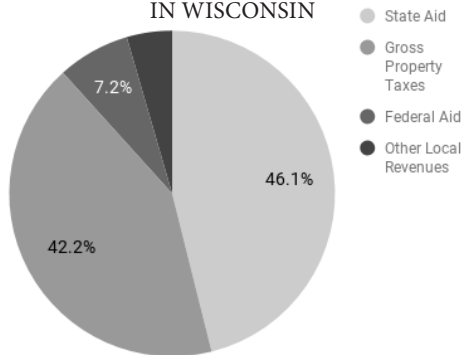


Gov. Evers' Education Budget

TOP LEVEL MESSAGING:

- Our kids deserve the best. Our schools need investment and consistent funding
- 73% of Wisconsinites across party lines support a majority increase in special education funding, including 62% of Republicans
- No one testified against the expansion, and dozens of parents, school officials and teachers advocating for increased funding across the state. It was one of the biggest issues testified on at the hearings and discussed at the listening sessions.

FY 16/ FY 17 SOURCES OF SCHOOL FUNDING IN WISCONSIN



General Aid

200/204 levy increase

Restoring 2/3 funding to the public school system

Allowing funding for full day 4K students

Encorporating an extra weighting for a child who takes advantage of free and reduced lunch programs

Categorical Funding

600M for Special Education

Earmarked funding for English Language Learners

WHY IS SPECIAL ED FUNDING SO IMPORTANT? - MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

The Individuals with Disabilities Education act requires states and districts to meet the previous year's funding levels for special education.

Under IDEA, districts can meet the funding levels using local funds or a combination of state and local funds

If the state funding levels stay the same or decrease, districts must make up the additional dollars to provide for their special education students through taking from other areas of the budget. This impacts every child and every school district in WI.

OTHER CRITICAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

- Fully funding the school breakfast program
- 22 million in reimbursement dollars for school mental health services like counselors, psychiatrists
- Freeze on vouchers and charter schools - this allows for these schools to get teachers licensed and for the state to better monitor the three wildly different voucher programs currently in use to ensure all students are getting a quality education
- Eliminates the cap on referenda in a calendar year
- Additional funding for multicultural education, gifted and talented programming, driver's education and more

TAKE ACTION

- Focus on stories. Make a video, activate parents and teachers in your district and nearby districts to make sure they are getting the word out on this at this critical point.
- Hold Republicans accountable: Messaging on the Blue Ribbon commission, find pro-education comments from campaign season or reference education legislation to show their opposition is purely political