

# **Education**

**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

**1. AID TO HIGH POVERTY DISTRICTS**

<b>Chg. to JFC</b>	
GPR	\$21,000,000

Provide \$9,000,000 in 2007-08 and \$12,000,000 in 2008-09 and create a new, annual appropriation for aid to eligible school districts. Specify that a school district would be eligible for aid under the program if, in the October, 2006, pupil counts reported for the National School Lunch Program, at least 50%, after rounding to the nearest whole percentage point, of the district's enrollment was eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Aid per pupil in 2007-08 and 2008-09 would be calculated by dividing the appropriated amount by the total number of pupils enrolled in all eligible districts and multiplying that amount by each district's number of pupils enrolled. It is estimated that 23 districts would be eligible for this aid, with total enrollments of approximately 111,900 pupils.

In 2009-10 and thereafter, a school district would be eligible for aid if, in the October preceding each biennium, the number of pupils eligible for free or reduced-price lunch divided by the district's enrollment for the third Friday in September pupil count is equal to at least 50%, after rounding to the nearest whole percentage point. Provide that an eligible school district's aid entitlement would be calculated by dividing the total appropriation amount by the third Friday in September enrollment of all eligible school districts in the current fiscal year. Specify that this per pupil amount would be increased by a percentage adjustment equal to the percentage increase in general school aids in the current fiscal year plus the percentage increase in state personal income in the prior calendar year. Provide that for each school district, this adjusted per pupil amount would be multiplied by its third Friday in September enrollment in the current fiscal year in order to calculate its aid entitlement in the current year. Specify that the aid entitlement for each eligible district could not be less than its aid entitlement in the prior year. Provide that DPI could prorate these payments if school district aid entitlements would exceed available funding.

For all school districts except Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), specify that this aid would be subject to revenue limits. For MPS, require that the school property tax levied for the purpose of offsetting the aid reduction attributable to the Milwaukee parental choice program would be reduced by the amount of this aid received by MPS. In either case, the effect of this aid would be to reduce the school property tax levy of the eligible school district.

**2. MILWAUKEE PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM FUNDING SPLIT**

	<b>Chg. to JFC</b>
GPR	\$0
MPS Aid	
Reduction	<u>21,012,300</u>
Net GPR	- \$21,012,300

Delete the provision modifying the funding split for the Milwaukee parental choice program. Under the substitute amendment, beginning with the 2007-08 school year, for the first 15,000 pupils attending a school in the program, the state would fund 55% of the cost of choice payments, while general school aids to the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) would be reduced by an amount equal to 45% of the cost (the current law split for the program). For all pupils above 15,000 attending a school in the program, the state would fund all of the cost of choice payments. Deleting this provision would increase the MPS aid reduction and the MPS choice levy by \$8,923,500 in 2007-08 and \$12,088,800 in 2008-09. Net state general fund expenditures related to the choice program would decrease by those amounts in each year.

**3. AID TO SMALL RURAL DISTRICTS**

	<b>Chg. to JFC</b>
GPR	\$7,289,200

Provide \$3,644,600 annually and create a new categorical aid program for school districts that meet the following criteria: (a) an enrollment in the prior year of less than 725 pupils; (b) population density of less than 10 pupils per square mile of district attendance area; and (c) at least 20% of pupils qualify for free or reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch Program. Provide that, for districts with at least 50% of pupils qualifying for free or reduced price lunch, aid would equal \$300 per pupil enrolled. For districts with fewer than 50% of pupils qualifying for free or reduced price lunch, aid would equal \$150 per pupil enrolled. Specify that the Department of Public Instruction could prorate these payments if funding would be insufficient to fully fund the program in a given year.

**4. ADDITIONAL SAGE FUNDING**

	<b>Chg. to JFC</b>
GPR	\$6,058,400

Provide an additional \$3,029,200 annually to fully fund a reestimate of the amount needed for the \$2,250 per payment under the student achievement guarantee in education program.

**5. GRANTS FOR NURSING SERVICES**

	<b>Chg. to JFC</b>
GPR	\$500,000

Provide \$250,000 annually and create a new annual appropriation for grants to school districts for nursing services. Provide that the State Superintendent would award grants to school districts, other than Milwaukee Public Schools, to employ additional school nurses or contract for additional nursing services. Grants would be awarded to those school districts that demonstrate the greatest need for nursing services based upon criteria such as the ratio of pupils in nurses, the rate of chronic health problems among pupils, and the number of pupils from low-income families. Provide that a school district receiving a grant could not use the money to supplant existing nursing staff or services. Require that each school district receiving a grant would submit a report to DPI describing how

the district used the grant money and its effectiveness in providing additional nursing services to pupils who need such services.

