



## WEEKLY UPDATE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 8, 2021

### A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT CARLTON D. JENKINS

Dear Board Members,

This week, which marks the first week of our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, has certainly been eventful. On Wednesday, our district held the first meeting of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Restorative Justice. Much research explores the need for developing new ways to engage and accelerate learners if we are serious about disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline in pursuit of excellence for all students. We are excited about bringing together students, staff, parents, and community partners to create new ways of working which will transform our learning spaces into more nurturing centers of educational enrichment.

Throughout this week, we have had rich conversations about refining our approaches to ensuring all students graduate ready for college, careers, and the community. During Monday's Instruction Work Group meeting, district staff engaged in a rich dialogue with the board about instructional and curricular strategies which spanned topics such as phasing in the reopening of schools, revisiting earned and standalone honors, and developing virtual learning programming. Each of these topics has implications for our district's efforts to address disparities and narrow the gap between excellence and non-excellence.

Throughout this school year, our community, state, and nation has continued wrestling with the pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice. As such, we have continued working collaboratively with myriad student, staff, family, and community stakeholders. During this week, district leaders have engaged in strategic conversations with students, parents, health experts, non-profit leaders, elected officials, and others in an effort to elevate varied voices in our decision making. We firmly believe taking a collaborative approach, which includes engaging often marginalized voices, will assist our efforts to ameliorate disparities which historically have impacted our Black, LatinX, Hmong, low socioeconomic, ELL, LGBTQ, and Special Education students and communities. True excellence must be inclusive, and our strivings for human decency demand us to find new ways to engage all students and families.

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



### **Staff Survey re: Vaccinations**

There was a question from a board member asking about doing a survey of staff on whether or not they got vaccinated against COVID-19. Legal counsel has informed us that this information is protected private health information that generally should only be shared with either Human Resources or MMSD nurses. In addition, getting the vaccination was not mandatory and the MMSD does not have a survey system that would make this totally confidential. Lastly, we should point out that the Union most likely would have strong objections to this request.



### **Updated Organizational Chart**

Attached please find the final version of the Central Office Organizational Chart,

## OTHER INFORMATION



### **This Week's Metrics and Operations Meeting Recordings**

4.6.21 Developing & Reviewing Metrics Meeting [Agenda](#) & [Recording](#)

4.8.21 School-Central Adm. Weekly Ops Mtg [Agenda](#) & [Recording](#)



### **Additional Services for Students with Disabilities**

Please find attached a plan outlining the provision of additional services that will be provided to some of our students with disabilities due to the extended CV-19 school closures.



### **Statewide Referendum Results**

School April referendum results passed at a 60% rate in April, lower than the statewide results from November. While operating referendums are typically more difficult to pass, we see the facilities referenda only had a 52% passing rate; a trend we will certainly want to watch moving forward. See attached for a nice summary put together by Baird.



### **Edition 2.21: Update on 2021/23 State Education Budget, COVID-19 Funding, Federal Education Budget**

Attached is an updated edition on the above-named topics.



### **Weekly News Report**

We are going to try to stay committed to providing you with current local news stories from the past week on every Thursday moving forward, as we now have a new tool to assist us in this effort. The weekly News Report (attached) will include a curated list of local news stories directly related to MMSD over the course of the previous week with links provided. I hope you find this weekly report informative.



## Community Events:

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

- Public Health Madison & Dane County are hosting the **COVID-19 Vaccine Virtual Town Hall** on **Thursday, April 8**, from 6-7 p.m. Participants are asked to join a panel of experts to “address common concerns related to differences among vaccine efficacy and to provide an update about the vaccine distribution process in Dane County.” More info. can be [found here](#).
- The UW Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Student Center is hosting the virtual lecture **Feeling Asian American: An Evening with Cathy Park Hong**, on **Friday, April 9**, beginning at 7 p.m. This is a celebratory APIDA Heritage Month event and will feature guest lecturer Cathy Park Hong, author of *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning*. This event is free and APIDA asks that participants [RSVP](#) by April 9th. More info. can be [found here](#).
- Access Community Health Centers are hosting **The Celebration of Service virtual event** on **Thursday, April 15**, from 6-6:45 p.m. This event is in honor of health care workers and is a chance to celebrate community and learn about important work to come. More info. can be [found here](#).
- The Madison Black Chamber of Commerce is hosting the virtual **Virtual Black Business Resiliency Showcase** on **Thursday, May 6**, from 4-6 p.m. This showcase event will consist of an awards ceremony and there will be an opportunity to connect with the local business community. More info. can be [found here](#).
- YWCA Madison is hosting the 46th Annual **Women of Distinction Awards Celebration** on **Friday, May 21** beginning at 7 p.m. on Facebook Live. The awards are presented to women who represent a diversity of race, age occupation and endeavor. This is one of Dane County’s most well-known Women’s Empowerment events, taking place since 1974. More info. can be [found here](#).

