Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Summary of 2015 Act 55
Final 2015-17 Biennial Budget with Vetoes

Provisions Related to
Elementary and Secondary Education and
State Agency Operations

Prepared by Policy and Budget Team
Department of Public Instruction

Every Child a Graduate
College and Career Ready

July 2015

[Page left blank intentionally]

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

APPROPRIATIONS

GPR - Appropriations financed from general purpose revenues available in the state's general fund.

FED - Appropriations financed from federal revenues.

PR - Appropriations financed from program revenues, such as user fees or product sales.

PR-O - Program Revenue-Operations - Appropriations financed from revenue generated from agency operations.

PR-S - Program Revenue-Service - Appropriations financed from funds transferred between or within state agencies for the purpose of reimbursement for services or materials.

SEG - Appropriations financed from segregated revenues.

OTHER

FY - Fiscal Year, for example: FY16 means the 2015-16 state fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)

FTE - Full-Time Equivalent Position

FY15 Base - The total FY15 authorized funding level for an agency or program. The base equals FY15 appropriations, pay plan modifications and any other supplements. It is this base that serves as the beginning point for calculating budget changes for 2015-17.

Joint Finance – Legislative Joint Committee on Finance

NOTE:

- If the Governor denied the agency's request and the provisions were not subsequently included by the Joint Finance Committee or the Legislature, the last entry for an item will be "**GOVERNOR**" and indicate that the agency request was denied.
- Where and item indicates "**GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE**" as the last entry, the Joint Committee included the same provisions as the Governor and there were no further modifications to the provisions under that item by the Legislature or the Governor's vetoes.

[Page left blank intentionally]

Table of Contents

Summary of 2015 Act 55 – School Aids and Credits Summary *9*

GENERAL SCHOOL AIDS *11*

General Equalization Aids 11

General Equalization Aids-Hold Harmless 11

Aid for High Poverty Districts 11

Integration Aid Program (Chapter 220) 12

School Levy and First Dollar Tax Credits 12

REVENUE LIMITS *13*

Revenue Limit per Pupil 13

Low Revenue Ceiling 13

Revenue Limit Exemption for Refunded or Rescinded Taxes 13

Revenue Limit for Consolidated School Districts 13

Environmental Remediation on School District Property 14

CATEGORICAL AIDS *15*

Special Education 15

High-Cost Special Education 15

Supplemental Special Education 15

Special Education Better Bottom Line Transitions 16

Special Education Better Bottom Line Job Development Specialists 16

Per Pupil Aid 16

Student Achievement Guarantee in Education 17

Sparsity Aid 17

Pupil Transportation Aid 17

High Cost Pupil Transportation Aid 17

Open Enrollment Transportation Aid 18

Youth Options Transportation Aid 18

Bilingual-Bicultural Aid 18

Supplemental Bilingual-Bicultural Aid 18

Career Pathways' Bridge Support 18

Career and Technical Education Incentive Grants 19

Gifted and Talented Programs 19

Milwaukee Succeeds 19

School Breakfast Aid 19

School Library Aids Reestimate 20

School Violence Prevention Programs **20**

STEM Grants **20**

Tribal Language Revitalization Grants **20**

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGENCIES (CESAS) ***21***

Delete State Aid to Cooperative Educational Services Agencies (CESAs) **21**

School District Participation in Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) **21**

CHARTER, CHOICE, OPEN ENROLLMENT – PER PUPIL PAYMENTS ***23***

Indexing of Per Pupil Payments under the Independent Charter School, Parental Choice and Public School Open Enrollment Programs **23**

INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS ***24***

Independent Charter School Program – Funding for Estimated Enrollment **24**

Additional Charter School Authorizers **24**

Charter School Oversight Board **25**

Charter School Authorizing Entity Duties **26**

Contract Requirements for Independent Charter Schools **26**

Charter School Governing Boards **27**

Charter School Admissions **27**

PRIVATE SCHOOL PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAMS ***28***

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program – Funding for Estimated Enrollment **28**

Racine and Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs – Funding for Estimated Enrollment (existing pupils) **28**

Expansion of the WPCP and RPCP – New Funding Mechanism **29**

Statewide Private School Choice Program – Pupil Lottery **31**

Parental Choice Programs – Program Language Changes **31**

Statewide Private School Choice Program – School Eligibility **33**

Independent Financial Audits for Private Choice Schools **33**

Income Eligibility Verification **34**

Private Choice School Programs – Assessments **34**

Milwaukee Choice Program Research **35**

Teachers' Aides in Private Choice Schools **35**

Regional or National Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs **35**

Eliminate Occupancy Permit Requirement for Statewide Choice Program **36**

Document Retention Policy for Choice Schools **36**

Special Education Voucher Program **36**

PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT, TUITION AND COURSE OPTIONS ***39***

Open Enrollment per Pupil Amount **39**

Special Education Open Enrollment **39**

State Tuition Payments and Open Enrollment Transfers 39
Tuition for Pupils Attending a School Out of State 39
Course Options 40
ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUPIL ASSESSMENTS 41
Educational Standards 41
School and School District Accountability 41
Pupil Assessments 43
Alternative Pupil Assessments 43
Requirements for Statewide Assessment System 44
Allow Districts to Select Assessment of Reading Readiness 44
Civics Assessment Requirement for High School Graduation 45
TEACHER LICENSURE 46
Alternative Teacher License 46
Teacher License Based on Completion of Montessori Teacher Education Program 47
Regional or National Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs 48
Requirements to Renew a Teaching License 48
SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONS 49
Notice of Educational Options 49
Whole Grade Sharing 49
Participation in Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities 51
Geographic Representation for School Board of Unified School Districts 51
Sale of Excess Property 52
Teacher and Administrator Contract Renewals 52
High School Graduation Standards 53
OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM 54
Opportunity Schools and Partnership Program 54
LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY 57
WISEdash – DET Hosting 57
WISElearn (Digital Learning Portal) 57
Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative 57
Virtual Marketplace for Textbooks 57
Microsoft IT Academy 58
Student Information System 58
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES 59
Public Library System Aid 59
BadgerLink 59

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER FUNDING *60*
Wisconsin School Safety Center **60**
Wisconsin STEM Center **60**
Community Eligibility Provision **60**
Open Enrollment Program Position Funding **60**
Parental Choice Program Position Funding **60**
Teacher Certification Position Funding **61**
Transfer of Position Authority **61**
Program Revenue Reestimates **61**
Federal Revenue Reestimates **61**
Standard Budget Adjustments **62**
Long Term Vacancies **62**
OTHER AGENCIES *63*
UW-SYSTEM **63**
Environmental Program Grants and Scholarships 63
Environmental Education – Environmental Assessments and Forestry 63
UW System Charter School Authorizing Authority 64
School Safety Research 64
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION **64**
Information Technology – Telecommunications Access 64
Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) Program 65
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES **66**
Renewal of Child Care Program Contract 66
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE **66**
Cease Operations of the Local Government Property Insurance Fund 66
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR **67**
Transfer Read to Lead Program 67
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION **68**
Broadband Expansion Grants 68
ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET *70*

Summary of 2015 Act 55 – School Aids and Credits Summary

Categorical Aid Program	FY15	FY16	FY16 to Base	FY17	FY17 to FY16	FY17 to Base	Overall Change
Special Education	$ 368,939,100	$ 368,939,100	$ -	$ 368,939,100	$ -	$ -	$ -
Per Pupil Aid	*$ 126,975,000*	$ 126,842,300	$ (132,700)	$ 211,248,200	$ 84,405,900	$ 84,273,200	$ 84,140,500
SAGE	$ 109,184,500	$ 109,184,500	$ -	$ 109,184,500	$ -	$ -	$ -
Pupil Transportation	$ 23,703,600	$ 23,954,000	$ 250,400	$ 23,954,000	$ -	$ 250,400	$ 500,800
Sparsity Aid	$ 13,453,300	$ 17,674,000	$ 4,220,700	$ 17,674,000	$ -	$ 4,220,700	$ 8,441,400
Bilingual-Bicultural	$ 8,589,800	$ 8,589,800	$ -	$ 8,589,800	$ -	$ -	$ -
Tuition Payments	$ 8,242,900	$ 8,242,900	$ -	$ 8,242,900	$ -	$ -	$ -
Head Start Supplement	$ 6,264,100	$ 6,264,100	$ -	$ 6,264,100	$ -	$ -	$ -
Educator Effectiveness	*$ 5,746,000*	$ 5,746,000	$ -	*$ 5,746,000*	$ -	$ -	$ -
High Cost Transportation	$ 5,000,000	$ 7,500,000	$ 2,500,000	$ 7,500,000	$ -	$ 2,500,000	$ 5,000,000
School Lunch Match	$ 4,218,100	$ 4,218,100	$ -	$ 4,218,100	$ -	$ -	$ -
Aid for CCDEB's	$ 4,067,300	$ 4,067,300	$ -	$ 4,067,300	$ -	$ -	$ -
Special Education-High Cost	$ 3,500,000	$ 3,500,000	$ -	$ 8,500,000	$ 5,000,000	$ 5,000,000	$ 5,000,000
CTE Incentive Grants	$ 3,000,000	$ -	$ (3,000,000)	*$ -*	$ -	$ (3,000,000)	$ (6,000,000)
School Breakfast Grants	$ 2,510,500	$ 2,510,500	$ -	$ 2,510,500	$ -	$ -	$ -
TEACH Debt Service	$ 2,052,300	$ 1,458,400	$ (593,900)	$ 1,085,900	$ (372,500)	$ (966,400)	$ (1,560,300)
Special Education-Supplemen	$ 1,750,000	$ 1,750,000	$ -	$ 1,750,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
Peer Review & Mentoring	$ 1,606,700	$ 1,606,700	$ -	$ 1,606,700	$ -	$ -	$ -
4K Start Up Grants	$ 1,350,000	$ 1,350,000	$ -	$ 1,350,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
School Day Milk	$ 617,100	$ 617,100	$ -	$ 617,100	$ -	$ -	$ -
Open Enroll Transportation	$ 434,200	$ 434,200	$ -	$ 434,200	$ -	$ -	$ -
Aid for CESAs	$ 260,600	$ -	$ (260,600)	$ -	$ -	$ (260,600)	$ (521,200)
Gifted and Talented Grants	$ 237,200	$ 237,200	$ -	$ 237,200	$ -	$ -	$ -
SAGE-Debt Service	$ 133,700	$ 133,700	$ -	$ 133,700	$ -	$ -	$ -
Supplemental Aid	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	$ -	$ 100,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
Youth Options Transportation	$ 17,400	$ 17,400	$ -	$ 17,400	$ -	$ -	$ -
STEM Grants	*$ -*	$ -	$ -	*$ -*	$ -	$ -	$ -
Transition/Incentive Grants	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 100,000*	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
GPR Categorical Aids	**$ 701,953,400**	**$ 704,937,300**	**$ 2,983,900**	**$ 794,070,700**	**$ 89,133,400**	**$ 92,117,300**	**$ 95,101,200**
Tribal Languages (PR)	$ 222,800	$ 222,800	$ -	$ 222,800	$ -	$ -	$ -
Aid for AODA (PR)	$ 1,284,700	$ 1,284,700	$ -	$ 1,284,700	$ -	$ -	$ -
PR Categorical Aids	**$ 1,507,500**	**$ 1,507,500**	**$ -**	**$ 1,507,500**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
School Library Aids	$ 34,000,000	$ 36,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 38,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 4,000,000	$ 6,000,000
Env Educ, Forestry-UW	$ 200,000	$ 200,000	$ -	$ -	$ (200,000)	$ (200,000)	$ (200,000)
Env Educ, Env. Assess-UW	$ 130,500	$ -	$ (130,500)	$ -	$ -	$ (130,500)	$ (261,000)
Educ Telecomm Access-DOA	$ 11,105,100	$ 9,105,100	$ (2,000,000)	$ 10,105,100	$ 1,000,000	$ (1,000,000)	$ (3,000,000)
SEG Categorical Aids	**$ 45,435,600**	**$ 45,305,100**	**$ (130,500)**	**$ 48,105,100**	**$ 2,800,000**	**$ 2,669,500**	**$ 2,539,000**
Total Categorical Aids	**$ 748,896,500**	**$ 751,749,900**	**$ 2,853,400**	**$ 843,683,300**	**$ 91,933,400**	**$ 94,786,800**	**$ 97,640,200**
General Aids							
General Equalization Aids	$ 4,475,960,500	$ 4,475,960,500	$ -	$ 4,584,098,000	$ 108,137,500	$ 108,137,500	$ 108,137,500
Gen Aids-Hold Harm Sum Suf	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
High Poverty Aid	$ 16,830,000	$ 16,830,000	$ -	$ 16,830,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total General Aids	**$ 4,492,790,500**	**$ 4,492,790,500**	**$ -**	**$ 4,600,928,000**	**$ 108,137,500**	**$ 108,137,500**	**$ 108,137,500**
TOTAL GPR State Aids	**$ 5,194,743,900**	**$ 5,197,727,800**	**$ 2,983,900**	**$ 5,394,998,700**	**$ 197,270,900**	**$ 200,254,800**	**$ 203,238,700**
Total State School Aids	**$ 5,241,687,000**	**$ 5,244,540,400**	**$ 2,853,400**	**$ 5,444,611,300**	**$ 200,070,900**	**$ 202,924,300**	**$ 205,777,700**
School Levy Tax Credit^	$ 897,400,000	$ 1,003,000,000	$ 105,600,000	$ 1,003,000,000	$ -	$ 105,600,000	$ 211,200,000
Total School Aids & Credits	**$ 6,139,087,000**	**$ 6,247,540,400**	**$ 108,453,400**	**$ 6,447,611,300**	**$ 200,070,900**	**$ 308,524,300**	**$ 416,977,700**
State Residential Schools	$ 10,788,000	$ 11,237,900	$ 449,900	$ 11,237,900	$ -	$ 449,900	$ 899,800
Total State Support	**$ 6,149,875,000**	**$ 6,258,778,300**	**$ 108,903,300**	**$ 6,458,849,200**	**$ 200,070,900**	**$ 308,974,200**	**$ 417,877,500**

[Page left blank intentionally]

GENERAL SCHOOL AIDS

NOTE: State Superintendent Evers submitted the Fair Funding for Our Future: School Finance Reform package as part of his 2015-17 biennial budget request. The package was made up of various items within both the general school aids and revenue limits subsections of this summary. For a complete review of Fair Funding for Our Future, please visit http://dpi.wi.gov/budget/fairfunding

General Equalization Aids

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $112,039,500 GPR in FY16 and $341,609,500 GPR in FY17 to fund general equalization aids for public school districts in Wisconsin and implement the State Superintendent's "Fair Funding for Our Future" (Fair Funding) school finance reform formula changes. The amounts reflect increases to all general school aids of 2.5 percent and 4.9 percent annually, over the biennium.
- Request to modify the school aid formula to: 1) include a 30 percent weighing factor for income/poverty using free and reduced price lunch eligibility; 2) raise the secondary cost ceiling from 90 percent to 100 percent of the statewide average shared cost per pupil; 2) adjust the Special Adjustment Aid eligibility threshold from 85 percent to 90 percent of the prior year state general aid amount; and 3) provide for minimum state general aid of $3,000 per pupil.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Deny the request to implement Fair Funding.
- Provide $0 GPR in FY16 and $108,137,500 in FY17; increases of 0 percent in FY16 and 2.4 percent in FY17.