#### **6. DECLINING ENROLLMENT ADJUSTMENT**

Specify that, in addition to the 100% declining enrollment adjustment in the substitute amendment that would be received by a district in the first year of an enrollment decline: (a) in the year after the decline, a district would receive a nonrecurring adjustment equal to 75% of the first-year adjustment, and (b) in the second year after the decline, a district would receive a nonrecurring adjustment equal to 50% of the first-year adjustment.

Under current law, if a school district's current year three-year rolling average pupil enrollment is less than the prior year three-year rolling average, the district receives a one-year nonrecurring adjustment to its revenue limit in a dollar amount equal to 75% of what the decline in the three-year rolling average memberships would have generated. The substitute amendment would increase the adjustment to 100%, beginning in the 2007-08 school year. Under these provisions, the second-year 75% adjustment would first apply in the 2008-09 school year, while the third-year 50% adjustment would first apply in the 2009-10 school year.

#### **7. REVENUE LIMIT INCREASE FOR SCHOOL SAFETY EXPENDITURES**

Delete the provisions in the substitute amendment relating to the school safety adjustment to revenue limits. Instead, provide a revenue limit increase, beginning in 2007-08, equal to \$100 per pupil or \$40,000, whichever is greater, to purchase school safety equipment or fund compensation costs for security officers. Specify that, to utilize the adjustment, a district must jointly develop a plan with a local law enforcement agency for the use of the funding. Define "local law enforcement agency" to mean a governmental unit of one or more persons employed full time by a city, town, village, or county in the state for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime and enforcing state laws or local ordinances, employees of which unit are authorized to make arrests for crimes while acting within the scope of their authority. Specify that revenue generated by the adjustment may only be utilized to implement the plan. Require the district to submit the plan to DPI. Specify that revenue from the adjustment is nonrecurring.

#### **8. REVENUE LIMIT INCREASE FOR SCHOOL NURSE COMPENSATION COSTS**

Provide a revenue limit increase for the salary and fringe benefit costs of school nurses employed by a school district, beginning in the 2007-08 school year. Specify that revenue from the adjustment is nonrecurring.

#### **9. REPEAL QEO PROVISIONS**

Restore the Governor's recommendation that would repeal the qualified economic offer

provisions for represented teaching employees and, instead, cover school district employers and their represented teaching employees under the statutory interest arbitration procedures currently applicable to all other represented, nonprotective municipal employees in the state. This item was deleted as policy under the Joint Finance Committee's version of the budget.

**10. SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING**

	Chg. to JFC
GPR	\$3,500,000

Provide \$1,750,000 annually and create a new special education appropriation for supplemental special education aid to school districts that meet the following criteria: (a) per pupil revenue limit authority in the prior year was below the statewide average; (b) special education expenditures as a percentage of total district expenditures were above 16.0% in the prior year; and (c) membership in the prior year was less than 2,000 pupils. Also, require that a district could receive either the new additional special education aid or the current law high cost special education aid program in a given year, but not both. Provide that in 2007-08, each qualifying district would receive equal grants, set at a level that would fully distribute the funding. Provide that in 2008-09 and thereafter, aid would be distributed proportionally among eligible districts based on their total special education expenditures in the prior year. Require that aid to any one district could not be less than \$50,000, nor more than \$150,000 or 50% of their total special education expenditures, whichever is less.

**11. SCHOOL LIBRARY AID**

Require that, if school library aid is used to purchase computers and software, then they must be housed in the school library. Delete the proposed requirement that such purchases be approved by the school district's person who supervises the school district's libraries. Instead, specify that the district would be required to consult with that person on such purchases.

**12. BELMONT SCHOOL LIBRARY**

	Chg. to JFC
GPR	\$18,000

Provide \$18,000 in 2007-08 to the Belmont Community School District for its school library.

**13. WIND ELECTRICITY GENERATORS**

Restore the Governor's provision that would specify that a school board could construct or acquire, borrow funds to construct or acquire, operate, and maintain a wind electricity generation facility, and use or sell the energy generated by the facility, if the school board's share of the installed capacity of the facility does not exceed five megawatts and the school board incorporates information about the facility in its curriculum. This provision was deleted from the bill as policy by the Joint Committee on Finance.