

News Release

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144 school districts receive sparsity aid

MADISON — Small, sparsely populated districts across the state have received \$18.5 million in sparsity aid.

Unlike most categorical aids, which are targeted to a specific program or service, sparsity aid may be used for general school operations.

For the 2017-18 school year, 144 districts qualified for sparsity aid based on membership of 745 or fewer students and density of less than 10 pupils per square mile of the district's geographic area. Five school districts received aid this year that didn't qualify last school year: Dover #1, Erin, Glenwood City, Iowa Grant, and North Cape. Aid was paid on the third Monday in September.

Sparsity aid is computed on prior year audited membership, which includes all students receiving services from a public school district and is different from enrollment. Combined, the eligible school districts had pupil membership of 62,377, which is about 7 percent of Wisconsin's total public school membership for the 2016-17 school year. The membership total from eligible school districts required that the statutory sparsity aid payment of \$300 per member be prorated at 98.84 percent this year for an actual payment of \$296.52 per member.

“Across the state, the local school is the heart of the community. Its activities extend past the classroom as a gathering place for academic, athletic and other social activities that hold communities together. As a major employer, schools also support the local economy,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “The sparsity aid program is an important support to our small school districts.”

Sparsity aid was enacted as part of the 2007-09 state budget and based on recommendations from the State Superintendent's Rural Schools Advisory Council. The council stressed that declining enrollment and escalating fixed costs along with the lack of economies of scale were issues that put added pressure on small, sparsely populated districts. With the exception of the 2015-16 school year, sparsity aid has been prorated each year.

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NOTES: A list of public school districts receiving 2017-18 sparsity aid follows. More information about the [sparsity aid program](http://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/aid/general/sparsity-aid-program) can be found online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/aid/general/sparsity-aid-program>. This news release is available electronically at https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2017_93.pdf.

2017-18 Sparsity Aid to Wisconsin Public School Districts

Based on 2016-17 Data — Prorated at 98.84% of Eligibility

District	Membership	Aid	District	Membership	Aid
Albany	424	\$125,726	Edgar	621	\$184,141
Alma	220	\$65,235	Elcho	343	\$101,707
Alma Center	569	\$168,721	Eleva-Strum	638	\$189,181
Almond-Bancroft	462	\$136,993	Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	467	\$138,476
Argyle	311	\$92,219	Elmwood	332	\$98,446
Athens	440	\$130,470	Erin *	221	\$65,532
Augusta	618	\$183,251	Flambeau	619	\$183,548
Bangor	608	\$180,286	Florence	447	\$132,546
Barneveld	442	\$131,063	Frederic	548	\$162,494
Bayfield	403	\$119,499	Gibraltar Area	549	\$162,791
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine	265	\$78,579	Gillett	591	\$175,245
Belmont Community	365	\$108,231	Gilman	405	\$120,092
Benton	241	\$71,462	Gilmanton	164	\$48,630
Big Foot UHS	495	\$146,779	Glenwood City *	743	\$220,315
Birchwood	227	\$67,311	Goodman-Armstrong	109	\$32,321
Black Hawk	390	\$115,644	Granton Area	244	\$72,352
Blair-Taylor	618	\$183,251	Green Lake	253	\$75,020
Bowler	418	\$123,946	Greenwood	443	\$131,360
Boyceville Community	742	\$220,020	Gresham	312	\$92,515
Brighton #1	96	\$28,466	Herman-Neosho-Rubicon	355	\$105,266
Bruce	500	\$148,261	Highland	300	\$88,957
Butternut	196	\$58,118	Hilbert	441	\$130,767
Cambria-Friesland	386	\$114,458	Hillsboro	535	\$158,640
Cashton	602	\$178,507	Hurley	570	\$169,018
Cassville	213	\$63,159	Hustisford	444	\$131,656
Chequamegon	702	\$208,159	Independence	401	\$118,906
Clayton	338	\$100,225	Iola-Scandinavia	702	\$208,159
Clear Lake	650	\$192,740	Iowa-Grant *	743	\$220,315
Cochrane-Fountain City	664	\$196,891	Ithaca	321	\$95,184
Coleman	693	\$205,490	Juda	250	\$74,131
Cornell	432	\$128,098	Kickapoo Area	467	\$138,476
Crivitz	738	\$218,834	La Farge	246	\$72,945
Cuba City	657	\$194,815	Lac du Flambeau #1	539	\$159,826
De Soto Area	560	\$166,053	Lake Holcombe	310	\$91,922
Dover #1 *	110	\$32,617	Lakeland UHS	695	\$206,083
Drummond	417	\$123,650	Laona	221	\$65,532

District	Membership	Aid	District	Membership	Aid
Lena	420	\$124,540	Rib Lake	493	\$146,186
Linn J4	107	\$31,728	Rio Community	455	\$134,918
Linn J6	84	\$24,908	River Ridge	525	\$155,674
Loyal	527	\$156,267	Riverdale	697	\$206,676
Luck	514	\$152,413	Rosholt	568	\$168,425
Marathon City	664	\$196,891	Royall	610	\$180,879
Marion	507	\$150,337	Seneca	298	\$88,364
Mellen	295	\$87,474	Sevastopol	566	\$167,832
Mercer	147	\$43,589	Shell Lake	610	\$180,879
Mineral Point	686	\$203,415	Shiocton	730	\$216,462
Minocqua J1	545	\$161,605	Shullsburg	385	\$114,161
Montello	722	\$214,089	Siren	482	\$142,924
Monticello	391	\$115,940	Solon Springs	294	\$87,178
Necedah Area	712	\$211,124	South Shore	193	\$57,229
New Auburn	298	\$88,364	Southwestern Wisconsin	550	\$163,087
New Lisbon	595	\$176,431	Stockbridge	239	\$70,869
Niagara	368	\$109,120	Suring	409	\$121,278
North Cape *	184	\$54,560	Thorp	588	\$174,355
North Crawford	466	\$138,180	Three Lakes	490	\$145,296
North Lakeland	148	\$43,885	Tigerton	237	\$70,276
Northwood	368	\$109,120	Tri-County Area	637	\$188,885
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	680	\$201,635	Turtle Lake	480	\$142,331
Norway J7	94	\$27,873	Wabeno Area	403	\$119,499
Oakfield	506	\$150,040	Washburn	524	\$155,378
Owen-Withee	495	\$146,779	Washington	77	\$22,832
Paris J1	154	\$45,664	Wausaukee	469	\$139,069
Pecatonica Area	468	\$138,773	Wauzeka-Steuben	304	\$90,143
Pepin Area	251	\$74,427	Webster	680	\$201,635
Phelps	153	\$45,368	Weston	316	\$93,701
Pittsville	586	\$173,762	White Lake	168	\$49,816
Plum City	279	\$82,730	Wild Rose	551	\$163,384
Port Edwards	401	\$118,906	Winter	298	\$88,364
Potosi	330	\$97,852	Wonewoc-Union Center	361	\$107,045
Prairie Farm	332	\$98,446	Woodruff J1	450	\$133,435
Prentice	423	\$125,429			
Princeton	399	\$118,313			
Randolph	512	\$151,820			
Reedsville	628	\$186,216			

* Districts with an asterisk did not receive sparsity aid in the 2016-17 school year