General Equalization Aids-Hold Harmless

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $3,800,000 GPR in FY17 to fund a new hold harmless provision for approximately 23 districts that would not do better under the Fair Funding model (compared to current law, accounting for the School Levy Tax Credit amounts). This appropriation would be sum sufficient to ensure that no district receives less state general aid under the Fair Funding model than it would have under current law.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Aid for High Poverty Districts

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request to maintain High Poverty Aid base funding for FY16, to eliminate the program in FY17 and transfer the base level funding of $16.8 million into the general equalization aids appropriation as part of the Fair Funding for our Future proposal.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

Integration Aid Program (Chapter 220)

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Prohibit any pupils from participating in the Inter-District or Intra-District (Integration Aid/Chapter 220) program unless those pupils were participating in the program in FY15. In effect, begin the phase out of the program. Inter-District and Intra-District aid payments to participating school districts would first be impacted for aid received in FY17 (based on enrollments in FY16).

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor's recommendation to specify that: 1) pupils currently attending a K-8 district under the Chapter 220 program would be allowed to continue to attend the associated UHS district under the program; and 2) allow incoming pupils to participate in the FY16 school year (i.e., pupils that were approved during the spring of 2015 to participate in the program for FY16).
- Create a hold harmless provision under which a district's integration aid entitlement in a given year could not be less than an amount equal to its FY15 aid entitlement multiplied by the following amounts in the indicated year: (a) 87.5% in FY16; (b) 75% in FY17; (c) 62.5% in FY18; (d) 50% in FY19; (e) 37.5% in 2019-20; (f) 25% in 2020-21; and (g) 12.5% in 2021-22.

School Levy and First Dollar Tax Credits

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request to transfer the $897,400,000 GPR combined from the School Levy Tax Credit (SLTC; $747,400,000) and the First Dollar Credit (FDC; $150,000,000) into general equalization aids beginning with the FY17 state aid payments. However, since the current SLTC and FDC are paid to municipalities in the subsequent state fiscal year, the general equalization aids appropriation [s. 20.255 (2) (ac), Wis. Stats.] will not reflect the transfer until FY18. The Department proposes to have the SLTC and FDC amount paid to school districts from the FY18 appropriation and then reflected as a FY17 general equalization aid payment (as is $75 million in delayed general aid payments that are distributed to districts in July, but counted as revenue in the just ended fiscal year, under current law).

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.
- Increase funding for the SLTC and FDC by $0 in FY16 and $211,200,000 in FY17, an increase of 0 percent in FY16 and 23.5 percent in FY17.
- Specify that the allocation for the SLTC will be increased by $105,600,000 in each year of the 2015-17 biennium.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor's proposal by deleting the creation of a payment on the fourth Monday of June, beginning in 2017.
- Delete the provision setting the distribution at $958,600,000 in FY17 and $853,000,000 in FY18 and thereafter. Instead, set the distribution at $853,000,000 in FY17 and thereafter.
- Delete the provisions related to the settlement of the credits.

REVENUE LIMITS

Revenue Limit per Pupil

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase for the per pupil revenue limit adjustment to $200 per pupil in FY16 and $204 per pupil in FY17.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request (per pupil revenue limit adjustments will be $0 in both years).

Low Revenue Ceiling

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request to modify the current law low-revenue ceiling threshold of $9,100 per pupil by phasing in the increase, to $9,400 in FY16 and then $9,700 in FY17.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request (maintain low-revenue ceiling threshold at $9,100 in FY16 and FY17).

Revenue Limit Exemption for Refunded or Rescinded Taxes

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request to change statutory language to include as eligible amounts for this revenue limit exemption, any amounts payable in the year of the levy, in order to authorize a school district to claim the exemption from the revenue limit and levy for amounts that it will be required to pay during the school year of the levy, but not yet paid as of the date on which the school board set the levy (by November 1st, under current law).

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Revenue Limit for Consolidated School Districts

AGENCY REQUEST/ GOVERNOR:

- No request

JOINT FINANCE:

- Replace the current law provision that provides consolidation aid to a district in the sixth and seventh years after consolidation with a recurring revenue limit adjustment in the sixth year after consolidation that is equal to 75 percent of the consolidation aid that was received outside of revenue limits by the district for FY15. Specify that the new provision would apply to a school district that consolidated in 2009-10 or later. Current law provisions related to the calculation of consolidation aid in the first through fifth years after consolidation would remain.

Environmental Remediation on School District Property

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request

JOINT FINANCE:

- Allow a school district to issue up to $2,000,000 in debt for the costs associated with an environmental remediation project on district-owned property under a DNR and EPA approved remediation plan. Specify that the debt issuance would not be subject to current law referendum requirements, that the associated debt service costs would not be subject to the district's revenue limit, and that any debt service costs would be excluded from shared costs for the equalization aid formula.

CATEGORICAL AIDS

Special Education

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $25,164,900 GPR in FY16 and $60,683,900 GPR in FY17 to increase the reimbursement rate to 28 percent in FY16 and 30 percent in FY17.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

High-Cost Special Education

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $7,100,000 GPR in FY16 and $7,350,000 GPR in FY17 to fully fund high-cost special education categorical aid. Fully fund projected claims reimbursing 100 percent of eligible costs above the $30,000 high-cost threshold. The Department also requests a change to the appropriation to be sum sufficient.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Provide $5,000,000 GPR in FY17. Specify amount of aid received by a school district could not exceed 70 percent of that district's expenses that are eligible for high cost aid.

Supplemental Special Education

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Redirect the $1,750,000 GPR funding in the supplemental special education categorical aid program to the State's additional ("high-cost") special education aid program, beginning in FY17.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Specify funds remaining in the appropriation at the end of FY15 be distributed to a school district meeting the following criteria: 1) per pupil revenue limit below the statewide average; 2) membership less than 2,000 pupils; 3) the district qualified for this aid in FY14; and 4) the district experienced a natural disaster, including a fire, which caused the district's special education expenditures to be 16 percent or less of total expenditures.
- Specify that for FY16, a district would be eligible for this aid if it either meets current law criteria, or it meets all the following criteria: 1) per pupil revenue limit below the statewide average; 2) membership less than 2,000 pupils; 3) the district qualified for this aid in FY14; and 4) the district experienced a natural disaster, including a fire, which caused the district's special education expenditures to be 16 percent or less of total expenditures.

Special Education Better Bottom Line Transitions

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $5,848,000 GPR in FY17 for a new grant to provide a $1,000 per student incentive payment to school districts based on post-secondary education and employment outcomes for students with disabilities.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Provide $100,000 GPR in FY17 for a new grant to provide a $1,000 per student incentive payment to school districts or independent ("2r") charter schools, based on post-secondary education and employment outcomes for students with disabilities. If the amount of the appropriation is not sufficient to pay all costs, payments to school districts would be prorated.

Special Education Better Bottom Line Job Development Specialists

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $1,500,000 GPR in FY17 for a new categorical aid program to improve special education job development capabilities of school districts and/or CESAs (Cooperative Educational Service Agencies). This initiative will focus on creating competitive work opportunities for students with disabilities not served by existing intensive programs in other state agencies.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Per Pupil Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request a change in expenditure authority of -$315,000 GPR in FY16 and -$630,000 GPR in FY17 to reflect a reestimate for Per Pupil Aid (maintain aid at $150 per pupil).

GOVERNOR:

- Decrease funding by $126,975,000 GPR in FY16, bringing the allocation to $0, and increase funding by $141,907,800 GPR in FY17.
- Specify that the funding provided in FY17 is one time and not base-building.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Provide $126,842,300 GPR in FY16 for per pupil aid payments based on estimated FY16 enrollment, restoring the aid program to the base level of $150 per pupil.
- Specify that, on a one-time basis, this aid be paid on a delayed basis on the second Monday in July of 2016; that this delayed payment would be considered as moneys appropriated in FY16 for the purposes of calculating an increase in categorical aid funding per pupil and be booked by districts as a revenue in FY16.
- Provide an additional $69,340,400 GPR in FY17 for per pupil aid payments based on FY17 enrollments. Specify that this aid be paid on a current year basis, as under current law.
- Maintain the appropriation as sum sufficient, as under current law, with an aid eligibility of $150 per pupil in FY16 and $250 per pupil in FY17, on an on-going basis.

Student Achievement Guarantee in Education

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $11,190,500 GPR in FY17 to fully fund the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) grant program at $2,250 per eligible pupil, beginning in FY17.
- Request statutory language to eliminate the required $250,000 annual evaluation contract for the SAGE program and that these funds be authorized for payment to school districts participating in the program.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

Sparsity Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $4,220,700 GPR in FY16 and FY17 to fully fund estimated eligible costs for the sparsity aid categorical grant program.
- Request elimination of the free or reduced-priced lunch (FRL) criteria for districts to qualify for sparsity aid.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the request.

Pupil Transportation Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase to the reimbursement rate for pupils transported over 12 miles from $275 to $300 per pupil beginning in FY16. No additional GPR funds requested (can be absorbed within base funding).
- Request $250,400 GPR in both FY16 and FY17 to fund reimbursement of transportation costs to Independent Charter schools.
- Request a statutory change to make Independent Charter schools eligible for state pupil transportation aid.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the request.

High Cost Pupil Transportation Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $2,500,000 GPR in both FY16 and FY17 to increase the reimbursement rate for high cost transportation aid from 32.5 percent (in FY14) to 50 percent of eligible costs.
- Request a change to add a new eligibility requirement for the high cost transportation aid under which only those districts with a pupil population density of 50 pupils per square mile or less are eligible to receive aid.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the request.

Open Enrollment Transportation Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of $1,458,800 in FY16 and $1,641,800 in FY17 to fully fund state aids to low-income families for open enrollment transportation under s. 118.51 (14), Wis. Stats.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

Youth Options Transportation Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of $5,600 GPR in FY16 and $5,600 in FY17 to fully fund state aids for youth options transportation under s. 118.55 (7g), Wis. Stats.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

Bilingual-Bicultural Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $3,949,200 GPR in FY16 and $4,256,200 GPR in FY17 to increase the state reimbursement rate for bilingual-bicultural programs in FY16 and FY17 to 12 percent.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Supplemental Bilingual-Bicultural Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $2,300,000 GPR in FY17 to award up to $100 per limited-English proficient (LEP) pupil to districts that have LEP populations below the statutory threshold for bilingual-bicultural categorical aid.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Career Pathways' Bridge Support

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $4,000,000 GPR in FY17 to provide resources for school districts to offer bridge support to pupils to develop essential skills such as reading, writing, and oral communication, at the same time that pupils are developing technical employment skills as part of a career pathway.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Career and Technical Education Incentive Grants

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Delete $3,000,000 GPR annually to eliminate base level funding for career and technical education incentive grants to school districts, under which school districts with an industry-recognized certification program approved by the State Superintendent are eligible for a payment of $1,000 for each pupil who graduates from a high school in the district with an industry-recognized certificate in addition to a high school diploma or technical education diploma.
- Provide $3,000,000 GPR annually in a workforce training grant appropriation for the Wisconsin Fast Forward program, under the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), and allow career and technical education incentive grants under that program.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor's recommendation to require DWD to make awards of at least $3,000,000 GPR annually to school districts based on current law criteria.

Gifted and Talented Programs

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $762,800 GPR in both FY16 and FY17 to increase the gifted and talented appropriation in order to benefit more pupils and more schools.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

Milwaukee Succeeds

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $250,000 GPR in both FY16 and FY17 to provide an annual grant to Milwaukee Succeeds to support its efforts to improve reading outcomes for pupils by the end of third grade.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

School Breakfast Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of $393,500 GPR in FY16 and $541,500 GPR in FY17 in state aids to school districts and private schools to increase the state reimbursement rate for the School Breakfast Program (SBP) to 9.0 cents for each breakfast served.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

School Library Aids Reestimate

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $2.0 million SEG in FY16 and $4.0 million SEG in FY17 as a re-estimate of projected school library categorical aid.

GOVERNOR:

- Approve the request.

School Violence Prevention Programs

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $2,000,000 GPR in FY17 to provide funding directly to school districts for a new grant program that would support programming and activities that prevent school violence, protect students, and increase schools' capacity for emergency preparedness.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

STEM Grants

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $250,000 GPR in both FY16 and FY17 to provide STEM grants to school districts.
- Request the s. 20.255 (2) (ds), Wis. Stats, appropriation for STEM grants be converted from a biennial to an annual appropriation.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Tribal Language Revitalization Grants

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $560,200 PR-S in FY17 for a new Young Learners Tribal Language Revitalization initiative, including $400,200 PR-S to increase the existing funding for grants and $160,000 PR-S to fund operations of programs in partnership with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC).

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGENCIES (CESAS)

Delete State Aid to Cooperative Educational Services Agencies (CESAs)

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Delete $260,600 GPR annually to eliminate base level funding for state aid to the 12 CESAs. Retain the appropriation language but modify to specify that state payments may not exceed $25,000 GPR annually to each CESA and may be used only as match any federal funds received by the CESA for vocational education administration.
- Delete current law specifying that state aid is provided for the maintenance and operation of the office of the Board of Control and CESA administrator and requiring each CESA to submit an annual report to the State Superintendent by August 1 including a detailed certified statement of its expenses for the prior year and showing that state aid was spent according to the statutory guidelines.
- Delete current law specifying that a CESA's state aid cannot exceed the CESA's actual expenditures in the prior year, as certified in the annual report.
- Provide that beginning in FY16, each school board of a district participating in a CESA would pay its proportional share of the cost of the maintenance and operation of the office of the Board of Control and CESA administrator and would match any federal funds received by the CESA for vocational education administration. Require the Board of Control to determine each district's proportional share of the cost of the office's maintenance and operation and federal match amount.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor’s recommendation by deleting the language that requires each CESA’s Board of Control to determine each school district’s proportional share of the cost of the maintenance and operation of the office of the Board of Control and CESA administrator.
- Modify the Governor’s recommendation by deleting the language that requires a CESA to match any federal funds received by the agency for vocational education administration.

School District Participation in Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs)

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/ JOINT FINANCE:

- Allow any school district to withdraw from a CESA after adopting a resolution to do so and immediately notifying the CESA's Board of Control and the State Superintendent (under current law, only a school district in CESA 1 can withdraw from a CESA).
- Provide that a resolution adopted prior to January 15 would be effective on the following July 1, while a resolution adopted after January 15 would be effective on the second following July 1. If a school district adopted a resolution to withdraw from a CESA within 30 days of the effective date of the bill, the resolution would be effective on July 1, 2015.
- Specify that territory from a school district that withdrew from a CESA could be outside of a CESA area.

- Allow the school board of a school district that withdrew from a CESA and was not in any other CESA to contract with the Department for programs and services the district would be receiving if it were part of a CESA.
- Provide that a school district that withdrew from a CESA could rejoin by adopting a resolution to do so and immediately notifying the Board of Control and the State Superintendent of the resolution to rejoin.
- Provide that no cost could be assessed against a school district that had withdrawn from a CESA for expenses incurred while the district was not part of the CESA.

