



WEEKLY UPDATE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 21, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT CARLTON D. JENKINS

Dear Board Members,

This week, which marks our last week of the 2nd Quarter, has certainly been eventful. Yesterday, our nation witnessed an historic moment during the inauguration of Joe Biden as our 46th President, when Kamala Harris became the first Vice President who was female, Black, and Southeast-Asian American. The peaceful transition of power which occurred gave our nation hope for learning from our historical challenges, including the recent attack on the U.S. House of Representatives, to forge a more perfect union. Our hopes run parallel with the nation's ongoing opportunities to address concerns about racial injustice, educational and employment disparities, and social inequalities. Additionally, our district leaders have continued supporting the efforts of district staff to utilize recent national events to provide our students with engaging and relevant civics lessons.

This week, district and building leaders have continued to engage in professional development and training related to Early Literacy and Beyond. On Tuesday, our Principals Meeting featured robust interaction with Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings around strategically utilizing the time of our building principals and instructional coaching staff to prioritize impact-building the capacity to utilize best practices in teaching reading. The insights gained from these discussions will assist our district in preparing our instructional as well as operational plans for summer acceleration and beyond.

As we continue on our journey towards equity and excellence, we must sometimes pause to acknowledge and learn from emerging best practices within our district. As such, I would like to share this link to a PBS video discussing innovative efforts to engage students: <https://pbswisconsineducation.org/akateacher/community-building-in-a-remote-classroom/>. This video, as well as the many promising practices occurring within our district, reinforce the notion that, if it can happen anywhere, it can happen in Madison!

Thanks for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to providing you with more updates on our district's progress next week.

Sincerely,

Carlton

Carlton D. Jenkins, Ph.D.

BOARD OF EDUCATION QUESTIONS



Consent Item Question on Playground Funding

A board member had questions on the consent item related to the Stephens playground. Questions were about expectations of the balance around fundraising and local investments.

In response to this question, please know that in the spring of 2017, the Building Services Team put a process in place to deal with the inequities developed over time in playground investments across the city. The inequitable problem that was identified was that higher-income schools were getting playground refreshes faster than lower-income schools due to their ability to fundraise. Administration, along with the Board, acknowledged that this was a contradiction to our own donation policies. However, the Board, at the time, also wanted to accept the funding available to the community to help solve the larger problem of the major backlog in playground investments all across the city. *Virtually every elementary school has seen upgrades to their playgrounds over the past five years.*

Therefore, MMSD Administration put a district-wide playground refreshment strategy in place using one-time funding from TID 25 and balancing the availability of local fundraising efforts at schools. The project is summarized below. Stephens' current playground is currently on the consent agenda this month. It is simply taking on the next step in that plan as we continue to work our way through schools. Stephens is approximately a 40% low-income school. It is certainly not in the highest tier of low-income schools, nor in the lowest tier of our higher-income schools. For this reason, our strategy included requiring them to fundraise. They had a successful fundraising campaign in line with our expectations.

Project Summary: MMSD has budgeted \$300,000 of TID 25 one-time funds targeted toward renovating and repairing elementary school playground equipment district-wide.

Funding available: The funds are available in two budget years, 18-19 (\$150,000) and 19-20 (\$150,000), some carryover was available in 20-21; however, from here on forward the local Building Services budget will need to pick up the ongoing effort.

Disbursement plan and rationale: MMSD Building Services Staff (Assistant Director, Grounds, Custodian) and an independent playground consultant will inspect playgrounds at the MMSD elementary schools with the highest free/reduced lunch percentage going first. Following the inspections, playgrounds will be ranked in order of playground need for repair. Funds will be distributed according to the need and the free/reduced lunch percentage.

Disbursement Schedule: Three schools will receive \$50,000 in local funding to support renovated or replaced playground equipment in both 18-19 and 19-20 from the TID 25 allocation. Building Services will work with each school to partner

with any existing fundraising efforts for playground projects. Schools with the lowest income will not be expected to fundraise, schools with more income will be expected to fundraise.

