



Media Advisory

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Hundreds of school nurses to descend on State Capitol Tuesday afternoon to advocate for the health and safety of Wisconsin school children

On Tuesday afternoon, Wisconsin lawmakers and their staffs will be hearing directly from the state's school nurses about ways legislators can help to better deliver quality health care in schools. Hundreds of school nurses will make the trip from Monona Terrace to the Capitol for the meetings.

Among the topics on the agenda:

Increase the percentage of Medicaid funding going to schools: Wisconsin is unique in that it sends just 60% of federal Medicaid matching funds for school-based services to schools. The state keeps the other 40%. Experts have noted that the percentage of Medicaid funding going to schools in Wisconsin is much lower than most, if not all, other states.

In his 2023-25 state budget, Governor Evers proposed increasing the percentage that schools receive from 60% to 100%. 2023 Assembly Bill 1184, authored by Rep. Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa) and others, followed the Governor's lead and proposed sending 100% of the funding to schools. These proposals would have increased funding for schools by \$112 million over the current biennium. Neither proposal was approved by the Legislature.

Strengthen state law relating to administration of opioid antagonists: 2023 Wisconsin Act 194 provides civil immunity for school employees who administer opioid antagonists like Naloxone. School districts should be required to develop policies and protocols with the assistance of school nurses. And the proper ways in which schools receive the antagonists need to be clarified.

Note: The school nurses will be walking from the Monona Terrace Convention Center to the State Capitol at 3:20 p.m., Tuesday, April 30. Reporters interested in an interview should contact Jack O'Meara at 608-444-3727

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