CHARTER, CHOICE, OPEN ENROLLMENT – PER PUPIL PAYMENTS

Indexing of Per Pupil Payments under the Independent Charter School, Parental Choice and Public School Open Enrollment Programs

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Specify that the current law mechanism for indexing per pupil payments under the "2r" Independence Charter School Program (ICSP), the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (PCP), the Wisconsin and Racine PCPs for pupils enrolled prior to FY16, and the Public School Open Enrollment Program would be delayed, such that indexing would begin for payments made in FY18, rather than in FY16, as required under 2013 Act 20 (the 2013-15 Biennial Budget). Under the indexing mechanism, the annual adjustment to the per pupil aid payments for all these programs would be equal to the maximum per pupil from the prior year, increased by the per pupil revenue limit adjustment, and the appropriated state categorical aids per member (if positive), for public school districts in the current year.
- Specify that, for the purposes of indexing the per pupil payment amounts for all of these programs, the amount that would be included in the categorical aid total from the Department of Administration (DOA) appropriation for telecommunications access for educational agencies would include only the amounts allocated for payments to telecommunication providers under contracts with school districts and cooperative educational service agencies and for grants to school district consortia, as determined by the DOA Secretary.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete the bill provisions delaying current law mechanism for indexing per pupil payments under the ICSP, the Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Racine PCPs, and the Public School Open Enrollment Program (maintain current law).
- Delete bill provisions that modify the per pupil payment amounts in the categorical aid total from the Department of Administration (DOA) appropriation for telecommunications access for educational agencies to reflect that the Committee did not approve the Governor's recommendation to consolidate the current law multiple appropriations for telecommunications access into one single appropriation.

INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS

Independent Charter School Program – Funding for Estimated Enrollment

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of $4,726,500 GPR in FY16 and $11,552,000 GPR in FY17 to fully fund the ICSP under s. 118.40 (2r), based on the estimated participation and per pupil payment rates of 9,000 pupils at $8,331 per pupil in FY16 and 9,500 pupils at $8,611 per pupil in FY17. (Per pupil payments are based on the current law indexing of per pupil payments, as created under 2013 Act 20.)

GOVERNOR:

- Provide $2,422,500 GPR in FY16 and $6,460,000 GPR in FY17 as a reestimate of sum sufficient funding for participation in the current law ICSP. The reestimate assumes that 9,000 pupils in FY16 and 9,500 pupils in FY17 will participate in the current program at the per pupil payment of $8,075 in FY16 and FY17. The per pupil payment amount would remain at the FY15 dollar level ($8,075) under the bill.
- Specify that the per pupil payment amount would be subject to the current law indexing mechanism beginning in FY18.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete the bill provision setting the per pupil payment for ICSP at $8,075 in FY16 and FY17 and delaying the current law indexing adjustment to FY18. Under the revenue limit and categorical aid provisions of the motion, it is estimated that the ICSP payment would be $8,087 per pupil in FY16 and $8,195 in FY17.
- Increase the ICSP appropriation by $108,000 GPR in FY16 and $1,140,000 GPR in FY17.

Additional Charter School Authorizers

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Create a new authorizer of ICSP in the UW System. Require the Board of Regents to create the Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO) within the System and require the UW President to appoint a special assistant to serve as Director of the office. See Other Agencies: UW System.
- Provide that the County Executive of Waukesha County would be allowed to authorize independent charter schools located in Waukesha County.
- Provide that the College of Menominee Nation and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College would be allowed to authorize up to a total of six independent charter schools with no geographic limitations on the location of those schools.
- Provide that the Gateway Technical College District Board would be allowed to authorize "2r" charter schools. Specify that these schools could be located only in the technical college district. Provide that pupils who reside within the boundaries of the district or in a county adjacent to the district could attend these charter schools. Specify that the Board could authorize charter schools only if the school operates high school grades only and provides a curriculum focused on any of the following: (a) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; or (b) occupational education and training.
- Specify that, for pupils attending independent charter schools authorized by any of these new authorizers, the pupils would be counted by the district of residence for revenue limits and general schools aids.

- Create a sum sufficient appropriation for per pupil payments to charter schools authorized by the Office. Per pupil payments would be equal and made on the same schedule as the per pupil payments for current "2r" charter schools. Specify that a pupil attending a charter school authorized by the Office would be counted by the district of residence for revenue limits and general school aids. Require DPI to reduce a school district's general aid payment (and categorical aids if necessary) in an amount equal to the total of the per pupil payments made for pupils residing in that district. Specify that a district would not be able to levy to backfill that aid reduction.
- Specify that, for a pupil attending an independent charter school authorized by the College of Menominee Nation and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, DPI would pay to the operator of the charter school an amount equal to the per pupil academic base funding provided to tribal schools by the Bureau of Indian Education in the previous school year.
- Specify that, for a pupil attending an independent charter school that was authorized by the other three new authorizers, DPI would pay to the operator of the charter school an amount equal to the per pupil payment that is paid to independent charter school authorizers under current law.
- Require DPI to make equal quarterly payments to these charter school operators in September, December, February and June.
- Require DPI to reduce a district's general aid (and categorical aids if necessary) in an amount equal to the total of the per pupil payments made for pupils residing in the district. Specify that a district would not be able to levy to backfill that aid reduction.

Charter School Oversight Board

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Create a Charter School Oversight Board that would have the authority to approve "2r" Independent Charter Schools (ICS) authorizers that could establish such schools statewide. The administration estimates that an additional 500 pupils would be enrolled in charter schools authorized through the Charter School Oversight Board (CSOB) in FY17. In that year, total payments for these pupils would equal $4,037,500 GPR at the proposed payment of $8,075 per pupil under the bill.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete the Governor's recommendation pertaining to the creation of a Charter School Oversight Board.
- The following modifications to current law pertaining to independent charter schools were retained:
  - Delete provisions that restrict the location of ICS based on the authorizer (schools could be located anywhere in the state);
  - Delete provisions that require approval of the Board of Regents for charter schools established by UW-Milwaukee and UW-Parkside;
  - Delete the restriction that the Chancellor of UW-Parkside may establish only one charter school and that the school enroll a maximum of 480 pupils (no limit on number of schools or enrollment);
  - Delete the residency restrictions for pupils attending an ICS so that pupils residing anywhere in the state could attend these schools;
  - Specify that the ICS would be LEA's for the purpose of federal law;

- Specify that a contract with a school board or an authorizing entity of independent charter schools may provide for the establishment of more than one charter school and that the governing board may enter into more than one contract with a school board or an authorizing entity of independent charter school;
- Specify that for the purposes of the Open Enrollment program, the definition of a charter school excludes independent charter schools.

Charter School Authorizing Entity Duties

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/ JOINT FINANCE:

- Require that a school board that has authorized a charter school, or an entity authorized to contract to establish an ICS, do all of the following: (a) solicit and evaluate charter school applications; (b) approve only high-quality charter school applications that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices; (c) in accordance with the terms of each charter school contract, monitor the performance and compliance with state charter school law of each charter school with which it contracts; and (d) annually submit a report to the State Superintendent and Legislature that would summarize several aspects of charter school contracts, academic and financial performance, and the operating costs of, and services provided to the charter school by, the school district board or the charter school authorizing entity.
- For a contract for the establishment of a charter school that is entered into, renewed, or modified upon the effective date of the bill, require that an authorizing entity adhere to the principles and standards for quality charter schools established by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.

Contract Requirements for Independent Charter Schools

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Require that, in addition to the contract requirements applicable for all charter schools, the contracts between the governing boards of ICS and their authorizers include the several provisions relating to: (a) adherence to specified annual academic and operational performance standards developed in accordance with the performance framework of the entity with which it is contracting; (b) the corrective measures the charter school governing board will take if the charter school fails to meet performance standards; (c) allowing the governing board of a charter school that is assigned one of the top two grade levels in the most recent school accountability report published by the Department to open one or more additional charter schools and, if the charter school governing board opens one or more additional charter schools, the existing contract applies to the new school or schools unless the parties agree to amend the existing contract or enter into a new contract; (d) the methodology that will be used by the charter school governing board to monitor and verify pupil enrollment, credit accrual, and course completion; (e) access by the authorizing entity to pupil data; (f) a description of the administrative relationship between the parties to the contract; (g) the charter school governing board holding parent-teacher conferences at least annually; (h) a requirement that if more than one charter school is operated under the contract, the charter school governing board report to the authorizing entity on each charter school separately; (i) a requirement that the charter school governing board provide the data needed by the authorizing entity for purposes of making a required annual report to the State Superintendent and Legislature; (j) a requirement that the charter school governing board participate in any training provided by the authorizing entity; and (k) a description of all fees the authorizing entity will charge the charter school governing board.

- Specify that these requirements would first apply to a contract for the establishment of a charter school that is entered into, renewed, or modified on the effective date of the bill.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor's recommendation to specify that an independent charter school operator could open additional charter schools if all of the schools operated by the governing board have received one of the top two ratings on the most recent school accountability reports, and specify that this provision would apply to future independent charter school contracts.

Charter School Governing Boards

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/ JOINT FINANCE:

- Effective September 1, 2015, require each charter school (both ICS and school district charter schools) to be governed by a governing board that is a party to the contract with the authorizing entity. Require that no more than a minority of the governing board's members could be employees of the charter school or employees or officers of the school district in which the charter school is located. Subject to the terms of its contract, provide that a charter school governing board has all the powers necessary to carry out the terms of its contract, including the following: (a) to receive and disburse funds for school purposes; (b) to secure appropriate insurance; (c) to enter into contracts, including contracts with a University of Wisconsin institution or college campus, technical college district board, or private college or university, for technical or financial assistance, academic support, curriculum review, or other services; (d) to incur debt in reasonable anticipation of the receipt of funds; (e) to pledge, assign, or encumber its assets to be used as collateral for loans or extensions of credit; (f) to solicit and accept gifts or grants for school purposes; (g) to acquire real property for its use; and (h) to sue and be sued in its own name.
- Provide that these powers would first apply to a contract for the establishment of a charter school that is entered into, renewed, or modified on the effective date of the bill.

Charter School Admissions

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/ JOINT FINANCE:

- Require that, with the following specified exceptions, a contract with a school board or independent charter school authorizing entity specify that if the capacity of the charter school is insufficient to accept all pupils who apply, the charter school would have to accept pupils at random. Require that a charter school give preference in enrollment to pupils who were enrolled in the charter school in the previous school year, and to siblings of pupils who are enrolled in the charter school. Permit a charter school to give preference in enrollment to the children of the charter school's founders, governing board members, and full-time employees, but limit the total number of such children given preference to no more than 10 percent of the charter school's total enrollment. Provide that these changes would first apply to a contract entered into, renewed, or modified on the effective date of the bill. In addition, as under current law, provide that if a charter school replaces a public school in whole or in part, the school must give preference in admission to any pupil who resides within the attendance area or former attendance area of that public school.

PRIVATE SCHOOL PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAMS

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program – Funding for Estimated Enrollment

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $14,691,800 GPR in FY16 and $30,130,800 GPR in FY17 to continue to fund the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), based on the estimated participation of 27,000 pupils in FY16 and 28,000 pupils in FY17. (Per pupil payments are based on the current law indexing of per pupil payments, as created under 2013 Act 20.)
- Request a change in the state's share of funding for the program, from 71.2 percent of annual cost of the program in FY16, to 100 percent of the annual cost of the program in FY17.

GOVERNOR:

- Provide $7,082,200 GPR in FY16 and $7,343,000 GPR in FY17, as a reestimate of the sum-sufficient appropriation for the MPCP, reflecting an increase in pupil participation from 25,905 pupils in FY15 to an estimated 26,905 pupils in FY16 and to 27,905 pupils in FY17.
- Set the maximum payment per pupil at the FY15 rates of $7,210 for pupils in grades K-8 and $7,856 for pupils in grades 9-12, for both FY16 and FY17.
- Specify that the maximum per pupil payment amount would be subject to the current law indexing mechanism beginning in FY18.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete the Governor's recommendation delaying the current law indexing mechanism beginning in FY18, thereby allowing the indexing for payments to begin in FY16.
- Increase the MPCP appropriation by an estimated $322,900 GPR in FY16 and $3,013,700 GPR in FY17, relative to the Governor's recommendation, to reflect a reestimate based on projected enrollments and the increased per pupil payment in FY16 and FY17.

Racine and Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs – Funding for Estimated Enrollment (existing pupils)

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $2,337,000 GPR in FY16 and $7,162,800 GPR in FY17 to continue to fund the Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP) and the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP), based on the estimated participation of 2,200 pupils in FY16 and 2,700 pupils in FY17 under the RPCP; and for 1,000 pupils in both FY16 and FY17 under the WPCP. (Per pupil payments are based on the current law indexing of per pupil payments, as created under 2013 Act 20.)

GOVERNOR:

- Reduce funding for the Racine and statewide private school choice programs by $2,144,100 annually from base year funding of $21,978,800. This would reflect actual expenditures from FY15, and would assume that any payments for pupils who begin participating in the RPCP and the WPCP in FY16 or any year thereafter would be paid out of the appropriation for general school aids (see separate item "Expansion of Racine and Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs").
- Set the maximum payment per pupil for pupils participating in the RPCP & WPCP <u>prior to FY16</u> at the FY15 rates of $7,210 for pupils in grades K-8 & $7,856 for pupils in grades 9-12, for both FY16 & FY17.

- Specify that the maximum per pupil payment amount for pupils participating in the RPCP & WPCP prior to FY16 would be subject to the current law indexing mechanism beginning in FY18.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete the Governor's recommendation delaying the current law indexing mechanism beginning in FY18, thereby allowing the indexing for payments to begin in FY16.
- Increase the RPCP and WPCP appropriation by an estimated $62,400 GPR in FY16 and $615,600 GPR in FY17, relative to the Governor's recommendation, to reflect a reestimate based on projected enrollments and the increased per pupil payment in FY16 and FY17.

Expansion of the WPCP and RPCP – New Funding Mechanism

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Eliminate the current law cap on participation in the WPCP (1,000 pupils in each school year) and the current law limit on participation in any school district to one percent of the district's total enrollment**.**
  - Provide that a pupil who was awarded a slot in a participating private school in FY16 or was on a waitlist in that year could not be required to reapply for a slot by the private school or by the Department.
  - No additional funding is provided for these modifications because the bill would make changes to the Racine and statewide private school choice program funding mechanism to use moneys drawn from general school aids to fund new pupils in the programs.
- Specify that a pupil would be eligible to begin participating in the statewide private school choice program in FY16 or any year thereafter if the pupil was one of the following:

  (a) Enrolled in a public school in his or her district of residence in the previous school year;

  (b) Not enrolled in school in the previous school year;

  (c) Was enrolled in a private school under the Racine or statewide private school choice programs in the previous school year; or

  (d) Is enrolling in kindergarten, first grade, or ninth grade in the current year.