Playgrounds completed:

17-18 Schedule: **Falk** - full new set, ADA access, wood chips; **Hawthorne** - full new set, ADA access, wood chips. **Lake View** - new set, ADA access, wood chips.

18-19 Schedule: **Orchard Ridge** - remove old set, full new set, ADA access, wood chips; **Sandburg** - expand existing set, ADA access, pea gravel out, wood chips, asphalt work, rain garden; **Schenk** added a new set and had some concrete work done.

Additional recent projects: **Allis** - asphalt work including basketball courts, full new set, pea gravel out, wood chips in, ADA access; **Glendale** - asphalt work, top soil, pea gravel out, wood chips in, new basketball hoops. **Lindbergh** - Full new set, ADA access, pea gravel out, wood chips in. **Lowell** Fence/Wall Project - playground expansion, pea gravel out, wood chips in, ADA access; **Franklin** - wall and fence work. Drainage work in progress. Pavement/site work at **Glendale, Falk, Muir, Gompers**. **Chavez** had all pea gravel removed, wood chips added, and drainage addressed. **Crestwood** added a new set with wood chips. **Emerson** added two more phases, added ADA features, added an asphalt path. **Huegel** had its basketball court and play areas re-asphalted. **Midvale** added and upgraded their play structure and drainage was addressed. **Muir** added a playset and wood chips were added, their play area was re-asphalted. Olson added a red granite garden path and an ADA curb cut for access. **Shorewood Hills** has added several new playsets and items for children of all ages. Asphalt work was done as well. **Thoreau** had some new asphalt work done, and a new fence installed. A grassy area was added. **Van Hise** added some new features and some old pieces were removed. Pea gravel was removed and wood chips were added. A granite path was added for access.

There was a question regarding recent upgrades at **Mendota**. There was a playground replacement project in the fall of 2017. This included new equipment with accessibility features, new wood chips and landing area, new landscaping, new fence, a new hard surface all the way around the north side of the buildings and a new ramp for accessibility **(pictured below)**.



OTHER INFORMATION



Staff Recognition

Dr. Sharon Alexander has been in her role as the new Director of Advanced Learning (AL) for 6 months with the MMSD. She has focused her work on building relationships with AL team members, getting Advanced Learning Advisory Council (ALAC) plans updated and underway, and aligning the team's strategic plan to the focus of "Change Management, Becoming a High Performing Team, Data Driven Culture, and increasing access and development of a Highly Rigorous AL Curriculum."

Because of her commitment to Black Excellence, Dr. Alexander has extended her work beyond MMSD to work with Wisconsin Gifted Professional organizations and universities. She does this in an effort to support their anti-racist approach to gifted instructional work and consider the implications of their work on practices, programs of instruction, and future work in Gifted and Talented Learning.

Her outreach, vision and unwavering focus on Black Excellence has led to being asked to serve on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted working with Dr. Pamela Clickenberd, Justice for All Task Force member, and Cathy Schmit, president.

Dr. Sharon Alexander's relentless pursuit of equitable access for African American students is resonating not only in Madison but also across Wisconsin.



New Sponsored Research from MEP

The [Madison Education Partnership \(MEP\)](#) has exciting news about new research collaborations starting now in MMSD. In late December, we awarded grants to six University of Wisconsin-Madison project teams to undertake new research projects in MMSD. District and UW leaders vetted and selected these outstanding projects, which will kick off this winter and conclude within one year.

The projects are:

