



OUR KIDS CAN'T WAIT

**Stop Starving Schools,
Start Funding Futures**



Did you know...

Since 2020, the Madison Public Schools Foundation has acted as the referenda hub for the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD). Through our Vote Yes 2 Invest and Strong Schools, Strong Community campaigns, we have helped secure \$957 million in resources for our local public schools. These efforts have formed the bedrock of what is now the Foundation's advocacy arm, Schools Make Madison

Advocates. We are committed to solidifying our role as one of the leading voices for Madison's public schools. Despite the influx of these critical resources to MMSD, our work is not done. Our schools continue to face the effects of three decades of public K12 disinvestment within the state. This trend, and the ongoing economic hardship many families within the district face, shape our advocacy priorities.

Help ensure our students have the in-school support they deserve.





Advocacy Priorities

Schools Make Madison Advocates is dedicated to addressing the most pressing issues facing our public schools:

- Wisconsin State Budget –**
 The Department of Public Instruction’s 2025-27 budget request proposes significant investments in the state’s schools. We will urge the legislature to pass this critically needed funding; with particular emphasis on increasing the special education reimbursement rate to at least 90%, the Bilingual-Bicultural education program aid to 30%, and adjusting revenue limits to inflation. Closing these funding gaps will help ensure that all students receive an equally excellent public education.
- Students’ Basic Needs –** Students’ learning ability is hindered when their basic needs are not met. More than 1,300 MMSD students were identified as being homeless at some point last year. This creates barriers to school enrollment and achievement. Issues surrounding student mental health, hunger, and school nutrition also are of concern. Further investments for students and their families are critical to our children’s educational success.
- Attraction and Retention of Staff –**
 In recent years, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns over the teaching workforce have been rising. Increased turnover impacts both costs to districts and can affect outcomes for students and schools. Priorities need to be aligned to attract and retain school staff to help ensure our students have the in-school support they deserve.
- Tax Transparency –** We believe that there should be transparency in the way that public dollars are used to fund K-12 education within the state and the impact of their use on local taxpayers. We have been strong supporters of including information that details school allocations on Madison’s property tax bill inserts. Improving transparency in the use of public dollars will help inform local and state decision-making through rigorous public debate.

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Questions?

Visit schoolsmakemadison.org/get-involved/advocacy or contact Caleb Kulinski, Advocacy Coordinator: ckulinski@schoolsmakemadison.org

Support Our Advocacy Efforts

Make a gift at schoolsmakemadison.org/donate.