  Under current law, these requirements apply only to the Racine private school choice program.
- **Establish a procedure under which pupils in the RPCP & WPCP who begin *in FY16 or later* would be funded from the general school aids appropriation:**
  - Define an "incoming choice pupil" as a pupil who begins participating in these programs in FY16, or in any year thereafter.
  - For incoming choice pupils, the Department would be required to pay to the private school in which the pupil is enrolled, on behalf of the pupil's parent or guardian, an amount from the general school aids appropriation determined by: 1) summing the average equalization aid multiplied by the number incoming choice pupils from each resident school district; and then 2) dividing that pooled sum by the total number of incoming choice pupils for that year.
  - The average would be the per pupil payment to the private choice school for each incoming choice pupil enrolled in the private school for that year.
- **Require the Department to calculate the per pupil payment amount for incoming choice pupils each year by October 15, using the most accurate data available.**

- Specify that any adjustments to that calculation would be made by increasing or decreasing the payment to a choice school made in September of the following school year.
- Specify that if the private school is not participating in the choice program in September of the following school year, the Department would make any adjustments to the calculation by making a separate payment to the school, or, if the adjustment is a decrease, require the school to refund to the Department any overpayment it received.
- Provide that, for an incoming choice pupil in FY16, the Department would base the September (2015) payment on the amount the Department estimated would be paid in FY16, using the best data available.

- Provide that for pupils who began participating in the choice program in FY16 or later, the summer school payment would be determined by multiplying the per pupil payment calculated based on equalization aid in the previous school year by 5 percent.
  - The summer school payment would be made out of the general school aids appropriation.
  - Specify that summer school payments for pupils who participated in the program prior to FY16 would be calculated by multiplying the per pupil payment applicable to those pupils by 5 percent and would be made out of the appropriation for the RPCP & WPCP.
- For payments beginning in FY17, specify that the September payment would be based on the per pupil payment in the previous school year. Any adjustment necessary to correct the amount paid to schools in September would be made by increasing or decreasing the amount paid in the following May. [Current law specifies that 25 percent of each per pupil payment is distributed to private choice schools in September, 25 percent in November, 25 percent in February, and 25 percent in May.]
- Specify that, for a pupil who began participating in the RPCP or WPCP in FY16 or later, the per pupil payment used would be the amount determined based on equalization aid in the pupil's district of residence, the multiplier would be 0.667 rather than 0.616, and the payment would be made out of the appropriation for general school aids. [Under current law, if a choice school closes after the third Friday in September in any school year, for each quarterly payment that was not paid to the private school in that school year, the Department pays the school district in which the pupil resides an amount equal to one-quarter of the amount determined by multiplying 0.616 times the per pupil payment.]
- Require pupils or the parents or guardians of pupils participating in the RPCP or WPCP to notify the Department annually, by the third Friday in September, of the pupil's participation in the program, using a form provided by the Department. Specify that the form would require the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian to indicate the school year in which the pupil first participated in the choice program.
- Require that private schools participating in the RPCP or WPCP annually provide to the Department the number of pupils attending the private school under the choice program who began participating in the program prior to FY16 and the number who began participating in FY16 or later.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Specify that "incoming pupils" (those who begin participating in the Racine or statewide private school choice programs in the FY16 school year or thereafter) could be counted by their district of residence for general aids and revenue limit purposes.
- Specify that pupils would be fully counted by their school district of residence under revenue limits in the first year of their participation in the programs, and would no longer by counted following their last year in the program. Provide that this would be accomplished by providing districts with a nonrecurring revenue limit exemption equal to the number of incoming pupils multiplied by the per pupil payment at the applicable grade level.
- Specify that the per pupil payment amount for "continuing pupils" (pupils who participated in the programs in the FY15 school year) would be the amount paid to private schools for incoming pupils, paid from the

current GPR sum sufficient appropriation for these programs. Provide $18,400,000 GPR in FY16 and $29,400,999 GPR in FY17 in this appropriation.

- Specify that each district's general aid would be reduced by an amount equal to the total amount paid by the state to Racine or statewide choice schools attributable to incoming pupils residing in that district, beginning in FY16. *Specify that districts could not levy to backfill the aid reduction*.
- Provide that if the district did not receive an equalization aid payment sufficient to cover the aid reduction, the balance would be reduced from other state aid received by the district. Estimate GPR lapses at $18,400,000 in FY16 and $29,400,000 in FY17.
- Provide that the total number of pupils residing in the district who could participate in the choice program from each district in any year would be limited to no more than 1% of the district's prior year membership. Specify that the enrollment limit would increase by one percentage point in each year beginning in FY18 until the enrollment limit reached 10% of the district's prior year enrollment. In the year following, no enrollment limit would apply.
- Require each school to report the following information to DPI following the close of the application period in each year: (a) the number of pupils who have applied to attend the school under the statewide choice program; and (b) the applicants who are siblings of pupils who have applied. If the number of applications from any district exceeds the number of available slots from that district, require DPI to select pupils from that district by random draw, with preference given to pupils according to the pupil order of preference established in the bill.
- Specify that the prior year attendance requirements in the bill would first apply to pupils participating in the program beginning in FY17.

Statewide Private School Choice Program – Pupil Lottery

AGENCY REQUEST:

- None

GOVERNOR/ JOINT FINANCE:

- None

LEGISLATURE

- Specify that each private school participating in the statewide private school choice program would be required to report to DPI the number of pupils who have applied to attend the school under the choice program beginning in 2016, rather than 2015.
- Specify that, in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years, if the total number of pupils residing in a district who apply to attend a private school under a choice program does not exceed the school district's pupil participation limit, DPI would be required to determine which pupils the private school could accept on a random basis, rather than each private school randomly selecting pupils.

Parental Choice Programs – Program Language Changes

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Make the following changes to statutory language for the parental choice program:
    1. Require each school to submit an audit conforming to generally accepted accounting principles showing the school's educational costs and the fund balance held in a segregated fund for future educational purposes.

2. Establish pupil preferences for random selection for the statewide program in the following order: (1) continuing choice pupils applying to the same school; (2) siblings of continuing choice pupils accepted to the same school; (3) continuing choice pupils applying to a different school; (4) siblings of continuing choice pupils applying to a different school who were accepted to that school; (5) siblings of pupils accepted to the school. Request that these preferences apply to all three parental choice programs.
3. Require private schools to be non-profit organizations.
4. Change the date by which schools must annually register to participate in the program from February 1 to December 1 to ensure that schools are registered before pupil applications are accepted on February 1.
5. Related to the summer school provisions, change the due date for the summer school report from October 15 to October 1 and make technical modifications to remove provisions that are no longer applicable.
6. Expand the allowable teacher and administrator credentials to include a DPI-issued teaching license rather than requiring that teachers and administrators provide a copy of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.
7. Remove the following current law requirements:
   a) Continuing eligibility report indicating which of four performance standards the school will meet and the criteria that will be used to demonstrate compliance;
   b) Grade promotion report indicating the number of pupils who successfully completed 12th, 8th, and 4th grades;
   c) Requirement to submit test scores from additional assessments administered by the school but not required under state law; and
   d) Pupil assignment council meetings.
8. Require an annual enrollment audit that is currently required in administrative rule.
9. Require new private schools participating in the program to have been in existence as of May 1, 2013, or to be fully accredited.
10. Remove the National Council of Private School Accrediting from the list of eligible accrediting agencies.
11. Allow parents to access DOR directly in the online student application to determine income eligibility for the program. Currently, only schools can submit income records to DOR.
12. Delete the preaccreditation provisions and the additional requirements for new schools, which would no longer be applicable due to the proposed requirement that new schools be fully accredited or have been in operation since May 1, 2013, in order to participate in the program in the future.
13. Eliminate the provisions that allow high schools to charge tuition to choice pupils.
14. Eliminate the provision requiring the Department to certify the districts eligible to participate in the parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts. These provisions are no longer necessary as a result of the creation of the statewide parental choice program, which allows pupils from any district in the state to participate.
15. Eliminate the aid payment to the City of Milwaukee in an amount equal to 6.6 percent of the estimated total cost of the Milwaukee program for the purpose of defraying the choice program levy it raises on behalf of MPS, beginning in FY17.
16. Delete the provision under which the state pays the lesser of the established maximum per-pupil payment or the schools per-pupil cost. Request that the state instead pay the set per-pupil amount for each eligible pupil.

GOVERNOR:

- Approved the changes requested under items 1., 2., 5., 6., 7.b. and 7.d., and 16.
- Modify the change requested under item 4., so as to change the date by which schools must annually register to participate in the program from February 1 to January 10.
- Deny the changes requested under items 3., 7.a., 7.c., and 8. through 15.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Deny the Governor's recommendation with respect to item 1., above (audit conforming to generally accepted accounting principles), and replace with the provisions described below under "Independent Financial Audits for Private Choice Schools". Approve the Governor's recommendations for all other items.

Statewide Private School Choice Program – School Eligibility

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request

JOINT FINANCE:

- Specify that a private school participating in the statewide choice program would be required to have been in continual operation as a private school since prior to May 1, 2013 (similar to Department's request – see Parental Choice Programs – Language Changes, item #9).

LEGISLATURE:

- Modify the Joint Finance action to specify that the provision requiring a private school participating in the statewide private school choice program to have been in continual operation as a private school since May 1, 2013, would apply in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years only.

Independent Financial Audits for Private Choice Schools

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Specify that each private school participating in a PCP would be required to submit an independent financial audit by October 15 following a school year in which the school participated in the program.
- Require that the independent financial audit submitted by a private school participating in a PCP fairly presents the private school's eligible education expenses, and beginning in the second school year a private school participates in the program, includes a copy of a management letter prepared by the auditor.
- Require the independent auditor to review any concerns raised in the private school's management letter.
- Specify that a negative reserve balance alone is not evidence that the private school does not have the financial ability to continue operating or does not follow sound fiscal and internal control practices.
- If the independent auditor determines that the governing body of the private school has not taken reasonable actions to remedy concerns raised in the management letter, the private school must submit a report to DPI (with the financial audit), prepared by the independent auditor that includes the auditor's findings.
- Require that the independent financial audit be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles with allowable modifications for long-term fixed assets acquired before 2014.

- Require that the audit include a calculation of the private school's net eligible education expenses (all direct and indirect costs associated with the school's educational programming, grades K-12) and a calculation of the balance of the private school's fund for future eligible education expenses.
- If a private school participating in a PCP is part of an organization with which it shares assets, liabilities or eligible education expenses, the private school may submit an audit of the private school or of the organization. If a private school in this situation submits an audit of only the private school, require the independent auditor to use professional judgment to allocate any shared assets, liabilities and eligible education expenses between the organization and the school.
- Require DPI to certify the financial audit within 90 days after receiving the audit.
- During the 90 day period between receipt and certification, DPI's allowable contact with the auditor would be limited to a single written communication that may include only matters that individually impact the private school's financial statement by an amount that is greater than 1% of the total amount the private school received in choice program payments in the previous school year. Require that an auditor who receives a written communication from DPI respond within 15 days of receiving the communication.
- Specify that if a private school participating in a PCP has a cash or investment reserve balance that is greater than 50% of the total amount the private school received in choice program payments in the previous school year, the governing body of the private school would be required to approve a plan for how it would use that portion of its cash or investment reserve.

GOVERNOR'S VETO:

- Within the provision that requires audits to be prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) with allowable modifications for long-term fixed assets acquired before 2014, eliminate the words "acquired before 2014", thereby retaining the requirement that audits be prepared according to GAAP, but recognizing that private schools are transitioning to GAAP effective with FY16.

Income Eligibility Verification

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/ JOINT FINANCE:

- Provide that the family income of a pupil who applies to attend a private school under the MPCP or RPCP would not need to be verified if the pupil attended a private school under the statewide private school choice program in the previous school year.

Private Choice School Programs – Assessments

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/ JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify current law to require only private schools attended by at least 20 private school choice program pupils to administer assessments to pupils attending under a choice program.
- Specify that beginning in FY16, a private school participating in a private school choice program would not be required to administer assessments adopted or approved by the State Superintendent or required for public school pupils under federal law if the governing body of the private school elected to administer an alternative assessment approved by the UW-Madison Value Added Research Center (VARC). Require a

private school that chose to use an alternative assessment to notify the Department of its intent to administer an alternative assessment. If the private school maintains an Internet site, require that the school annually publish information on its Internet site about the statewide or alternative assessment that would be administered by the school.

- Specify that the private school would be responsible for paying the difference between the cost of the alternative assessment and the assessment adopted or approved by the State Superintendent (if applicable). Provide that the scores on the alternative assessment could be used as one criterion for promoting a pupil from 4th grade to 5th grade and from 8th grade to 9th grade.

Milwaukee Choice Program Research

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require that the Department of Workforce Development, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Health Services Office of Vital Records to allow qualified independent researches to cross-match databases already in their possession containing information regarding pupils participating in the Milwaukee private school choice program with other databases maintained by the agencies for purposes of evaluating the effects of the Milwaukee choice program.
- Define a qualified independent researcher as a faculty member of a university who meets the following criteria: (a) has an approved protocol from an institutional review board for human subjects to work with data containing personal information for the purposes of evaluating the Milwaukee choice program; and (b) has already received and properly managed data with personal information from the state for the same purposes.
- Specify that the agencies could not charge a fee to the researchers greater than the cost incurred by the agencies for providing the data.

Teachers' Aides in Private Choice Schools

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request

JOINT FINANCE:

- Specify that a private school participating in a private school choice program can employ a teacher's aide who has been granted a high school diploma by the administrator of a home-based private educational program.

Regional or National Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require that in a private school participating in the Milwaukee, Racine, or statewide private school choice programs, all administrators have at least a bachelor's degree, and that all teachers have a bachelor's degree,

or a degree or educational credential higher than a bachelor's degree, from a nationally or regionally accredited institution of higher education.

Eliminate Occupancy Permit Requirement for Statewide Choice Program

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete current law requiring a private school participating in the statewide choice program to submit to DPI a current certificate of occupancy issued by the municipality within which the school is located.

Document Retention Policy for Choice Schools

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request

JOINT FINANCE:

- Specify that private schools participating in the Milwaukee, Racine, or statewide choice programs could maintain pupil applications and correspondence electronically, rather than maintaining original applications and correspondence with applicants. Specify that schools would be required to maintain documentation related to pupil applications for a period of at least five years.

Special Education Voucher Program

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Beginning in FY17, create a special education voucher program, to allow a child with a disability to attend a participating private school of the child or the child's parent's choice, if that child has previously been rejected from attending school in a nonresident district under the open enrollment program. An eligible child may begin attending an eligible school at any time during the school year.
- There is no limit on number of eligible children that can receive voucher.
- There is no income eligibility test for the special education voucher.
- Eligible child: has an individualized education program (IEP) or services plan in place; attended a Wisconsin public school for the entire school year immediately preceding the school year in which the child first receives a voucher; and applied for open enrollment in one or more nonresident school districts for the same year for which he or she is submitting an application for a voucher and was rejected or prohibited from attending. Include the following provisions:
    - If an application for a special needs voucher is made within 30 days of the effective date of the bill, the applicant pupil would be eligible to receive a voucher if the pupil had applied to attend a public school in one or more nonresident school districts in at least one of the previous five school years, was rejected by the school boards of each district or prohibited from attending public school in the nonresident districts, and the pupil attends a Wisconsin public school for the entire 2015-16 school year.