- *Preparing Culturally Relevant, Anti-racist Secondary Teachers* - [Maxine McKinney de Royston](#) (UW Curriculum & Instruction) & Jen Schoepke, Jorge Covarrubias, Lachele Fisher & Najjah Thompson (MMSD Forward Madison, Professional Learning and Leadership Development & Human Resources)
- *Identifying innovation in family-to-family support and family-school partnerships during COVID-19* - [Erica Turner](#), [Amy Hilgendorf](#) & [Linn Posey-Maddox](#) (UW Educational Policy Studies & Center for Community & Nonprofit Studies) & Angela Fitzgerald-Ward, Emily Peterson & Hannah Nerenhausen (MMSD Family, Youth, & Community Engagement)
- *Radical Belonging in Racist Systems: A School-University Partnership to Enact an Antiracist Learning Community* - [Mariana Pacheco](#), [Leema Berland](#), [Carl Grant](#), [Nicole Louie](#), & [Kat Nichols](#) (UW Curriculum & Instruction) and Andrea Richichi, Elizabeth Callies & Samantha Head (MMSD Lindbergh)
- *Academic and Career Planning Equity Study in MMSD* - [Robin Worth](#) & [Grant Sim](#) (UW Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative) & Cindy Green (MMSD Secondary Programs)
- *Improving Equitable Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Outcomes by Aligning and Integrating Mental Health Systems and Family-School-Community Collaboration in MTSS* - [Andy Garbacz](#) & [Steve Kilgus](#) (UW Educational Psychology) and Wendy Johnson, Kristen Guetschow & Jay Affeldt (MMSD Student & Staff Support)
- *Early-grade Literacy Instruction in a Pandemic* - [Amy Claessens](#) & [Lesley Bartlett](#) (UW Educational Policy Studies) and Gabi Bell & Kaylee Jackson (MMSD Curriculum & Instruction)

These six represent the best of a deep and outstanding field this year. To ensure fit and interest, every UW team met with MMSD content leads prior to submission and we confirmed MMSD interest and capacity prior to reviewing any proposals. This is MEP's [fifth research competition](#) since 2016 and we have funded nine studies. We are grateful to [Courtney Bell](#) and the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER) for their financial support of this competition.

If you have any questions or want more information, feel free to reach out to Beth Vaade or check out our [website](#). On behalf of MEP, thanks for all your support of our research-practice partnership and we can't wait to learn more together!



Federal and State Budget Update: 21/22 Edition 1

The Budget Team will continue our monthly updates on happenings at the federal, state and local/grants level as it relates to our budget and COVID

revenues for the 21/22 budget cycle. Attached is our first edition for this budget season. If we were to name it, it would be - "We don't know a lot, but there is a lot to know."



Community Events:

All dates for community announcements are posted on the [Board Community Activities Calendar](#)

- For each High School, there are virtual Facebook Live **Facilities Feedback Sessions** on the 2020 referendum. These are opportunities for the public to provide feedback on the facility projects for each school:
 - **Wednesday, January 13:** [La Follette High School](#)
 - **Tuesday, January 26:** [Memorial High School](#)
 - **Thursday, January 28:** [East High School](#)
 - **Wednesday, February 3:** [Capital High](#)
 - **Thursday, February 4:** [West High School](#)

- Teach for America - Twin Cities, is hosting virtual **Radical Justice & Healing in the New Year: Workshops with Dr. Joi Lewis**, on **Thursday, January 21**, from 5-7 p.m. There will be 3 workshops centering around radical self-care and healing justice in education and racial equity work. This event is free and open to the public. More info. can be [found here](#).

- MSCR is hosting **MSCR Parking Lot Bingo** on **Saturday, January 23**, from 9-10 a.m. at the GreenBush Bakery Parking Lot ([5225 High Crossing Blvd.](#)). Check in is a half-hour before the event and participants check in and receive bingo cards and supplies. Participants will dial in to the assigned FM radio frequency. More info. can be [found here](#).

- Several of our Bilingual Resource Specialists, teamed up with our FYCE department, are hosting another Family Informational Discussion (**Información y Apoyo a Nuestra Comunidad Latinx**) for our Spanish speaking families next **Wednesday, January 27**, from 6-7 p.m. School BRSs will answer questions in the live Facebook event and give updates on resources for families. The event link can be [found here](#).

- The YWCA of Madison is hosting a **Virtual Circle of Women Event: Reimagining Resilience**, on **Wednesday, February 17**, from 12-12:30 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to be "in community" with one another while learning about the work and future goals of the YWCA. More info. can be [found here](#).

