certain Milwaukee schools. This will enhance family functioning and prevent abuse, delinquency, and maltreatment issues at home.
- \$2.8 million for Milwaukee Public Schools Summer School grants. Students who attend summer school have the opportunity to take courses they might not otherwise have the chance to take during the traditional school year, which sets them up for further academic success. Governor Walker's budget proposal invests \$1.4 million per year for grants to schools in the Milwaukee Public School district with plans to increase student achievement in summer school programs. (Budget in Brief)

"We do more to expand programs that help students get early college credits."

- The budget will create an Early College Credit program. This program combines Youth Options and Course Options to create a more flexible program for students to gain college credit before leaving high school. The budget will provide \$2.9 million in funding to help offset the costs of the program for students, school districts, and colleges. (Budget in Brief)

"We do more to expand career and technical education."



2017 Wisconsin Budget Address K-12 Fact Sheet

- **The Governor’s Budget Will Double The State’s Investment In Fab Labs.** Governor Walker’s budget will require the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to allocate \$1 million total over the two-year budget for the Fabrication Laboratories Grant Program. The program supports hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math education by helping public school districts with equipment purchases used for instructional and educational purposes in fabrication laboratories. (“Every Student Matters: Rural-K-12 Schools Win Big In Governor Walker’s Budget Proposal,” [Office of the Governor](#), 2/1/2017)
- The Governor’s budget will increase state support to the Technical College System by \$10 million. (Budget in Brief)
- The Governor’s budget will provide \$5 million in Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant Funding to allow Technical Colleges to partner with business and the Department of Workforce Development to provide training in high demand fields. (Budget in Brief)

“We do more to help recruit and retain excellent teachers.” (“Every Student Matters: Rural-K-12 Schools Win Big In Governor Walker’s Budget Proposal,” [Office of the Governor](#), 2/1/2017)

- **Governor Walker’s budget will include a provision that requires the UW Flex Option to develop a program to train paraprofessionals currently working in schools (such as teacher’s aides) to become full-time teachers.** Wisconsin Fast Forward grant funding may be made available to allow districts to seek grants to help pay for tuition for paraprofessionals getting training to become teachers. The budget will also clarify state law to permit a district to compensate student teachers. Districts are not currently barred from doing so, but districts report uncertainty about paying student teachers.

“In addition to providing major new funding for our public schools, we do more to help charter and choice schools.”

- Consistent with 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, Choice and Charter payments per pupil payments will be increased by an amount proportionate to the increased categorical aid and revenue limit increases received by traditional public schools. For 2017-19, this means that Choice and Charter per-pupil payments will increase by \$217 in each year of the biennium. (Budget In Brief)

“We continue funding for Academic and Career plans, to help students start taking courses that count for graduation and whatever option they choose after school.”

- The Governor’s 2017-19 will provide \$1.1 million in funding for Academic and Career Planning. (Budget in Brief)

“The Commission on the Future of the Family reminded us to focus early and often on the “Success Sequence.” It is simple: graduate from school, get a job and wait until



2017 Wisconsin Budget Address K-12 Fact Sheet

you're 21 and married to have a child. Research shows that those who do so are overwhelmingly more likely to succeed.”

- The success sequence is “at least finish high school, get a full-time job and wait until age 21 to get married and have children...research shows that of American adults who followed these three simple rules, only about 2 percent are in poverty and nearly 75 percent have joined the middle class (defined as earning around \$55,000 or more per year).” ([Brookings Institution](#), “Three Simple Rules Poor Teens Should Follow to Join the Middle Class,” 3/13/2013)

“We are going to incorporate it into the Academic and Career Plans that start this year in school districts across the state.”

- The Governor’s Budget will incorporate the Success Sequence into the Academic and Career Planning program to provide students with a more robust understanding of the long-term, financial implications of the order in which key life decisions are made. (Budget in Brief)

“Accountable government also means investing resources where they are needed. That's why we are expanding broadband internet services to every part of the state.”

- The budget will continue and expand broadband funding and access through transfers in cash balances and statutory changes to the Public Service Commission, and the Department of Administration Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) Program, for a total \$30.5 million in fiscal year 2017-18, an estimated \$10 million in fiscal year 2018-19 and an estimated \$40.5 million for broadband programs over the biennium. This represents an increase of \$34.5 million for broadband programs over the biennium.
- **TEACH Program:**
 - The budget extends the TEACH infrastructure grant sunset date to July 1, 2019, and transfers \$7.5 million from the E-rate cash balance in fiscal year 2017-18 for an additional \$22.5 million over the biennium for improving information technology infrastructure. This is in addition to the \$1.5 million already allocated each year for teacher training grants under current law.
 - Bus and mobile hotspot devices will be allowed as eligible infrastructure expenses.
 - Expands the eligibility ratio from 1:13 to 1:26 in fiscal year 2017-18 in order to reach more school districts.
 - Will also consolidate TEACH appropriations to fully utilize funds. (Budget in Brief)



2017 Wisconsin Budget Address
K-12 Fact Sheet

Total Estimated Broadband Spending			
Program	FY18	FY19	Biennium
TEACH Infrastructure grants and Teacher Training grants for school districts	\$16,500,000	\$9,000,000	\$25,500,000
PSC grants (for telecommunications utilities, political subdivisions, or for profit or not for profit organizations)	\$14,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$15,000,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$30,500,000	\$10,000,000	\$40,500,000