- The eligible child can participate in special education voucher program as long as child attends an eligible private school, until child graduates from high school, or until end of school term child is age 21, whichever comes first.
- If an IEP team unanimously determines the child is no longer a child with a disability, the child is ineligible to receive a special education voucher beginning the following school term.
- *Continued state payments*: specify that for children who previously qualified for a special needs voucher, who were determined to be no longer eligible and who continue to attend the same private school following that determination, the Department would have to pay the private school that the child is attending an amount equal to the private school choice program per pupil payment applicable to the parental choice program (Wisconsin, Racine or Milwaukee) in the child's school district of residence in the same year.

- Eligible school: Private school located in Wisconsin that is either (1) approved by the State Superintendent as a private school under state requirements; or (2) accredited as of August 1 preceding the school term in which pupils first attend the school under this program. Private schools participating in the program are required to:
  - notify DPI of intent to participate in the special education voucher program and the number of students for which they have available space;
  - provide each applicant with a profile of the school's special education program;
  - notify DPI when accept pupil under the program;
  - implement the child's most recent IEP or services plan as modified by agreement between the private school and the child's parent;
  - provide a record of implementation of the child's IEP including an evaluation of the child's progress to the resident school district;
  - regularly report child's progress to the child's parent;
  - annually submit to DPI a school financial report prepared by a certified public accountant;
  - file a surety bond with DPI or provide DPI with information demonstrating that it has the ability to pay an amount equal to the total amount of vouchers if the private school expects to receive at least $50,000 in vouchers during a school year;
  - comply with all health and safety laws or codes that apply to private schools; to hold a valid certificate of occupancy;
  - comply with federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin by any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance;
  - conduct criminal background investigations of its employees and exclude from employment any person not permitted to hold a teaching license as the result of an offense and any person who might reasonably be believed to pose a threat to the safety of others; and
  - comply with state law related to the physical restraint of pupils.
- If an eligible school were to receive more applications than the number of pupils for whom it has space, the school would be required to select pupils on a random basis, except that it could give preference to siblings of pupils already attending the school.
- Voucher Amount: $12,000 for FY17 and beginning FY18, adjusted by the per pupil indexing mechanism that also applies to the parental choice, independent charter and open enrollment programs (previous year payment plus the revenue limit per pupil adjustment, if positive, plus the change in total categorical aid funding per pupil, if positive).

- Funding: a child using a voucher under this program would be counted by their district of residence for general aids and revenue limit purposes (specify that a pupil could not be counted by the district of residence under both the special needs voucher program and under a private school choice program). The resident district's equalization aid would be reduced by an amount equal to the voucher amount multiplied by the number of resident children participating in the program, and the resident district cannot back fill this aid reduction with levy. If the resident district did not receive an equalization aid payment sufficient to cover the aid reduction, the balance would be reduced from other state aid received by the district.
- Responsibilities of the resident school district:
  - provide child's IEP to private school and DPI within 3 days of being notified child was accepted by a private school with a special education voucher;
  - reevaluate the child's IEP at least once every three years for eligibility;
  - provide standardized testing at no cost to children receiving special education vouchers if requested by child's parent and the eligible private school does not administer the testing; and
  - provide transportation to and from the school if the private school is located at least two miles from the child's residence, the child resides in the private school's attendance area, and the private school is within the school district of residence, or five miles or less beyond the district's boundaries.
- Responsibilities of the Department:
  - prepare the application for participation that would be used by a parent to apply to an eligible school on behalf of their child;
  - prepare and include in the application a document that compares the rights of a child with a disability and of his or her parent under state law and under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, the federal special education law), with the rights of a child with a disability and his or her parent under the special needs voucher and IDEA;
  - provide that receipt of the document by an applicant would constitute notice that the applicant had been informed of their rights under state law and under IDEA and that subsequent participation in the special needs voucher program would constitute the applicant's informed consent to the rights specified in the document;
  - notify pupil's school district of residence when notified by an eligible school that a pupil will participate in the special education voucher program;
  - notify all pupils eligible to participate in the special education voucher program and their parents if a private school is barred from participating gin the program; and
  - promulgate rules to implement and administer the program.
- All Wisconsin school boards are required to annually notify the parents of each child with a disability enrolled in the school district of the special education voucher program.
- Require the Legislative Audit Bureau contract for a study and report the results to the Legislature by January 9, 2019.

GOVERNOR'S VETO:

- Veto the requirement that a pupil attend a Wisconsin public school for the **entire** 2015-16 school year.
- Veto the requirement that the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) contract for a study and require the Legislative Audit Bureau to complete the study (the LAB itself would conduct the study).

PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT, TUITION AND COURSE OPTIONS

Open Enrollment per Pupil Amount

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Maintain current law dollar level for the per pupil payment in the Open Enrollment program ($6,635 per pupil) and delay the indexing mechanism for increasing the per pupil payment to the 2017-19 biennium beginning in FY18.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete the bill provision setting the open enrollment transfer amount at $6,635 in FY16 and FY17 and restoring the current law indexing adjustment beginning in FY18; maintain current law.

Special Education Open Enrollment

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request a change to the public school open enrollment program beginning in FY17 to eliminate undue financial burden (resident district could no longer deny an application for open enrollment) and establish a $12,000 open enrollment transfer amount for students with disabilities.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the agency request.

State Tuition Payments and Open Enrollment Transfers

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request that the appropriation under s.20.255 (2)(cg) be changed from a sum-certain, to a sum-sufficient, appropriation, in order to position the Department to be able to accommodate the potential increased draws on the state tuition appropriation related to open enrollment transfer payments.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Deny the request. *(See "Tuition for Pupils Attending a School Out of State", below)*

Tuition for Pupils Attending a School Out of State

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No Request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require that a written agreement between a school board of a pupil's district of residence and that of a pupil's district of attendance to permit a pupil to attend a public school outside the school district of

residence (including an out-of-state school) must specify the amount of tuition that the school district of residence would pay to the school district of attendance.

- Provide that the school district of residence would be paid state aid for the pupil, in an amount up to the amount specified in the written agreement, as though the pupil were enrolled in the district of residence.
- Delete current law requiring that if a school board provides for the enrollment of a pupil in a public school located outside of this state, the school must be at least 1.5 miles nearer to the pupil's home than any public school in Wisconsin.
- Delete current law requiring that the school board pay for the transportation of a pupil who resides two or more miles from an out-of-state school, and specifying that the school district is eligible for state aid for the transportation of the pupil as if the pupil were transported to a school in the district of residence.
- These provisions would first apply to pupils attending a nonresident school in the 2015-16 school year.

Course Options

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No Request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Act 55 allows an institution of higher education (IHE) to charge tuition and fees to pupils for course taken through the course options program if the course is offered for credit. Only the IHE is permitted to charge tuition to the family. In this situation, the tuition and fees would be negotiated between the institution of higher education and the school district. Otherwise, tuition would be set in a manner determined by the State Superintendent.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUPIL ASSESSMENTS

Educational Standards

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Prohibit the State Superintendent from "giving any effect", or requiring a school board to "give any effect", to any academic standard developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative and adopted and implemented prior to the effective date of the bill.
- Prohibit the State Superintendent from taking any action to adopt or implement any academic standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative or directing any school board to adopt or implement any academic standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative after the effective date of the bill.
- Require that school districts annually, prior to the start of the school term, notify the parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the district of the academic standards adopted by the school board for that school year.
- Require that a notice identifying the academic standards adopted by the school board be included as an item on the agenda for the first school board meeting of the school year.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor's recommendation to specify that the school districts could notify the parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the district of the academic standards adopted by the school board electronically, including on the district's Internet site.

School and School District Accountability

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Modify the components required to be included by the Department in the school and school district accountability reports as follows:
  1. Categorize all measures by English language proficiency, disability, income level, and race or ethnicity;
  2. Calculate growth in pupil achievement in reading and mathematics using a value-added methodology;
  3. Remove (as required measures) the measures of college and career readiness for high school pupils and measures indicative of being on track for college and career readiness in the elementary grades;
  4. Indicate gap closure in pupil achievement in reading and mathematics in addition to graduation rates, when graduation rates are available;
  5. Include rates of attendance or of high school graduation; and
  6. Identify a school's level of performance and a school district's level of improvement using a letter grade (A, B, C, D or F), attached to the categories currently in use by the Department's report cards ("significantly exceeds expectations", "exceeds expectations", "meets expectations", "meets few expectations" and "fails to meet expectations") and require that the accountability report include a qualitative definition for each of the five grade levels.

- Require that the Department exclude data a pupil that falls into one of the categories below when determining a school's performance or improvement:
    1. A pupil who was enrolled in a private school under a private school choice program in the eighth grade and transferred to a public school, including a charter school, for the ninth grade;
    2. A pupil who was enrolled in a public school, including a charter school, in the eighth grade and transferred to a private school under a private school choice program in the ninth grade; and
    3. A pupil in a grade other than ninth grade who was enrolled in the school or school district for less than one year prior to taking the pupil assessment.
- Require that if the Department used pupil assessment scores to determine a school or school district's accountability grade, a weighted formula would be used to account for the amount of time that a pupil was enrolled in the school or school district prior to taking the pupil assessment.
- Require the Department to use a formula to adjust the weight given to the measures of pupil achievement and pupil growth in reading and mathematics based on the number of economically disadvantaged pupils enrolled in the school or school district.
- Require the accountability reports would be published for "2r" charter schools and private schools participating in a private school choice program beginning in FY16, using the same criteria that are used for public schools and school districts.
- Require the Department to specify the percentage of pupils attending a private school under a private school choice program on the accountability report of the private school. Specify that if a private school submitted data for just those pupils attending the school under a private school choice program, the Department would be required to identify the resulting grade as the "choice pupil" grade; and if the school submitted data for all pupils attending that private school, the Department would be required to include two grades on the private school's report card – one for just pupils attending under the private school choice program and one for all pupils attending the private school.
- Specify that the appropriate standing committee of the Assembly and Senate conduct a review of school and school district accountability reports beginning in FY18 and every two years thereafter.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the Governor's recommendations, with two technical corrections requested by the Department of Administration in the errata materials sent to the Committee: (a) correct the weighting formula for measures of pupil achievement and growth based on each school or district's percentage of economically disadvantaged pupils; and (b) delete a reference to a letter sent to parents by each school board regarding educational opportunities
- Delete the language in the bill requiring that a school's level of performance and a school district's level of improvement is identified using a letter grade. Require instead that a school's level of performance and a school district's level of improvement is identified using between one and five stars out of five, with one star out of five assigned to a school that fails to meet expectations and five stars out of five assigned to a school that significantly exceeds expectations, with the phrase "out of five" used in every instance.
- Prohibit the Department from including data from a virtual charter school when measuring a school district's improvement under the school accountability reports if at least 50% of the pupils in the virtual charter school are attending through the open enrollment program.

Pupil Assessments

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $1,634,700 GPR in FY16 and $2,587,200 GPR in FY17 to fully fund the ACT assessment suite including ASPIRE, ACT, and WorkKeys.
- Request $456,700 GPR in both FY16 and FY17 to fully fund the state mandated Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternate assessments.
- Request $1,172,000 GPR in FY16 and $912,000 GPR in FY17 to fully fund the state mandated assessment in grades three, four, and eight.
- Request statutory language to eliminate the requirement to administer the ASPIRE (ACT) assessment in the fall of grade nine.

GOVERNOR:

- Approve the Department's request for additional funding for the ACT assessment suite in grades 9-12 and DLM alternate assessments.
- Prohibit the Department from using the Smarter / Balanced (SBAC) assessments beginning in FY16 for any of the exams required under current law (s.118.30) for the 4th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grades. Also prohibits the State Superintendent from participating in the SBAC Consortium.
- Increase funding by $1,500,000 annually to cover the costs associated with contracting a vendor for state required assessments.
- Requires the State Superintendent to adopt a new statewide standardized assessment.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor's recommendation by reducing funding for DLM assessments by $574,000 GPR annually, to reflect the decrease in costs associated with administering only one assessment to 9th graders.

Alternative Pupil Assessments

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No change in current law.

GOVERNOR:

- Create a new GPR appropriation of $750,000 annually to pay the Value Added Research Center (VARC) at UW-Madison, which is required to identify three to five nationally recognized, norm-referenced alternative examinations to be acceptable for statistical comparison with examinations adopted or approved by the State Superintendent.
- Permit a school district, independent charter school (ICS) or private school participating in any of the state's Parental Choice Programs to use a test other than that approved/adopted by the Department under s.118.30, provided the test has been approved by the VARC as an acceptable alternative test, for any grade for which a state assessment is required.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor's recommendation to require the Department to request a waiver from the federal Department of Education to allow the state to approve between three and five assessments, with each school district, independent charter school, and private choice school able to select an assessment to administer in each year from the approved list.

- Specify that the funding provided in the bill, equal to $750,000 GPR annually, would be held in the Committee's appropriation until a waiver were granted. Provide that the funding would be immediately distributed to the Department following federal approval of the waiver request.
- Require the Department to request from VARC a list of nationally recognized, norm-referenced alternatives assessments that are acceptable for statistical comparison with the assessment adopted or approved by the State Superintendent within 30 days of the date on which the federal waiver was granted, and require VARC to evaluate and approve at least three and no more than five alternative assessments and submit the list of approved assessments to the Department within 180 days of the date on which the waiver was granted.
- Specify that school districts, independent charter schools, and private choice schools could administer the alternative assessment instead of the assessment chosen by the State Superintendent beginning in the first full school year following the date on which VARC submitted the list of approved assessments to the Department.

Requirements for Statewide Assessment System

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require the Department to review and approve a summative assessment system for federal and state accountability purposes beginning in FY16. Specify that the system would be used to assess pupils in grades three through ten in the subjects of English, reading, writing science, and mathematics. Specify that the assessment would be administered to all public school pupils in specified grades, including those students as required under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act and by Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Require that the assessment system meets the following criteria: (a) be a vertically-scaled, standards-based system of summative assessments; (b) document student progress towards national college and career readiness benchmarks derived from empirical research and state standards; (c) be capable of measuring individual student performance in the following subject matter areas: English, reading, writing, science, and mathematics; (d) be able to be administered primarily in computer-based format, with paper and pencil format available for limited circumstances; and (e) be a predictive measure of student performance on college readiness assessments used by institutions of higher education.

GOVERNOR'S VETO

- Vetoes the Joint Finance provisions specifying numerous requirements for a statewide assessment system. Beginning in the FY16, the State Superintendent is still required to adopt a new statewide standardized assessment and prohibited from adopting or approving any assessments developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (see Governor's recommendation under the "Pupil Assessments" item, above).

Allow Districts to Select Assessment of Reading Readiness

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Provide that the current law requiring each school district and independent "2r" charter school to annually assess each pupil enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten through 2nd grade with an assessment of literacy fundamentals selected by the Department would continue to apply in the FY16 school year.

- Require each school district or independent “2r” charter school operator to administer a reading assessment selected by the district or charter school operator to assess the reading readiness or grade-level reading achievement of pupils enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten through second grade, beginning in the FY17 school year (school boards or charter school operators could administer computer adaptive assessments).
- Require the Department to pay each school district the per pupil cost of the assessment selected by the school board or independent “2r” charter school operator multiplied by the number of pupils assessed in the school district or “2r” charter school from the appropriation for assessments of reading readiness. Specify that if the funding in the appropriation was insufficient in any year, payments would be prorated.