OUR UPCOMING BOARD CALENDAR



Jan. 20-22 State Education Convention
Virtual



Mon., Jan. 25, 8:30 a.m. Board Officers
Virtual



Mon., Jan. 25, 5 p.m. Special BOE Meeting—WORKSHOP
Virtual

- Mon., Jan. 25, 6 p.m. Regular BOE Meeting
Virtual

- Mon., Feb. 1, 5 p.m. Instruction Work Group
Virtual
- Mon., Feb. 8, 9 a.m. Board Officers
Virtual
- Mon., Feb. 8, 5 p.m. Operations Work Group
Virtual
- Mon., Feb. 8, 6 p.m. Special meeting in closed session
Virtual
- Tues., Feb. 9, 4 p.m. Student Senate
Virtual
- Wed., Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m. City Education Committee
Virtual
- **Week of February 15 Board Member Briefings**
- Mon., Feb. 15, 5 p.m. Special meeting in open session
Virtual
- Tues., Feb. 16 Spring Primary Election
- Mon., Feb. 22, 9 a.m. Board Officers
Virtual
- Mon., Feb. 22, 6 p.m. Regular BOE meeting
Virtual
- Tues., Feb. 23, 4 p.m. Student Senate
Virtual

ITEMS ATTACHED FOR INFORMATION

1. State 2021/23 Budget, CV-19 funding, Federal Education Budget update—edition 1.21

Edition 1.21: Board of Education Memo
State Education 2021-2023 Budget, COVID-19 Funding, Federal Education Budget

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Kelly Ruppel, Chief Financial Office
RE: Wisconsin State Education 2021-2023 Biennial Budget, COVID-19 Funding (federal, state, local), Federal Education Budget
Date: January 13, 2021

Background

This memo continues the practice of updating the Board of Education regarding funding for school districts and the Madison Metropolitan School District's (MMSD's) portion of funds expected, obtained, or pending. This memo series began in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020. Now, we will reset for 2021/22 and beyond planning. This document is now evolving into a mechanism to achieve the following goals:

- Provide the board with an ongoing update regarding the Wisconsin biennial budget process regarding K-12 education
- Continue to update the board on any new COVID-19 related funding (federal, state, local)
- Share information on federal funding for education including new developments as President Biden and a new Secretary of the Department of Education take office and the annual federal budget regarding K-12 education will emerge post the current continuing resolution

The memos provided to the Board of Education from April 2020 - October 2020 are linked in Appendix A, and will no longer be updated. Appendix B provides an updated look at non-federal grants and donations leveraged to help MMSD respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through December 2020. Non-federal grants and donations from January 2020 and forward will become part of the main body of this update.

Section 1: Wisconsin State Education Biennial Budget

Wisconsin has a biennial budget; it includes information about how money will be spent for a two-year period, from July of an odd-numbered year through June of the next odd-numbered year. In Wisconsin, the Legislature makes most of the decisions about what should be included in the budget, with substantial input from the Governor. The Governor has some veto powers in the budgeting process; however, these powers are under constant legal evaluation and scrutiny by the current Legislature. In the fall of even numbered years, each state agency submits their budget requests to the Governor. These requests are often more ceremonial and can signal negotiations on the budget due to the current divided nature of the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

On November 9, 2020, [DPI submitted their 2021-23 biennial budget proposal](#) to the Governor and released it to the public. Priority areas outlined in the DPI's budget request include: funding two-thirds of school costs, increasing mental health funding and services in schools, boosting the ability for schools to better serve students with the greatest needs, removing GED testing fees and improving access to credentialing, and further supporting the state's public library services.

Specifically, the 2021-23 budget requests funds to accomplish the following:

