

**Education Academy 101: Demystifying School Finance:**  
*Educating Every Child in Wisconsin Handout*

**Special Education and English Learner Students Identified By Year:**

	<u>Special Education</u>	<u>High Cost SPED</u>	<u>EL Students</u>	<u>K-12 WI Students</u>
2001-02	127,034 (14.58%)		32,588	871,154
2002-03	127,031 (14.57%)		34,199	871,981
2003-04	127,828 (14.67%)	389	35,602	871,202
2004-05	129,080 (14.85%)	531	39,255	869,005
2005-06	129,785 (14.95%)	613	33,402	868,092
2006-07	128,526 (14.81%)	713	40,752	867,698
2007-08	126,496 (14.66%)	806	45,651	863,047
2008-09	125,304 (14.56%)	878	51,772	860,477
2009-10	125,301 (14.60%)	1,008	52,100	858,205
2010-11	124,722 (14.55%)	972	51,944	857,273
2011-12	123,825 (14.48%)	994	51,727	855,327
2012-13	123,287 (14.40%)	882	50,052	856,203
2013-14	122,654 (14.31%)	946	49,560	856,846
2014-15	120,434 (14.10%)	1,052	49,309	854,419
2015-16	120,864 (14.15%)	951	48,405	854,403
2016-17	116,753 (13.65%)	896	49,670	855,329

**(Percentage) represents Special Education Identified Students / K-12 Students (Statewide)**

- <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/data/child-count> Identified SPED Students Data
- 2019-21 DPI Budget Request High Cost SPED Claims Data
- DPI Bilingual-Bicultural Report (6/2018) EL Student Data
- DPI School Financial Services Statewide K-12 Student Data (Membership)

**Special Education Transfer from General Fund**

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Wisconsin K-12 Districts incurred \$1,484,758,668 in aidable Special Education costs to serve approximately 120,864 students. This cost represented an average cost of \$12,285 per student for Special Education services.

With \$368,939,100 paid out in Special Education Categorical Aid for FY17-18, **Districts transferred \$1,115,839,568 from Fund 10 to Fund 27**. During the 2017-19 State Budget, an additional \$9,353,800 provided for high cost students on expenses that exceed \$40,160 per student. (\$40,160 less 25.3% aid = \$30,000 threshold)

### **Hartford Jt1 Special Education Budget Example**

Six students with severe EBD needs identified in 2018-19. These students were existing Hartford Jt1 students that required an outside placement, not eligible for transfer of service.

\$228,294 in tuition costs and \$34,244 in transportation costs for a total of \$262,538. Hartford Jt1 receives \$66,422 in SPED categorical aid for a net cost of \$32,686 per student. The difference between \$32,686 and \$30,000 (\$2,686) becomes aidable at 90% for \$2,417 in additional reimbursement.

**Remaining \$30,269 per student (\$181,614) must be transferred from the general fund above the existing transfer to fund these services.**

**Fund 10-27 transfer has increased from \$1,953,296 (FY14-15) to \$2,451,036 (FY18-19).**

### **Students in Poverty**

329,418 Wisconsin students were economically disadvantaged during the 2017-18 school year. This represents 39.2% of the approximately 839,600 public school K-12 students in the State.

There is currently no comprehensive State of Wisconsin mechanism to address poverty K-12. The AGR (SAGE) program serves 45,856 students in grades K-3. While the Federal Government provides some funding to address poverty through ESSA (Title programs), additional supports are necessary to lift students out of poverty.

### **2016-17 English Language Learners Expenses (ELL)**

During the 2016-17 fiscal year, Wisconsin K-12 Districts reported 49,670 students in 357 districts requiring ELL services. Of those students, 26,721 were served by 52 districts required to have a Bilingual/Bicultural program under state statute.

The 52 district programs incurred expenses of \$102,811,100 to provide ELL services, with \$8,589,800 available through categorical aid, leaving an expense of \$94,221,300 for the General Fund (10).

### **Statewide ELL/Impact of Triggering Numbers**

Wisconsin schools are required to establish a Bilingual/Bicultural Program (BLBC) once there are 10 or more limited English proficiency (LEP) students in grades K-3, or 20 or more LEP students in grades 4-8 or 9-12. The number of LEP students in Wisconsin has increased from 29,016 in 2000-01 to 50,848 in 2017-18.

As we work to close achievement gaps, providing services for these students is crucial for student growth in student achievement. Establishing the programs require significant financial investment as there are a limited number of ELL licensed teachers available for hire.

22,949 students attended Districts that were not required to have BLBC programs and those students/district received no additional funding.