Civics Assessment Requirement for High School Graduation

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Specify that a school board, independent charter or private choice school may not grant a high school diploma, and the State Superintendent may not grant a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation, to an individual unless he or she has successfully completed a civics assessment beginning in the FY17.
- Require that the civics assessment consist of 100 questions that are identical to the 100 questions that may be asked of an individual during the process of applying for U.S. citizenship by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Require that pupils correctly answer at least 60 of those questions.
- Specify that a pupil may retake the assessment until the pupil obtains a passing score on the assessment.
- Specify that a pupil for whom an individualized education program is in effect would be required to complete the civics assessment, but would not be required to successfully complete the assessment prior to graduation.
- Require schools to permit limited-English proficient pupils to take the test in the pupils’ language of choice.
- Specify that the civics assessment requirement would not apply to a high school diploma awarded to a veteran meeting specific requirements specified in current law.
- The school board, an independent charter or a private choice school could determine the format of the test and when in the school year the test would be administered.
- Require a school board to grant a diploma to a pupil who satisfies requirements for high school graduation, in addition to the civics assessment requirement, even if the pupil satisfied all or some of the requirements while attending a technical college or other IHE under the youth options program.
- Require school boards, independent charter and private choice schools to periodically review and revise their written policy specifying criteria for granting a high school diploma, which would have to include successful completion of the civics assessment.
- Require the State Superintendent to approve any school board's high school graduation standards policy that meets current law requirements and includes the civics assessment requirement.

TEACHER LICENSURE

Alternative Teacher License

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Require the State Superintendent to grant a teaching license to an individual who meets all the following requirements: (a) has a bachelor's degree; (b) demonstrates proficiency in the subject area or areas that he or she intends to teach by passing a competency exam approved by the Department; and (c) has relevant experience in the subject area or areas that he or she intends to teach, as determined by the Department. Specify that a license granted to an individual meeting these requirements would authorize the individual to teach in grades six through 12 only in the subject area or areas in which he or she demonstrated proficiency and relevant experience. The license would be valid for three years, and would be renewable for three-year periods. Provide $20,000 PR annually above base level funding of $3,417,000 PR to reflect the estimated increase in revenue associated with the alternative licensing process.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete the Governor's recommendation. Instead establish three alternative methods for the granting of teacher licenses. Specify that other current law requirements regarding teacher licensing would not apply, except that the individual would be required to undergo a background investigation like other candidates for licensure.

(1) Experienced-Based Licensure for Technical Education

- Require the Department to grant an initial teaching license to teach a technical education subject, including technology education and any technology related occupation, to an individual who scores at least 100 points based on a point system, with at least 25 points based on the individual's experience in a technical field and at least 25 points based on pedagogical experience, and agrees to complete a curriculum determined by the school board of the district in which the individual would teach. Specify that an individual granted a teaching license under this provision would not be required to possess a bachelor's degree.

- Specify that the following point values would be assigned based on the individual's experience in a technical field: (a) for a bachelor's degree in any science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) field and any teaching license or permit, 100 points; (b) for a bachelor's degree in any STEM field, 75 points; (c) for a bachelor's degree in another field, 65 points; (d) for industry certification, 90 points; (e) for industry experience in a trade or technical field, five points per 40 hours worked up to a maximum of 90 points; (f) for an internship in a trade or technical field, 25 points; (g) for being mentored in a trade or technical skill by a colleague or a Wisconsin Technology Education Association approved mentor, 25 points; and (h) for an apprenticeship in a trade or technical field, five points per 40 hours worked up to a maximum of 90 points.

- Specify that the following point values would be assigned based on the individual's pedagogical experience: (a) for a bachelor's degree in technical or technology education, 100 points; (b) for a bachelor's degree in a non-STEM field and any teaching license or permit, 75 points; (c) for credit earned at an accredited institution of higher education or technical college, three points per credit up to a maximum of 75 points for technical or technology education courses and STEM courses and three points per credit up to a maximum of 75 points for education and pedagogical course; and (d) for completing at least 100 hours of training in pedagogy, five points per 50 hours up to a maximum of 75 points.

- Require the Department to verify the applicant's qualifications using the following: (a) the applicant's transcript for the applicable degree or credits, for bachelor's degrees or credits earned at an accredited

institution of higher education or technical college; (b) the applicant's industry certificate, for industry certification; (c) the signature of a supervisor, employer, or other reliable observer, for industry experience, an internship, or mentoring; or (d) verification by a course instructor, transcript, or certificate for pedagogy training. Provide that if the individual is unable to provide the required verification, the Department could use any other proof of the applicant's experience approved by the Department.

- Specify that the individual must agree to complete the curriculum determined by the school board of the school district in which the individual would teach during the term of the license. Specify that an initial teaching license granted under this procedure would be valid for three years. Require that the Department issue to the license holder a professional teaching license to teach the technical education subject if the individual successfully completed the curriculum, as determined by the school board of the school district.
- Require the Department to approve or deny an application for a technical education license no later than 45 business days after receipt of the application. Require Department to provide, in writing, the reason for the denial if the application is denied. Specify that if does not act within 45 business days, the application would be considered approved and the applicant considered a licensed teacher until the Department approves or denies the application.
- Specify that these provisions would not prohibit the Department from granting a teaching license or permit to teach a technical education subject under current law provisions.

(2) Industrial Arts Subjects

- Provide that a permit to teach industrial arts subjects could be issued to an applicant who is certified by the technical college system board to teach an industrial arts or similar subject.

(3) Licensure Based on Reciprocity

- Require the Department to grant an initial teaching license to any individual who was granted a teaching license by another state and completed at least one year of teaching experience in that state, and to grant an administrator license to any individual who was granted an administrator license by another state and completed at least one year of administrator experience in that state.
- Provide that the individual must have received an offer of employment from a school in Wisconsin prior to applying for such a license, and the application must be completed by both the applicant and the employing school or school district.
- Specify that the license type, including the subject area and grade level, would be determined by the Department based on the individual's out-of-state license type or experience.

Teacher License Based on Completion of Montessori Teacher Education Program

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require that the Department grant an initial license to teach to an individual who meets the following requirements: (a) has a bachelor's degree; (b) successfully completed a teacher education program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education; (c) successfully completed an introductory course in special education for which the individual earned at least three postsecondary credits; and (d) earned a passing score on any standardized examinations required by the State Superintendent for a license to teach the same educational levels and subjects issued in accordance with existing state law regarding teacher licenses, and on an examination identical to the foundations of reading test administered in 2012 as part of the Massachusetts tests for educator licensure. Specify that other current law requirements

regarding teacher licensing would not apply, except that the individual would be required to undergo a background investigation equivalent to that of other candidates for licensure.

- Specify that the teaching license would authorize an individual to teach the educational levels for which the individual has successfully completed a teacher education program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education at a school that uses the Montessori method as its primary method of instruction. The State Superintendent would be required to treat an initial license to teach granted under this proposal in the same manner in which the State Superintendent treats initial licenses granted under existing state law.

Regional or National Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require the State Superintendent to accept accreditation by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S Department of Education or by a programmatic accrediting agency, if the State Superintendent requires that an institution of higher education be accredited for the purpose of granting a license to teach or for approving a teacher preparatory program.

Requirements to Renew a Teaching License

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require the Department to accept credits earned at any institution of higher education, as defined in federal law, if credits from an institution of higher education are required to renew a license to teach.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Notice of Educational Options

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No Request

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Require that the Department include a link on the home page of its Internet site to information about all of the educational options available to children at least three years old but not yet 18 years old, including public schools, private choice schools, charter schools, virtual schools, full-time open enrollment, youth options, course options, and options for pupils enrolled in a home-based private educational program.
- Require that each public school, independent charter and private school participating in a choice program annually provide the parent or guardian of each enrolled pupil with a list of the educational options (as specified above) available to children who reside in the pupil's resident school district. Specify that the list would be provided simultaneously with a copy of the school accountability report.
- Require that each school board annually (by January 31) publish as a class 1 notice and post on its Internet site a description of available educational options (as specified above). Require that the notice and any letter sent with the notice include the most recent school accountability grade assigned to each school within the school district's boundaries, including public, "2r" charter and private schools participating in a private school choice program. Specify that the school board must also inform parents that the full school and school district accountability report would be available on the school board's Internet site.

Whole Grade Sharing

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No Request

GOVERNOR:

- Create a Whole Grade Sharing (WGS) program to allow the school boards of two or more school districts to enter into a WGS agreement. The proposal would allow two or more school districts to consolidate pupils in a particular grade level by offering that grade in only one of the participating districts.
- The WGS program would authorize the school boards of two or more school districts to enter into a WGS agreement which must:
    1. Provide for all/or substantial portion of the pupils in one or more grades in any of the school districts to attend school in one or more of the other school districts for all/a substantial portion of a school day.
    2. Specify all of the following:
        a. The term of the agreement and date by which each school board must notify the other school boards of its intent to renew the agreement.
        b. The grade levels affected by the agreement.
        c. The annual per pupil amount a resident school district pays the nonresident school district.
        d. The school board that will award graduation diplomas.
        e. The school board that is required to maintain pupil records.
        f. The school board that provides transportation required per IEPs for student with disabilities.

g. The school board responsible for transporting pupils during the school term.

h. The attendance areas within the school district if a school board enters into a WGS agreement that designates more than one school district for the attendance of its pupils.

3. Be signed no later than February 1 in order to be effective for the ensuing school year.

- The Governor's request for the WGS program specifies that school boards interested in entering into, extending or renewing a WGS agreement must:

  1. Adopt a resolution stating its intention to enter into, extend or renew an agreement.
  2. Publish notice of the adoption of the resolution.
  3. Request a feasibility study of the WGS agreement if the school board receives a petition
  4. Hold a public hearing.
  5. Enter into, extend, or renew a WGS agreement by February 1.

- The Governor's request for the WGS program provides that in the school year in which a WGS agreement would take effect and each of the following four school years, the Department would pay additional aid to each district participating in the agreement to ensure that no district would receive less state aid than the amount for which the district was eligible in the school year prior to the school year in which the agreement took effect. In the fifth school year following the agreement, each school district would receive 66 percent of the payment that the school district received in the prior year, and in the sixth school year following the agreement, the school district would receive 33 percent of the payment that the district received in the fourth school year following the agreement.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modified the Governor's WGS program as follows:
  - Agreements:
    - Term must be for entire school year(s).
    - May include prekindergarten, 4K and 5K programs.
    - School district must provide agreement to DPI within 10 days of completing an agreement.
    - School board must enter into, renew or extend agreement by January 10.
    - School board must adopt a resolution stating its intention to enter into, extend, or renew an agreement at least 150 days before doing so.
    - The school board responsible for transporting pupils during summer school if transportation is provided.
  - Transportation:
    - School Year: Must be provided by the resident district unless negotiated in the agreement.
    - Summer School: If school district provides transportation for resident pupils to attend summer school, transportation must also be provided to pupils who attend summer classes in the district under a WGS agreement.
  - Special Education Costs:
    - Resident district payment amount for a pupil with a disability attending a school under an agreement is $12,000 in FY17 and increased beginning in FY18 per current law indexing adjustment. Payment is prorated for pupils attending less than full school year.

    - The district the pupil with a disability is attending can submit eligible special education costs to DPI for reimbursement under state special education categorical aid programs.
  - State Aid: Additional state aid for districts in the first seven years applies only to new agreements.
  - Open Enrollment: A pupil's open enrollment status is held in abeyance when attending a school under a WGS agreement if the pupil was already open enrolled into the district.
  - Course Options: District pupil is attending under an agreement will review and approve or deny course options applications.
  - Provide rule making authority to the Department.

Participation in Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require a school board to permit a pupil who is a resident of the school district who is enrolled in a home-based private education program to participate in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities on the same basis and to the same extent as pupils enrolled in the district.
- Provide that for a pupil enrolled in a home-based private education program, the home-based program must provide the school board with a written statement that the pupils meets the requirements for participation, based on age and on the pupil's academic and disciplinary records. Specify that no person providing such a written statement could provide a false statement.
- Specify that the school district could not question the accuracy or validity of the statement and could not request additional information.
- Permit a school board to charge participation fees to a non-public school pupil who participates in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities, on the same basis and to the same extent as it does for public school pupils (including fees for uniforms, equipment and musical instructions).
- Prohibit a school district from being a member of an athletic association (e.g., WIAA), unless the association also requires member school districts to permit pupils enrolled in a home-based private education program to participate in athletic activities in the district.

GOVERNOR'S VETO:

- Vetoes the prohibition on school districts against being a member of an athletic association unless the association also requires member school districts to permit pupils enrolled in a home-based private education program to participate in athletic activities in the district.

Geographic Representation for School Board of Unified School Districts

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require the geographic representation for a School Board of a Unified School District. Specifically:
  - Require that school board members in a unified school district that encompasses a city with a population greater than 75,000 but less than 100,000 and that encompasses at least two villages on the effective date

of the bill are elected by a plurality of electors in election districts established through a representation plan.

- Specify that school board members in a unified school district that meets the above criteria after the effective date of the bill adopt a resolution providing for the election of members from representative election districts.
- Require that such a school district establish a common representation plan that provides for nine election districts within the school district of substantially similar population; and, to the extent possible, ensure that each election district is compact and contiguous, and that the boundaries of each election district and the boundaries of municipalities encompassed within the school district are congruent.
- Require that the election districts are numbered and divided into three classes such that one-third of the members of the school board are elected in each year.
- Require that the school board adopt a district apportionment plan that apportions the territory of the district into election districts from which candidates for school board reside and are elected. Decennially thereafter, require the school board to adopt an apportionment plan within 60 days after the population count by census block, established in the decennial federal census of population, and maps showing the location and numbering of census blocks become available in printed form from the federal government or are published for distribution by state agency.
- Specify that at the first election in which a district apportionment plan was implemented, the following would apply: (a) the first class of election districts from which members of the school board are elected to serve a term of one year; (b) the second class of election districts from which members of the school board are elected to serve a term of two years; and (c) the third class of election districts from which members of the school board are elected would be elected to serve a term of three years.
- Specify that the incumbent members of the school board who hold office at the time of the first election would cease to hold office.

Sale of Excess Property

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Specify that the school board of a common or union high school district may sell any property belonging to and not needed by the district.

Teacher and Administrator Contract Renewals

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the date by which a school board must give a teacher or administrator written notice of renewal or refusal to renew the teacher or administrator's contract to be 15 days after the passage of the state budget in odd-numbered years, and May 15th in even-numbered years. Specify that the teacher or administrator must accept or reject the contract no later than 30 days after the renewal notification deadline.

LEGISLATURE:

- Delete the provision.