- Count students who attend a full day 4K program as a 1.0 FTE member for the purposes of calculating general aid, beginning in FY23. This is the key to getting to universal full day 4K.
- In the category of revenue limits and general aids:
 - Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment: \$150 in FY22 and \$152.25 in FY23 with adjustments linked to the Consumer Price Index. Of course the Republicans have already said these items are non starters.
 - Pandemic-driven decreases in Fall 2020 enrollments: temporary change to pupil counts (greater of 2020/2019 count); make FY21 declining enrollment and base hold harmless exemptions be base-building for one year (FY22).
 - State General Aid: increase by \$356.9 M in FY22 and \$487.1 M in FY23 (biennial total \$844 M, 8.6%)
- Special Education Categorical Aid at \$371 M to raise reimbursement rates to 35% in FY22 and 40% in FY23 and a request to the state to commit to reimbursing 50% in FY24 and 60% by FY25.
- Restore the state's commitment to funding two-thirds of school costs.
- Provide nearly \$13M for high cost special education aid to help fully fund all eligible expenses for students with the greatest needs.
- Expand state support to mental health and pupil support categorical aid to nearly \$60M over the biennium to include expenditures for all pupil support professionals and ensure schools can access aid by reimbursing on the basis of all expenditures at 10 percent of eligible expenses.
- Leverage \$1 million over the biennium to expand mental health training opportunities to include bullying and violence prevention, while also increasing support for trauma-sensitive schools training throughout the state.

- Fund the School-Based Services/Community Collaboration Grant with an additional \$7 million over the biennium to support more school districts and independent charter schools in connecting youth to essential mental health services.
- Remove barriers standing in the way of Wisconsinites taking GED tests and accessing their credentials, and help prepare the state's workforce. Funding subsidizes the cost of the GED test fee and creates an automated, online system to process credentials for test takers and verifications for employers and admissions offices. This modernization eliminates an outdated process and expedites the hiring process for employers and job applicants.
- Create a state aid program with \$5.8 million over the biennium to improve Wisconsin student access to driver education and provide instruction to eligible students at no cost.
- Create a state funded out-of-school (OST) time programming with \$20M over the biennium. Funding focuses primarily on students in middle and high school settings, while furthering the reach of OST programming to elementary programs.
- Support Wisconsin public libraries with a \$6.5M funding increase in aid over the biennium to help local libraries innovate and increase their ability to respond to emerging community needs. A dedicated appropriation of \$450K over the biennium helps local libraries digitize historic materials preserving them for future use by Wisconsin residents.

Sources: [2021-23 Biennial Budget Request](#); [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Budget Request Brief K-12 School Aids](#)

The Governor will use this request and requests from other state departments to propose a state budget, usually in February of the odd numbered years. In years past, the DPI proposal has been very close to the Governor's request for education. From there, the budget process moves over to the Legislature. Its first stop is the Joint Finance Committee, which is made up of legislators appointed by leaders in both houses of the Legislature. The Joint Finance Committee conducts a series of hearings around the state, so people can come and give their input on the budget. Once they've gathered information from those hearings and other sources, the Joint Finance Committee prepares its own version of the budget. The Joint Finance Committee's version of the budget is often quite different from the Governor's proposal.

The next stop for the budget is either the full Assembly or the full Senate. One house takes the Joint Finance version of the bill and allows members to propose amendments and changes and to debate their ideas on the floor. Eventually the full membership of that house votes on the entire bill. Once they pass their version of the budget, the bill moves over to the other house of the Legislature, where the whole process takes place again. If the two houses end up passing versions of the bill that are significantly different from each other – which they often do – then a Conference Committee consisting of members from each house is usually appointed to iron out the differences between the two.

Once the Conference Committee comes up with a compromise version of the bill, it goes back to both houses for approval. No amendments or changes are allowed at this point; just a yes or no vote.

After both houses pass the budget bill, it lands on the Governor's desk. In Wisconsin, the Governor has the power to make 'line-item vetoes', which means he can cross out whole items, at times change dollar values, or delete language to make things more to his liking. The Legislature has the power to override the Governor's veto, but it takes a two-thirds vote of both houses to do so, and that is difficult to do. Finally the budget is signed into law.

The budget is supposed to be finalized by July 1 of the odd-numbered year, because that is when the revenue and spending levels set by the new budget are set to go into effect. Sometimes, though, the budget process drags out longer, and it is not unusual for the budget to not be signed until the fall of an odd-numbered year. If the budget is late, revenues and spending are carried over at the state level in the previous budget until the new budget is finally signed.

For MMSD, when that happens, our process is to continue to vote on the June budget to allow for July 1 operations to continue based on what we know in June. Any July updates are then embedded into our continued budget deliberations through our final October vote.

