

State Announces K-12 Priorities for 2023-25 Budget

Written by GOV Press Wisconsin

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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/teaching-students-s435.jpg>



Projected \$5 billion surplus allows for increased investments in K-12 education without increasing property taxes.

MILWAUKEE — With kids, parents, educators, staff, and administrators across Wisconsin beginning the new school year, Gov. Tony Evers, together with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly, today welcomed Wisconsinites back to school by announcing their shared priorities for the 2023-25 K-12 education budget.

After joining Milwaukee Public Schools to kick off the first day of school, Gov. Evers and Superintendent Underly released key provisions of their education plan as part of Gov. Evers' executive budget to be announced early next year. The plan includes investments to improve reading and literacy outcomes, expand access to student mental health services and school nutrition, invest in financial literacy and out-of-school programming, address the staffing shortages to help keep class sizes small, and increase per pupil and special education aids while holding the line on property taxes. The state is expecting to end the fiscal year with more than \$5 billion in its coffers, ensuring the state can support new, increased investments in K-12 education without raising property taxes.

The announcement today to provide ongoing investments in K-12 education comes as last week, Gov. Evers announced a \$90 million investment into K-12 education across the state, including \$15 million to double the governor's "Get Kids Ahead" initiative to provide mental health services in K-12 schools across Wisconsin, as well as \$75 million designed to give

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districts flexibility to meet staffing needs, keep classroom sizes small, and provide other direct classroom support.



“Budgets are about priorities, and that’s why building our biennial budget always begins for me with doing what’s best for our kids, and we know our kids, families, and schools need our help now more than ever to get caught up, get more educators and staff in our classrooms, and ensure every kid has the support and resources they need to be successful,” Gov. Evers said. “Whether it’s helping make sure our kids can access mental health services and healthy meals, improving reading outcomes and investing in financial literacy and out-of-school programming to make sure our kids are prepared for their future, or making sure our schools are fully funded and can meet staffing needs to keep our class sizes small, investing in education will pay dividends for our state’s future. And with a projected \$5 billion surplus, we also know we can make meaningful investments in our kids and our schools without having to raise property taxes across our state. I’m grateful for Superintendent Underly’s partnership and leadership working together to develop key, shared priorities for our kids and our schools that I’ll be introducing as part of my biennial budget next year.”



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