High School Graduation Standards

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Allow school districts to adopt a resolution to create a process through which a high school pupil could earn credit through demonstrating competency or creating a learning portfolio.
- Specify the following:
  - If a pupil meets criteria defined by the school board, the course could be listed on the pupil's high school transcript and could be used to meet the requirements for high school graduation.
  - A pupil could earn no more than half of the credits required for high school graduation through the learning portfolio process.
  - A high school diploma earned through this process would be equivalent to a diploma earned through course completion, and would be treated equivalently by institutions of higher education.
  - For a pupil who earns credit under this process, a school board may waive state law requiring pupils to participate in a class or activity approved by the school board during each class period of each class day.
  - If a school board adopts a resolution under this paragraph, the school board shall develop and implement written policies and procedures for awarding credits under this paragraph.

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

(MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

Opportunity Schools and Partnership Program

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Create an Opportunity Schools and Partnership Program (OSPP) within the Milwaukee Public Schools under the management and control of a Commissioner. Provide that the Commissioner shall exercise the powers, duties, and functions prescribed by law independently of the MPS Board and under the supervision of the Milwaukee County Executive.
- Require the State Superintendent to annually submit a report to the Commissioner that identifies the schools in Milwaukee County that are operated by a school district that has received the lowest rating on the most recent school district accountability report and that either received the lowest rating on the most recent school accountability report or was identified as a vacant or underutilized building.
- Require the Commissioner to establish criteria for determining whether the school is suitable for transfer to the OSPP. Require the Commissioner to include as criteria the interest within the school and the school's community of transferring the school to the OSPP, as determined from community engagement as evaluated by the Commissioner.
- Require the Commissioner to select the following number of eligible schools from the report submitted by the State Superintendent to be transferred to the OSPP in the following school year for operation in the subsequent year: (a) no less than one and no more than three during the 2015-16 school year; (b) no more than three during the 2016-17 school year; (c) no more than five during the 2017-18 school year and in each school year thereafter.
- Require the Commissioner to develop a process for soliciting proposals from individuals, organizations, and governing bodies of private schools to operate and manage an eligible school upon transfer of the school to the OSPP.
- Require the Commissioner to determine which of the following will be responsible for the operation and general management of the school upon its transfer to the OSPP: (a) an individual or group operating an independent "2r" charter school; (b) the governing body of a nonsectarian private school participating in a private school choice program; or (c) an individual or group not currently operating a school.
- Specify that the MPS Superintendent would have parallel powers as the Commissioner with respect to transferring operation and general management to the same set of operators as the Commissioner. The Commissioner would select schools from the list first and that the Superintendent would select listed schools second. Specify that the MPS Superintendent may enter into a contract for cooperative action under the statutory provisions for intergovernmental cooperation without the approval of the MPS Board.
- Require the Commissioner, under the direction of the County Executive, to assume general supervision over public schools transferred to the OSPP, including a charter school authorized by the Commissioner. Provide that the Commissioner and the schools operated by the Commissioner be subject to state and federal special education law and to statutory provisions pertaining to pupil assessments, reading readiness assessments, pupil nondiscrimination, and the waiver of laws and rules, with the exception of achievement guarantee contracts. Provide that the Commissioner or a school in the OSPP could not abrogate an existing contract.

- Require the Commissioner to provide alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend a school that has been transferred to the OSPP. Require a school in the OSPP to use random selection if the number of applicants exceeds the number of seats. Prohibit an OSPP school from charging tuition.
- Create parallel provisions under which a program substantially similar to the OSPP could be created in another school district. Specify that the program would apply to any district that: (a) received intradistrict transfer aid; (b) has a pupil membership of over 15,000; and (c) the school district received the lowest rating on the most recent school district accountability report in any two consecutive years.
- Create a sum sufficient appropriation for payments to the operators of schools in the OSPP. Specify that the per pupil payment for a school operated by an individual or group under the OSPP would be equal to $8,075 and adjusted annually similarly to the per pupil payments for K-12 programs. Specify that the general school aid that would otherwise be paid to MPS would be reduced by an amount equal to the payments from the OSPP appropriation. Specify that MPS would not be able to levy to backfill that aid reduction. Provide that MPS would count these pupils for revenue limit and equalization aid purposes.
- Provide that, if the Commissioner transfers a school to a “2r” operator, he or she enter into a five-year contract authorizing the individual or group to be responsible for the operation and general management of the school. Require that, under the terms of the contract: (a) the individual or group, and schools operated by the individual or group, be subject to the statutory provisions pertaining to pupil nondiscrimination and the waiver of laws and rules, with the exception of achievement guarantee contracts; (b) the individual or group must submit achievement data of pupils attending the school directly to the Commissioner, who shall submit that data to the MPS Board and specify for statewide reporting purposes to DPI, the Board may not modify the Commissioner's report; and (c) the Commissioner must evaluate the performance of the school at the end of the third school year under the contract to determine whether the school is demonstrating adequate growth in pupil achievement, and that if the Commissioner determines that the school is not demonstrating adequate growth in pupil achievement, he or she may select an alternative individual or group operating a "2r" charter school or a governing body of a choice school, under the procedures outlined above, to be responsible for the operation and general management of the school.
- Provide that that Commissioner may select, hire, and terminate staff as appropriate. Require Commissioner to determine the compensation, duties, and qualifications for staff. Specify that these staff would not be subject to the statutory provisions regarding civil service for a city of the first class. Provide that if the Commissioner transfers a school to the OSPP, he or she may reassign the school's staff members out of the school without regard to seniority in service. Require the Commissioner to terminate all employees of the school who are MPS employees and require any individual seeking to remain employed at the school to reapply for employment at the school. Specify that employees of the OSPP are not employees of the MPS Board. Upon transfer of a school out of the OSPP, require the Commissioner to reassign staff members of the school only in consultation with the Board.
- Specify that the Commissioner may transfer a school out of the OSPP if the Commissioner determines that the school has been placed in a performance category of "meets expectations" or higher on the three preceding consecutive accountability reports published for the school. Specify that a school transferred to the OSPP may not be transferred out of the OSPP for five consecutive school years. Provide that the Commissioner may: (a) return operation and general management of the school to the MPS Board; (b) transfer operation and management of the school to an individual or group as a non-instrumentality charter; or (c) transfer operation and general management of the school to the governing body of a private school. Specify that the Commissioner may not return operation of a school to the resident district if the school remains an eligible school, or MPS has received in the three most recent consecutive school years a grade of "fails to meet expectations," or its equivalent, on the school district accountability report.

LEGISLATURE:

- Modify the Joint Finance provision to specify that the Commissioner or the MPS Superintendent could transfer operation and management of a school under the OSPP to a person operating any type of charter school, rather than limiting it to only a person operating an independent charter school.

GOVERNOR'S VETO:

- Veto the reference to "on behalf of any authority defined in s. 19.32 (1)" in the section that provides, as one of the Commissioner's powers, the designation of one or more persons to be legal custodians of records.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

WISEdash – DET Hosting

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $475,000 GPR in FY16 and FY17 to sustain the ongoing partnership with the DOA Division for Enterprise Technology (DET), to allow the agencies to continue collaborating on enhancing/expanding the secure state data center (e.g., upgrade available storage capacity, fund ongoing shared infrastructure costs).

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Increase funding by $175,000 GPR annually for servicing costs related to the centralized hosting but deny the request for $300,000 GPR for hardware and storage upgrades.

WISElearn (Digital Learning Portal)

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $1,060,000 GPR in FY16 and $945,000 GPR in FY17 to continue implementation of a statewide digital learning portal, professional learning platform, learning management system, content repository, collaboration tools, and curricular content; and to provide funding for regional technical support centers.
- Request $1,000,000 GPR in FY16 and $2,000,000 GPR in FY17 for a matching grant program to provide electronic publications (e-publications) to both public school libraries and public libraries.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding for WISElearn.

Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Provide $2,000,000 SEG in FY16 and $1,000,000 SEG in FY17 in a new appropriation for a Digital Learning Collaborative established for the statewide web academy and for delivery of digital content and collaborative instruction.
- Segregated funding would be provided from the state Universal Service Fund, which receives its funding through assessments on annual gross operating revenues from intrastate telecommunications providers.

Virtual Marketplace for Textbooks

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Provide $10,000 GPR in FY16 in a new appropriation to establish a virtual marketplace for digital educational resources.

- Provide that the state superintendent shall enter into a contract with one or more vendors to develop and add educational content to a digital marketplace and resource center through which authorized personnel of a school district, charter school, private school, and a provider of home-based private educational program may purchase or license digital educational resources.
- Provide that DPI serve as the Internet host for the marketplace and resource center.
- Provide that content must be accessible to a range of computing and mobile devices and operating systems.

GOVERNOR's VETO:

- Delete the provision in full.

Microsoft IT Academy

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Require DPI to designate one individual to serve as a coordinator for the Microsoft IT Academy.

Student Information System

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Reduce funding in the appropriation for the student information system by $2,350,000 GPR in FY16.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

Public Library System Aid

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request an increase of $13,879,500 SEG in FY16 and $14,168,400 SEG in FY17 to fund public library system aid at a 13 percent index level.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request; maintain base funding.

BadgerLink

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $245,300 SEG in FY16 and $305,700 SEG in FY17 to maintain the current level of services through BadgerLink and increase funding for the contract with the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.
- Request $191,100 SEG in both FY16 and FY17 for college and career ready digital modules.
- Request $50,000 SEG in both FY16 and FY17, to acquire high quality online computer skill modules.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Increase funding by $245,300 SEG in FY16 and $305,700 SEG in FY17 to maintain the current level of service, but deny funding for college and career ready digital modules and high quality online computer skill modules.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER FUNDING

Wisconsin School Safety Center

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $700,000 GPR in FY16 and FY17 to establish a new Wisconsin School Safety Center to provide guidance to schools on school violence and emergency preparedness issues.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Wisconsin STEM Center

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $700,000 GPR in FY16 and FY17 to support the establishment of a new Wisconsin STEM Center to improve and expand STEM education statewide.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Community Eligibility Provision

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request a change to statutory language to permit the Department to utilize an alternative data collection mechanism for school districts participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Option, where current law references the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs [42 USC 1758 (b)].

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the request.

Open Enrollment Program Position Funding

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $171,500 GPR and 1.75 GPR FTE positions in both FY16 and FY17, in the Department's appropriation for general program operations.
- Request a change of -$171,500 FED expenditure authority and -1.75 FED FTE positions in both FY16 and FY17, from the Department's appropriation for federal indirect cost reimbursements.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Parental Choice Program Position Funding

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $119,500 GPR and 1.0 GPR FTE position in FY16, and $254,100 GPR and 2.0 GPR FTE positions in FY17, in the Department's appropriation for general program operations.

- Request a change of -$119,500 FED and -1.0 FED FTE position in both FY16 and FY17, from the Department's appropriation for federal indirect cost reimbursements.
- Request a change of -$134,600 PR and -1.0 FED FTE position in FY17, from the Department's appropriation for the financial audits of the parental choice programs.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Teacher Certification Position Funding

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $140,200 PR in FY16 and $187,000 PR in FY17 to fund 3.0 PR permanent FTE. These positions will be used to restore the faster licensing processing time that the Department was able to meet prior to the increased responsibilities the Department took on related to educator licensing, educator preparation program approval, and educator effectiveness and improvement.

GOVERNOR:

- Deny the request.

Transfer of Position Authority

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request a transfer of 1.19 FTE from APN 110 in FY16 and FY17 to APN 101. The Department requests $100,400 GPR in FY16 and FY17 to fund the salary and fringe amounts in the correct GPR appropriation ($71,400 on the salary line and $29,000 on the fringe benefits line). The Department also requests the transfer of $71,400 GPR from the salary line and $29,000 GPR from the fringe benefits line to the supplies and services line within APN 110, in FY16 and FY17.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the transfer of 1.19 FTE and $100,400 GPR from APN 110 in FY16 and FY17 to APN 101, but deny the request for $100,400 GPR in APN 110.

Program Revenue Reestimates

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request -$73,400 PR in FY16 and -$73,400 PR in FY17 to reflect projected revenues and expenditures.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the request.

Federal Revenue Reestimates

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request $102,710,000 FED in FY16 and $102,710,000 FED in FY17 to reflect projected revenues and expenditures in federal fund sources.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the request.

Standard Budget Adjustments

AGENCY REQUEST:

- Request adjustments to the agency's base to reflect standard budget adjustments for: 1) turnover reduction (-$892,300 in FY16 and FY17); 2) remove non-continuing items from the base (-1.0 FTE in FY16 and -7.0 FTE in FY17); 3) full funding of continuing salaries and fringe ($2,571,600 in FY16 and FY17); 4) overtime ($338,300 in FY16 and FY17); 5) night and weekend differential ($56,000 FY16 and FY17); 6) full funding of lease and directed moves costs ($67,900 in FY16 and $113,100 in FY17); and 7) 3011-minor transfers within the same alpha appropriation.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the request.

Long Term Vacancies

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Delete 6.21 FTE positions annually including 2.96 GPR positions and $159,100 GPR annually, 1.30 FED and 1.95 PR positions.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify Governor's recommendation to also reduce funding by $80,500 FED and $163,500 PR annually.

OTHER AGENCIES

UW-SYSTEM

Environmental Program Grants and Scholarships

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Eliminate $301,500 SEG funding beginning in FY17 for environmental program grants and scholarships, of which $100,000 is provided to UW-Stevens Point for environmental programs [under ss. 36.49(3)]. The SEG funding comes from all income and interest from the Normal School Fund. The $100,000 SEG provided to UW-Stevens Point supports 1.0 FTE Environmental Education Consultant position [at DPI]. The funding is provided from the UW System appropriation under s. 20.285(1)(rm) [Environmental program grants and scholarships].
- Repeal the UW System appropriations effective July 1, 2016.
- Repeal the UW System program language under ss. 36.49 that authorized the UW Board of Regents to award grants and scholarships to students and funding to UW-Stevens Point for environmental programs, effective July 1, 2016, effective July 1, 2016.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete the Governor's recommendation.

Environmental Education – Environmental Assessments and Forestry

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Eliminate $130,500 SEG funding to school districts in FY16 for environmental education grants*.
- Eliminate $200,000 SEG funding to school districts in FY17 for environmental education grants related to forestry*.
- Eliminate the Environmental Education Board [repeal s. 15.915(6)], effective July 1, 2016.
- Repeal the UW System appropriations effective July 1, 2016.
- Repeal the UW System program language under ss. 36.54 that authorizes the Environmental Education Board to award grants for the development, dissemination and presentation of environmental education programs, effective July 1, 2016.

**Under current law, the SEG funding comes from environmental assessments (surcharges) and from the Conservation Fund. Funds are distributed by the Environmental Education Board, from the UW System appropriations under ss. 20.285 (1)(r) [Environmental Education; environmental assessments] and ss. 20.285(1)(rc) [Environmental Education; forestry].*

UW System Charter School Authorizing Authority

AGENCY REQUEST/GOVERNOR:

- No request.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Create a new authorizer of independent charter schools in the UW System. Require the Board of Regents to create the Office of Educational Opportunity within the System. Require the Office to evaluate proposals for charter school contracts, monitor pupil academic performance at charter schools authorized by the Office, and monitor the overall operations of charter schools authorized by the Office.
- Provide that the Office may contract with a person to operate an independent charter school and specify that the Director could contract for the establishment of an independent charter school located only in school districts with membership over 25,000 pupils (i.e., Madison and Milwaukee).
- Provide that, except where specified in this motion, the current law provisions that govern independent charter schools would also govern independent charter schools authorized by the Office.