DPI has posted one-page informational pieces on the following five major budget topics addressed in its budget request:

- [Special Education Funding](#)
- [Mental Health & Student Wellness](#)
- [Out-of-School Time Programs](#)
- [Public Libraries & Life-Long Learning](#)
- [Workforce Development — College & Career Ready](#)

Source: [The Wisconsin Budget Process](#).

Section 2: COVID-19 Funding (federal, state, local)

(1) Federal COVID-19 Response Stimulus Package

On 12/21/2020, the US Congress passed a \$900B COVID-19 response stimulus bill. On 12/27/20, outgoing President Trump signed the bill. While the stimulus package contains multiple foci (e.g., individuals, small businesses, public health measures), the focus here is *only* on the \$54.3B allocated for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (Source: [New York Intelligencer](#)). In the education this is being termed, "ESSER II".

The **K-12 education funds**, roughly four times what districts received under the original [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) passed earlier in 2020, will go to states/districts for education-related expenses and remain available to schools through September 30, 2022. Funds may be used as follows:

- for any activity under Elementary and Secondary Students Act (ESSA), Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, or subtitle B of Title VII of McKinney Vento
- coordinating/responding to health emergencies
- activities to support special populations
- training on sanitization
- cleaning supplies
- providing meals to students
- providing technology to students
- providing mental health services
- summer learning and supplemental learning
- addressing learning loss
- administering assessments
- school facility repairs and improvements including any machines/technology that deal with air quality
- other general operations needed which can include testing.

Other noteworthy aspects of the package include the following:

- **Equitable Services:** Private schools do not receive any funding via equitable services. They have their own bill language this time, see below.
- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE):** States can waive MOE if they are experiencing a decline in financial resources, but the intention is that they maintain funding for schools in 2022 at a level that is proportional to the states' expenditures for the past 3 years.
- **Sick/Paid Leave:** Paid leave as established under Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) is extended through March 2021. This bill does not extend the tax credits to public entities, but it does eliminate the mandate to provide paid leave, so public sector employees who were previously covered are no longer guaranteed that leave.
- **Private Schools:** Separate from the \$54.3B that public K-12 schools will receive, private schools will also be eligible for \$2.75B that will be distributed through the Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) program. This money is limited to private schools who are not receiving support through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The funding cannot be used for voucher programs unless the State had already been sending money to voucher programs under CARES and they can continue to support the students who received vouchers, but they cannot extend it to new students. Date on the enrollment of economically disadvantaged students determines the extent of the private school aid. All money, equipment, and services must be administered via a public agency and must be secular, neutral and non-ideological.
- **Early Education:** Includes \$10.25B to support early childhood care providers with \$10B for the Child Care Development Block Grants and \$250M for Head Start. MMSD is not likely to be eligible for these funds.
- **CoronaVirus Relief Fund (CRF):** will be extended through December 2021.
- **Vaccines:** Provides \$8.75B to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and states for vaccine distribution. Provides more than \$22B, all sent directly to states, to support testing, tracing and COVID mitigation programs.

- **School Meal Funding:** Includes funding for a new program to reimburse school meal providers for costs incurred between September 21, 2020 and December 31, 2020

(Source: [American Association of School Administrators, School Superintendents Association](#))

Please know that Budget, Planning & Accounting staff, the State & Federal Programs Office, and other MMSD departments are in contact with DPI and our related role associations and lobbying groups. At this time, there is more unknown than known beyond this information. Budget, Planning & Accounting staff review sources daily (e.g. [DPI School Finance Bulletins](#), the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB), the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO)) to understand and access relevant funding. We will keep you informed as we learn more; however, it may be months before more is known and it is likely to be June before any funding flows To MMSD based on our experience with the CARES Act.

