

Take Action to Support Wisconsin Students



Did you know...

The state started the last budget cycle with a \$7 billion surplus and ended Fiscal Year 2024 with a surplus of more than \$4 billion. This happened while:

- Wisconsin's per-pupil funding hasn't kept up with inflation for 15 years.
- Public schools are reimbursed for around 31% of special education costs.
- 190 school districts statewide went to referendum to make ends meet in 2024 alone.

What can we do?

Contact our legislators to demand adequate, predictable, and fair state funding for our public schools.

Postcard Instructions:

- Grab 2 postcards and identify your Assembly Representative and State Senator using legis.wisconsin.gov to find their name if you are not sure.
- Use the scripts on the other side for inspiration as you write one postcard each to your Assembly Representative and your Senator.
- Be sure to sign your full name and address to prove you're a constituent.
- Drop off your postcards at the Madison Public Schools Foundation at 2005 West Beltline Hwy, Suite 203 or send them directly to your legislators' offices. Office information and addresses can also be found at legis.wisconsin.gov.
- Multiply your impact: Submit your comments to the Joint Finance Committee and the Governor's office using the QR codes on the right. Encourage others that you know to share their stories as well!

Suggested Postcard Scripts: *(feel free to personalize!)*

Option 1:

Dear [Representative NAME or Senator NAME],
As the state budget process advances, I'm counting on you to advocate for increased funding for our public schools – specifically, 90% reimbursement for special ed and linking revenue limits to inflation to address Wisconsin's school funding crisis. Public education matters to me because [Insert personal reason here – e.g., a passion for students, the need for smaller class sizes, etc.].
Sincerely,
[Your Name] [Your Street Address]

Option 2:

Dear [Representative NAME or Senator NAME],
You have the power to help solve Wisconsin's public school funding crisis. Please support a fair budget that helps meet the needs of our kids – specifically, 90% reimbursement for special ed and linking revenue limits to inflation. Communities shouldn't have to go to referendum just so schools can make ends meet. This is important to me because [Insert personal reason here – e.g., a passion for students, the need for smaller class sizes, etc.].
Sincerely,
[Your Name] [Your Street Address]

Other Budget Items to Consider:

- Count students who attend a full-day, full-week 4K program as 1.0 FTE
- Increase the state reimbursement rate for Bilingual-Bicultural (BLBC) education program state aid to 30%
- \$22 million for early literacy coaches, and to provide required professional development training, as part of implementing 2023 Act 20
- \$46.8 million to support DPI's proposed future educator stipend programs
- \$5 million for a competitive grant program to reimburse districts' costs related to "Grow Your Own" initiatives and programs that would help build the educator workforce in Wisconsin
- \$44.8 million for a new categorical aid program designed to expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses and career pathway offerings for students
- \$167.7 million increase for the school-based mental health service grant program that would expand the capacity to offer support and resources to students and families
- \$20 million for a new grant program to support the expansion of out-of-school time programs offered by local educational agencies & community-based organizations
- \$147.7 million to ensure free school meals for all students in schools
- \$3 million for the School Breakfast Program (SBP), to fully fund the statutory rate of 15.0 cents for each breakfast served

Amplify Your Voice:



Share your comments with the Joint Finance Committee

- Send an email to:
budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Submit them through their public comment website. Scan the QR code below:



Scan the QR code below to tell Governor Evers to do what is right by our kids and sign a budget that provides the support they deserve



SCHOOLS MAKE MADISON
ADVOCATES

Schools Make Madison Advocates, Inc. is the 501c4 affiliate of the Madison Public Schools Foundation.