GOVERNOR'S VETO:

- Veto the non-statutory provision that specified the timeline under which the UW System president would have to appoint a special assistant to serve as the Director of the Office ("within 120 days of the effective date of the bill").
- Veto the provision specifying that the Board of Regents shall set the salary for the special assistant to the president of the UW System who shall serve as the director of the Office of Educational Opportunity.

School Safety Research

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete current law requiring the Board of Regents to direct the Schools of Education to present to schools the result of research on models for, and approaches to, improving school safety and reducing discipline problems in schools and at school activities.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Information Technology – Telecommunications Access

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Rename DOA's telecommunications access for school districts appropriation to the telecommunications access for educational agencies appropriation.
- Repeal and transfer segregated Universal Service Fund (USF) expenditure authority from the following appropriations to the renamed appropriation for educational agencies generally: (a) telecommunications access for private and technical colleges and libraries ($5,016,000 annually); (b) telecommunications access for private schools ($694,300 annually); (c) telecommunications access for state schools ($82,500 annually); and (d) telecommunications access for juvenile correctional facilities ($86,300 annually).

- Modify statutory language for the educational agencies appropriation to retain provisions of the current law technology for educational achievement (TEACH) program appropriations to be eliminated.
- Specify that on June 30 of each odd-numbered year, the unencumbered balance of the consolidated appropriation must be transferred to an appropriation created under the Public Service Commission to receive unexpended USF moneys for broadband expansion grants.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the provision to delete the changes which would consolidate TEACH appropriations.
- Provide $2.0 million SEG in FY16 and $1.0 million SEC in FY17 to a newly created annual, sum certain state segregated Universal Service Fund (USF) appropriation under the Department for a digital learning collaborative (see DPI item "Digital Learning Collaborative").
- Reduce USF funding provided to school districts for telecommunications access by $2.0 million SEG in FY16 and $1.0 million SEG in FY17.

Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) Program

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Allow educational agencies to make a request to DOA under the technology for educational achievement (TEACH) program for access to more than one data line and more than one video link. Require DOA to develop criteria to use in evaluating whether to provide more than one data line and video link to an educational agency. Specify that the criteria must include an agency's current bandwidth, equipment, and readiness, as well as the available providers and any other economic development in the geographical area which the agency serves. According to the Budget in Brief, the provision is intended to assist rural schools in particular.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Expand permitted uses of remaining USF funding appropriated for telecommunications access for school districts ($9,105,100 SEG in FY16 and $10,105,100 SEG in FY17) to permit the Department of Administration (DOA) to provide educational technology grants.
- Allow DOA to provide competitive block grants to school districts for information technology infrastructure in FY16 and FY17, on the basis of an application which provides information regarding: (1) specific infrastructure, including equipment, that would be purchased by the district; (2) the plan for purchase, installation, and utilization of the infrastructure; and (3) the readiness of the school district to utilize the infrastructure.
- Specify that an applicant school district's membership in the previous school year divided by the district's area in square miles must be 13 or less to receive grant funding.
- Specify that the maximum amount a school district may receive over the 2015-17 biennium for information technology infrastructure would be permitted on the basis of enrollment as follows:
  - $30,000 for districts with fewer than 750 students.
  - $40 per student for districts with between 750 and 1,500 students.
  - $60,000 for districts with more than 1,500 students.

- No more than $7,500,000 SEG may be expended in each of FY16 or FY17 for this purpose; schools with a greater percentage of enrolled students who receive free or reduced price lunch be given priority in determining which districts receive grant funding.
- Prohibit any grants from being provided under this section after June 30, 2017.

- Allow DOA to provide grants to consortia of three or more school districts for the cost of training teachers on the use of educational technology, based on the following formula:
  - $7,500 for districts with fewer than 750 students;
  - $10 per student for districts with between 750 and 1,500 students; and
  - $15,000 for districts with more than 1,500 students.
- Specify that each school district's membership in the previous school year divided by the school district's area in square miles must be 13 or less for a consortium to receive grant funding under this provision.
- Specify that no more than $1,500,000 SEG annually may be expended for teacher training grants. Specify that DOA would prorate grants provided if the amount of grants as determined by the formula specified would exceed $1,500,000.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Renewal of Child Care Program Contract

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR/JOINT FINANCE:

- Delete current law requiring a school board to refer a child care provider to the Department of Children and Families for a criminal history and child abuse record search when renewing a contract for the provision of a child care program. Under the bill, the referral to the Department of Children and Families would only be required for a new contract. Current law allows school boards to provide child care programs for children directly or through a contract with a child care provider.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

Cease Operations of the Local Government Property Insurance Fund

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Specify that no insurance coverage may be issued under the local government property insurance fund program on or after July 1, 2015, no existing coverage may be renewed after December 31, 2015, and no coverage may terminate later than December 31, 2016.
- Specify that all claims under the program must be filed by no later than July 1, 2017, and that no claim filed after that date will be paid.
- Require the manager of the fund to distribute any moneys remaining in the fund among the local governmental units that were insured under the fund on July 1, 2015.

- Repeal an obsolete provisions related to a loan made by the local government property insurance fund to the general fund in 1992.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Delay, by two years, the ending dates for policy renewal and filing claims under the fund.
- Change the date related to the provision for the distribution of any moneys remaining in the fund to apply the distribution to local governmental units that were insured under the fund on July 1, 2017, instead of July 1, 2015.
- Require the Insurance Commissioner to adopt the policy rates and structure recommended by the local government property insurance fund Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 9, 2015.

LEGISLATURE:

- Delete the provision entirely (maintain the local government property insurance fund).

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Transfer Read to Lead Program

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No Request

GOVERNOR:

- Transfer $23,600 GPR annually in literacy improvement grant funding under the Office of the Governor to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).
- Rename the "Governor's Read to Lead Development Fund," the "Read to Lead Development Fund." Transfer the SEG sum sufficient grants appropriation for literacy and early childhood development programs from the Governor to DCF.
- Transfer the Read to Lead Development Council from the Office of the Governor to DCF. Instead of the Governor, provide that the Secretary of DCF, or his or her designee, would serve as Chairperson of the Council. Further, provide that instead of the Governor, the Secretary of DCF would appoint the public members of the Council who serve three-year terms.
- Instead of to the Governor and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, specify that the Read to Lead Development Council would make recommendations to the Secretary of DCF and the State Superintendent as to grants funded under the GPR annual literacy improvement aids appropriation as well as the two SEG sum sufficient appropriations funded by the Read to Lead Development Fund. These grant awards would be jointly determined by the Secretary of DCF and the State Superintendent.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Modify the Governor's recommendation by: (a) deleting the Governor's Read to Lead Development Fund and its two associated SEG sum sufficient appropriations, effective June 30, 2017; and (b) amending the GPR annual literacy improvement appropriation to provide that grants may be made from the appropriation to any person or school board for support of a literacy or early childhood development program. [Under this alternative, the Read to Lead Development Fund would continue to exist through June 30, 2017, to permit the Council to allocate $109,000 SEG in fund balances that are estimated to be carried forward into the 2015-17 biennium.]

GOVERNOR'S VETO:

- Veto the Joint Finance Committee provisions that sunset the program on June 30, 2017. With the veto, the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Public Instruction would be able to continue to distribute reading funds, if they become available beyond the 2015-17 biennium.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Broadband Expansion Grants

AGENCY REQUEST:

- No request.

GOVERNOR:

- Modify the current law appropriation for making broadband expansion grants by renumbering the appropriation and changing it from a continuing appropriation to a biennial appropriation.
- Authorize the use of universal service fund (USF) revenues for making broadband expansion grants, and create a continuing SEG appropriation for making broadband expansion grants with USF revenues.
- Set the amounts in the appropriation at $6,000,000 in FY16 and $0 beginning in FY17.
- Create a SEG appropriation to receive USF revenues and require the unencumbered balance on June 30 of each year to be transferred from each of the following appropriation accounts to this new appropriation: (a) universal telecommunications service (PSC); (b) periodical and reference information databases; Newsline for the blind (DPI); (c) library service contracts (DPI); (e) telecommunications access (DOA); and (f) educational agencies telecommunications services (UW System).
- The Administration expects approximately $6.0 million would be transferred for PSC broadband grants in the initial year.

JOINT FINANCE:

- Approve the Governor's recommendation to include "scalable" among the criteria used in awarding broadband expansion grants. Define scalable as the ability of a broadband network to maintain the quality of its service while increasing parameters relating to the size of the network, such as the number of users, the number of network nodes, the number of services provided, or the network's geographical spread.
- Modify the Governor's proposal for making broadband expansion grants as follows:
  - Remove the Governor's proposal to renumber the current law PR appropriation for making broadband expansion grants and to change it from a continuing appropriation to a biennial appropriation, and instead, repeal the appropriation, effective July 1, 2015, and transfer the unencumbered balance in the appropriation account, estimated at $3,347,400, to the General Fund.
  - Approve the Governor's proposal to authorize the use of USF revenues for making broadband expansion grants and to create a SEG appropriation for making broadband expansion grants with USF revenues.
  - Remove the Governor's proposal to set the amounts in the appropriation at $6,000,000 in FY16 and $0 beginning in FY17, and instead, authorize the expenditure of $1,500,000 SEG each year for grants and transfer $6,000,000 SEG from the unencumbered balance of the USF on July 1, 2015.
  - Delete the Governor's proposal to create a SEG appropriation to receive USF revenues transferred from the unencumbered balance on June 30 of each year from the various USF appropriation accounts to this new appropriation.
- Require the PSC to submit a report to the Finance Committee on causes of the unencumbered balance in the USF and the changes that could be made to the procedures for setting the budgets for the various USF programs and for establishing contribution rates for providers that would reduce the unencumbered balance in the future.
  - Require the report to include a recommendation on the level of fund balance that is appropriate to accommodate timing imbalances between revenues and expenditures.

- Require the report to include an explanation of how unspent revenues in the fund's balance, in excess of any revenues needed to accommodate timing imbalances between revenues and expenditures, was incorporated into the contribution rates to be imposed on telecommunications providers in FY16.
- Require the report to be submitted to the Committee for its third quarterly meeting in 2015.

- Prohibit the PSC from imposing any revisions to contribution rates in FY16 unless the report is approved by the Committee.

GOVERNOR'S VETO:

- Veto the requirement that the PCS submit a report to the Committee related to causes of the unencumbered balances in the USF and the prohibition against imposing any revisions to contribution rates in FY16 unless the report is approved by the Committee.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

The following requests are not included in the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Public Instruction.

Items Not Included in the Governor's Budget Bill	DIN #	FY16 Dollars	Source	FTE	FY17 Dollars	Source	FTE
Wisconsin STEM Center (Program Operations)	4003	$700,000	GPR	0.00	$700,000	GPR	0.00
STEM Grants	4004	$250,000	GPR	0.00	$250,000	GPR	0.00
Wisconsin School Safety Center (Program Operations)	4005	$700,000	GPR	0.00	$700,000	GPR	0.00
School Violence Prevention Programs (School Safety Grants)	4006	$0	GPR	0.00	$2,000,000	GPR	0.00
DET Hosting - Hardware upgrades	5001	$300,000	GPR	0.00	$300,000	GPR	0.00
Digital Learning Portal - WISElearn	5002	$1,060,000	GPR	0.00	$945,000	GPR	0.00
Digital Learning Portal - grants for e-publications or public & public school libraries	5002	$1,000,000	GPR	0.00	$2,000,000	GPR	0.00
Fair Funding (General, High Poverty & Fair Funding Hold Harm Aid - net)	6000	$112,039,500	GPR	0.00	$233,472,000	GPR	0.00
Special Education Categorical Aid	6002	$25,164,900	GPR	0.00	$60,683,900	GPR	0.00
High-Cost Special Education Categorical Aid	6003	$7,100,000	GPR	0.00	$7,350,000	GPR	0.00
Supplemental Special Education Categorical Aid	6004	$0	GPR	0.00	($1,750,000)	GPR	0.00
Special Education Open Enrollment Transfer Amount	6005	$0	GPR	0.00	$0	GPR	0.00
Bilingual-Bicultural Education Aids	6006	$3,949,200	GPR	0.00	$4,256,200	GPR	0.00
Expanded Bilingual-Bicultural Education Aids	6007	$0	GPR	0.00	$2,300,000	GPR	0.00
Special Education Better Bottom Line Transitions (incentive payments)	6008	$0	GPR	0.00	$5,848,000	GPR	0.00
Special Education Better Bottom Line Job Development Coordinators	6009	$0	GPR	0.00	$1,500,000	GPR	0.00
Career Pathways - Bridge Support	6010	$0	GPR	0.00	$4,000,000	GPR	0.00
Open Enrollment Aid for Transportation	6014	$1,458,800	GPR	0.00	$1,641,800	GPR	0.00
Youth Options Aid for Transportation	6015	$5,600	GPR	0.00	$5,600	GPR	0.00
SAGE Reestimate	6016	$0	GPR	0.00	$11,190,500	GPR	0.00
School Breakfast Grants	6017	$393,500	GPR	0.00	$541,500	GPR	0.00
Per Pupil Aid – Reestimate	6020	($315,000)	GPR	0.00	($630,000)	GPR	0.00
Gifted and Talented Grants	6025	$762,800	GPR	0.00	$762,800	GPR	0.00
Milwaukee Succeeds	6027	$250,000	GPR	0.00	$250,000	GPR	0.00
State Tuition & OE Transfers (statutory language change)	6030	$0	GPR	0.00	$0	GPR	0.00
Supplemental Aid	6031	$0	GPR	0.00	($100,000)	GPR	0.00
Milwaukee, Racine and Statewide Parental Choice Program reestimates	7002	$17,028,800	GPR	0.00	$37,293,600	GPR	0.00
Choice Program Position Funding	7003	$119,500	GPR	1.00	$254,100	GPR	2.00
Open Enrollment Position Authority Funding	7004	$171,500	GPR	1.75	$171,500	GPR	1.75
Transfer of Position Authority (approved position swap, but not exp. Authority)	7006	$100,400	GPR	0.00	$100,400	GPR	0.00
Choice Program Position Funding	7003	($119,500)	PR-F	-1.00	($119,500)	PR-F	-1.00
Open Enrollment Position Authority Funding	7004	($171,500)	PR-F	-1.75	($171,500)	PR-F	-1.75
Choice Program Position Funding	7003	$0	PR-O	0.00	($134,600)	PR-O	-1.00
Teacher Certification (additional position authority)	7005	$140,200	PR-O	3.00	$187,000	PR-O	3.00
Tribal Language Revitalization Grants	6026	$0	PR-S	0.00	$400,200	PR-S	0.00
Tribal Language Revitalization Ops	6026	$0	PR-S	0.00	$160,000	PR-S	0.00
Library System Aid (13%)	7007	$13,879,500	SEG-O	0.00	$14,168,400	SEG-O	0.00
BadgerLink - Online Content	7009	$191,100	SEG-O	0.00	$191,100	SEG-O	0.00
BadgerLink - Computer Skills Module	7009	$50,000	SEG-O	0.00	$50,000	SEG-O	0.00