Wisconsin Education Landscape

2017-19 State Budget Overview
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Part I. Changing Faces of Wisconsin

Poverty is Growing in Wisconsin
Change in Free & Reduced Lunch (2001-2012)

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<th>Wisconsin FRL Rate Doubles</th>
<th>2001: 21%</th>
<th>2012: 43%</th>
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In many rural districts, more than half the students are eligible for free-and-reduced lunch.


Students are in Fewer Districts
Change Student Membership (2001-2012)

Rural Districts: Fewer Kids & Greater Poverty
Change in Enrollment Change in Poverty

Rural Districts: Fewer Kids & Greater Poverty
Shifting Enrollment Growing Poverty
Schools are More Diverse

12% of Wisconsin’s overall population identified as a person of color.  
*(2013 U.S. Census)*

28% of Wisconsin’s public school population identified as students of color.  
*(2013 U.S. Census)*

*Nationally, 38% of the population identify as people of color*

*Nationally, 49% of the population identify as students of color*

Students of Color Across Wisconsin
(Sparsity Districts Highlighted)

Nearly 90% of African Americans live in 6 counties (Milwaukee, Dane, Racine, Kenosha, Rock, and Waukesha).

Part II. School Finance

School Funding – Simplified!

Outside the Revenue Limit

Revenue Limit – State Equalization Aid – Property Tax Levy

Per-Pupil Aid – Categorical Aid – Federal Funds – Other Revenue

Revenue Limits & Per-Pupil Aid

*Change* in Per-Pupil Revenue Over Time

However, the share of the state budget spent on K-12 is at a 20-year low

K-12 School Aids as a % of the State General Fund

As programs like Medicaid consume a larger share of the state budget, K-12 share declines (even as the state invests new money)
A Decade of Flat Funding

- Wisconsin has had almost a decade of flat funding in special education and bilingual education.
- Student costs also vary from year to year.
- Consequently, reimbursement rates dropped about 10 percentage points since 2001
  
  Special Education (36% to 27%)
  Bilingual-Bicultural (18% to 8%).

Ballot Box Budgeting

- Since 2011, half of all districts have passed a referenda.
  Historically a 50-50 proposition, the pass rate for referenda has spiked to 80%.
- About 80% of referenda are in rural school districts.
  There has been a shift from capital to operating referenda in the last five years.