(2) [Wisconsin Assembly Bill 1: COVID Relief Package](#)

- 2020 ended without additional action by the Wisconsin legislature on any pending bills or packages.
- On 1/7/21, the Assembly adopted the [Assembly Bill 1 COVID Relief Package](#) and passed the bill.
- Education specific measures in Assembly Bill 1 include the following:
 - Civil liability provisions that create an additional type of immunity that a school district could raise as an affirmative defense
 - Starting Monday 1/11/2021, a school board would not be able to authorize provision of virtual instruction to pupils instead of in-person instruction unless such virtual instruction is approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the school board. The bill further provides that each school board approval of virtual instruction is valid for 14 days and a school board may reauthorize the virtual instruction only by subsequent two-thirds votes of the school board members.
 - Unfavorable changes to the full-time open enrollment application process
 - Required allowance of exceptions to transfer rules regarding athletics participation
- On 1/11/21, the [Senate amended Assembly Bill 1](#). The amendment maintains many, but not all, of the provisions of Assembly Bill 1. The following modifications, additions, and exclusions are relevant to K-12 education:
 - modifies the end date for some of the bill's temporary provisions from June 30, 2021, to the end of the national emergency declared by the President, or the converse
 - adds reinstatement of authority given under 2019 Wisconsin Act 185 for the Department of Public Instruction to waive most requirements and extend deadlines for the parental choice programs, special needs scholarship program, and independent charter schools

- excludes the prohibition on closing a school building to in-person instruction for more than 14 days without a two-thirds approval vote of the school board
- excludes the expansion of open enrollment, which would have really hurt many districts
- excludes the allowance for instruction by an unlicensed short-term substitute teacher
- excludes the provisions affecting student athletes.
- On 1/12/21, Governor Evers released this statement “I’ve been grateful to work together with Republican Majority Leader LeMahieu to find common ground and pass a bill on COVID-19 that reflects a good faith effort in compromise and bipartisanship. Although it’s not the COVID compromise we originally proposed, AB 1 as amended by the Senate is a good start to support our state’s response to this pandemic. The Assembly should pass AB 1 as it was amended today and send it to my desk for my signature without delay.”

Section 3: Federal Education Budget

(1) Federal Fiscal Year 21 Education Funding The federal fiscal year (FY21) started October 1, 2020 and these federal dollars will be in schools for the 2021-2022 school year. In December 2020, Congress exercised a number of short-term continuing resolutions to avoid a shutdown while they completed their work to finalize the funding bills, work that was complicated by the election and the push for another (fifth) COVID-19 response package.

Overall, funding for the United States Education Department (USED) increases about 1% (\$785M) compared to FY20 in this final package. The \$1.4T appropriations for USED includes \$40.6B for K-12 education programs, an increase of about \$498M compared to FY20. In general, most programs are frozen/level-funded when compared to 2020. Critically, the final bill continues to reject the outgoing president’s push to privatize federal dollars.

Items and Program of Note:

- Title I is funded at \$16.5B, an increase of \$227M; MMSD continues to project a slight decrease in trends Title I for 21/22
- IDEA is funded at \$12.9B, an increase of \$173M
- Impact Aid is funded at \$1.5B, an increase of \$15M
- ESSA Title II is funded at \$2.1B, an increase of \$11M
- Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) is funded at \$188M, an increase of \$2M (enough to cover changes in program enrollment, detailed below).
- ESSA Title IV is funded at \$1.22B, an increase of \$10M
- Perkins CTE is funded at \$1.34B, an increase of \$52M
- The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) was postponed for the 2020-21 school year. This bill includes language to reschedule NAEP for the 2021-22 school year.
- Includes language to eliminate a prohibition against using federal money on transportation costs related to school desegregation efforts.

- The package does not include funding for the Secure Rural Schools/Forest Counties program.
- The package includes a fix to REAP, through which Congress clears up a technical issue to the REAP program. Earlier this year, USED found that several states were erroneously granting eligibility for the program to districts that did not qualify for the Rural Low-Income Schools (RLIS) side of the program. While no districts that were inappropriately receiving funding will have their funding cut for the next two years, there will be a drawdown to make them ineligible for funding over the following five years.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding increases \$46B to \$114B.
- Bill includes \$25.1B for Child Nutrition programs (including \$30M for school meal equipment grants and \$42M for Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program. These are the funds that provide free/reduced price school lunches and snacks for children who qualify for the program.

