

IMPROVING ACHIEVEMENT AND EXPANDING EXCELLENCE IN Urban Districts

Wisconsin's five largest districts educate roughly 20% of all Wisconsin students. In addition, the five largest districts represent disproportionate shares of student groups experiencing our largest gaps. As such, they are key partners in closing those gaps.

Student Group Representation in Five Largest Districts

Black	73%	SwD	25%
EL	47%	Two or more races	25%
Latino	44%	Pacific Islander	20%
Homeless	40%	American Indian	14%
EconDis	33%	White	8%
Asian	29%		

Five Largest Districts Report Card Scores

District	Score	Category	Enrollment	EconDis
Milwaukee	56	Meets Few Exp.	76,583	81.7%
Madison Metro.	66.5	Meets Exp.	27,136	46.2%
Kenosha	70.8	Meets Exp.	21,926	51.6%
Green Bay Area	62.2	Meets Few	21,165	57.7%
Racine Unified	59.3	Meets Few [^]	19,149	63.2%
Total Big 5 Enrollment		169,959		

Proposed Financial Support and Policy Changes

In conjunction with the state's Every Student Succeeds Act planning, the department is proposing to help these districts enhance student learning and close gaps through enhanced state funding and policy changes. These recommendations were developed in conjunction with the five largest districts, based on their feedback and advice.

Additional Learning Time

- Expand Summer School Grants (\$5M)
- Make all five large districts eligible for summer school grant (currently \$1.4M for Milwaukee), to support summer learning and intersession opportunities.

Great Teachers & Leaders

- Enhanced payments for National Board Certified Teachers (\$1.5M)
- Provide \$15,000/educator who teaches in high poverty schools in the Big Five.
- Expand the Urban Leadership Institute (\$500K), a newly created program to expand principal training, coaching, and support in all five districts.

Quality Early Childhood

- Create 3K start up/expansion grants (\$5M)
- Provide new funding for 3K grants for the Big Five (Note: all districts would also be able to count 4K students a 1.0 FTE).

Community, Cross sector Collaboration

- Support learning lab projects to harness adjacent sectors and engage community organizations in Big Five communities (\$1M)
- Fund a two-year project in each community to work with adjacent sectors (health care, child care, higher education, housing, etc.) to improve student achievement by addressing contextual factors impacting learning such as working with health care providers around trauma, with housing agencies to stabilize mobility, or aligning staffing ratios in child care and educational settings.

[^]For the 2016-17 report cards, districts with large score fluctuations were noted with a [^] notation. It is unclear if the score change accurately reflects the amount of change in performance or a symptom of statistical volatility.