(Source: [American Association of School Administrators, School Superintendents Association](#))

(2) Education Policy and Funding under Biden

As a candidate, Biden proposed the following:

- additional COVID-related relief aid to school districts (\$88B to help stabilize state education funding and pay a share of the costs for PPE, ventilation systems, reduced class size (hiring more teachers)), etc..
- extending broadband access to all areas and students across the nation. This may be less likely to impact MMSD because we have better access compared to many rural and tribal areas.
- increases in programs like Title I to triple the \$15B program with a requirement that schools provide competitive pay and benefits for teachers, increasing number of psychologists, counselors, nurses and social workers in schools, new money for school infrastructure, increasing federal spending for special education, universal prekindergarten for all 3- and 4-year-olds.
- reversal of current initiatives and guidance backed by outgoing Secretary DeVos. Biden opposes voucher programs and using federal money for for-profit charter schools. He is expected to reinstate protections for transgender students.
- reinstating Title IX and a focus on racial disparities in school discipline.

Note that some of the items listed above are likely to meet with Congressional resistance.

Appendix A: Memos Provided to the Board of Education from April - October 2020

[Edition 1: Board of Education COVID-19 Response Grants Memo, April 23 2020](#)

[Edition 2: Board of Education COVID-19 Response Grants and Donations Memo, May 7 2020](#)

[Edition 3: Board of Education COVID-19 Response Grants and Donations Memo, June 15 2020](#)

[Edition 4: Board of Education COVID-19 Budget, Grants and Donations Memo, July 30 2020](#)

[Edition 5: Board of Education COVID-19 Budget, Grants and Donations Memo, September 8 2020](#)

[Edition 6: Board of Education COVID-19 Budget, Grants, and Donations Memo, October 7 2020](#)

Appendix B: COVID-19 Response Funds Awarded and Pending to MMSD

Funding Leveraged or Pending October, November, December 2020		
Share Our Strength No Kid Hungry	\$29K	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Nutrition Services staff and a walk-in cooler for Nutrition Services
Mission Tiger/No Kid Hunger	TBD	Support school programs with increased expenses during emergency feeding programs (e.g. boxes and tape used to package food for families).
Funding Leveraged September 2020		
Funding Source	Amount	Purpose
Foundation for Madison's Public Schools	\$183K	At-home basic school supplies for students in need
American Family	\$100K	\$50K Wireless Access Points; \$50K Wifi hotspot subscriptions
Blessings in a Backpack	\$12K	Weekend snack packs for students.
Funding Leveraged Prior to September 2020		
Funding Source	Amount	Purpose
UW-Madison Humorology	\$35K	Weekend snack packs for students. This is part of a three year, \$335K gift.
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health WI Partnership Program	\$138K	Teams of nurses and social workers to continue working over the summer to support students and families
Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL)	\$130K	Common School Funding to help school libraries purchase necessary resources to support virtual instruction
Madison Community Foundation	\$50K	Support purchase of hotspots to ensure WiFi/internet access for students
Rennebohm Foundation	\$50K	Support provision of instructional materials and ensure WiFi/internet access for students
Emergency Meal Distribution Equipment Grant	\$20K	Support efforts to safely provide meals for students.
Foundation for Madison's Public Schools MMSD Community Resource Fund	\$23.5K	Help provide resources to the scholars, staff and families (e.g., mailing of printed materials, WiFi/internet access).
American Family	\$20K	Support provision of instructional materials to students
No Kid Hungry Coronavirus Emergency Response 2020 Grant	\$15K	Offset costs of providing meals during COVID-19 closure
Foundation for Madison's Public Schools Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) Community Resource Fund	\$11.2K	Help direct resources to the scholars, staff and families of the district in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
GenYOUth COVID-19 Emergency School Nutrition Funding	\$9K	Resources for meal distribution and delivery efforts
Morgridge Foundation School Support Foundation Schools COVID19 Response Grants	\$4.5K	Support of COVID-19 efforts at East, La Follette, West
Summit Credit Union	\$2K	Ensure WiFi/internet access for students
Arby's Foundation	\$2K	Offset costs of providing meals during COVID-19 closure
TOTAL	\$825,199	