## OUR UPCOMING BOARD CALENDAR



Tues., Apr. 12, 5 p.m.      Operations Work Group  
Doyle 103



Wed., Apr. 14, 5:30 p.m.      City Education Committee  
Virtual



**Week of April 19**      **Board Member Briefings**  
**Virtual**



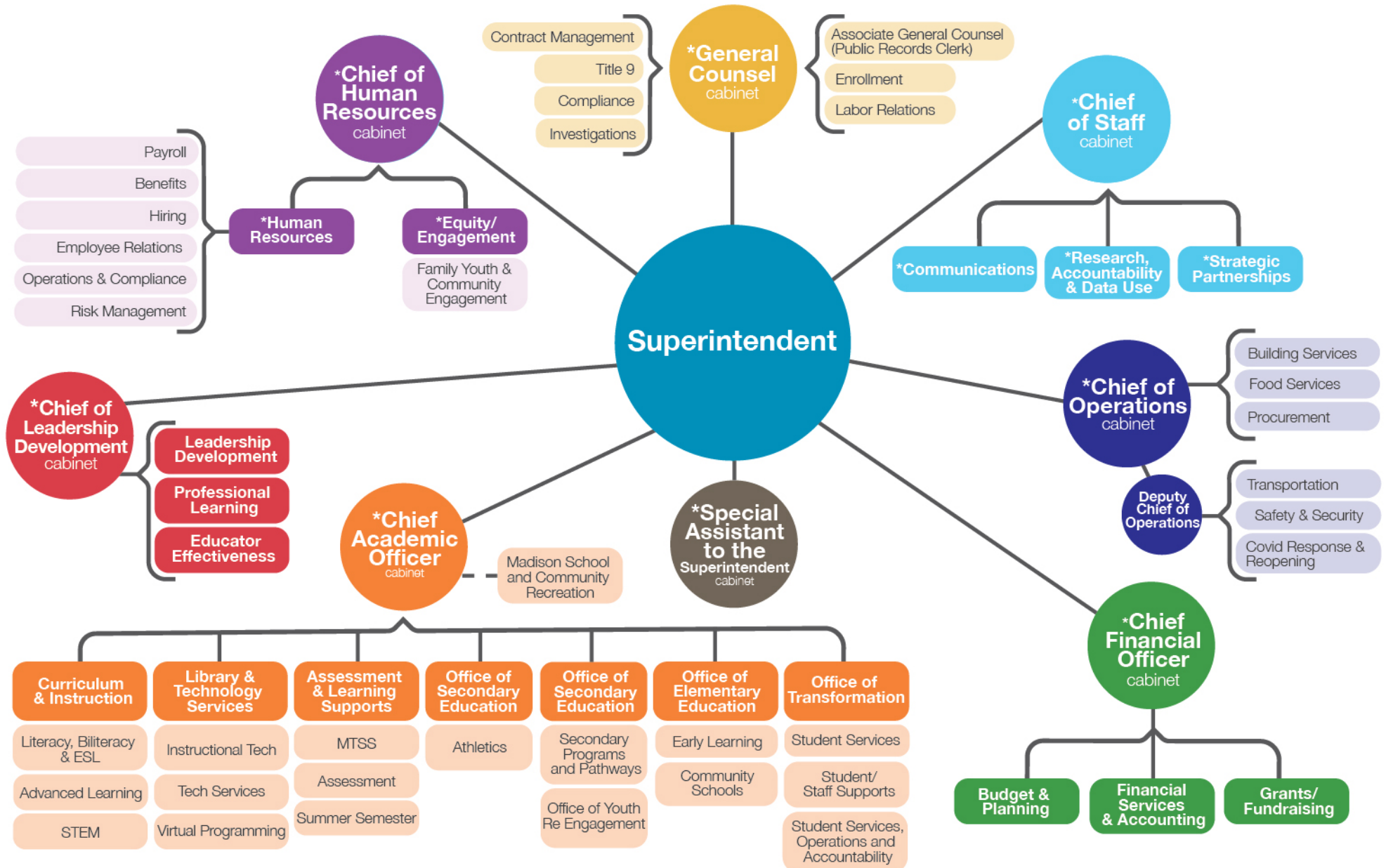
Tues., Apr. 20, 2:30 p.m.      Student Senate  
Virtual

- Mon., Apr. 26, 9 a.m. Board Officers  
Virtual
- Mon., Apr. 26, 6 p.m. Regular BOE meeting  
Doyle 103

#### ITEMS ATTACHED FOR INFORMATION

1. Central Office Organizational Chart--final version
2. Additional Services for some Students with Disabilities due to COVID-19 school closures
3. Wisconsin school referendum results chart
4. Update on 2021/23 State Education Budget Issues—Edition 2.21
5. Weekly News Report\_4.8.21

# Central Office Organizational Chart





March 23, 2021

**Update to the Superintendent and Board of Education Members****RE: Additional Services for Students with Disabilities due to Extended School Closures**

On March 13, 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, under the direction of the Governor, issued a public health emergency order closing all school buildings for in-person pupil instruction and extracurricular activities beginning on March 18, 2020. Subsequent orders extended the closure through June 30, 2020. During this extended school closure, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) highly encouraged school districts to provide remote learning opportunities so that students, including those with disabilities could continue to make educational progress. Districts were also encouraged to creatively provide special education and related services specified in each student's individualized education program (IEP) to the greatest extent possible.

While the District made significant efforts to provide continuity of learning during this time, we acknowledge that some specially designed instruction, related services, and supplementary aids and supports could not be provided or were not as effective, which may have resulted in a regression of skills or impacted the student's ability to make progress. Therefore, some students with disabilities will require additional special education and/or related services (referred to here as Additional Services) due to the extended school closure. The decision about who requires these services, including the extent and duration required, must be made on an individual basis in a collaborative manner, and the services must supplement and not supplant the student's existing educational program. Furthermore, Additional Services are not automatically required if a student did not receive all of the services specified in the student's IEP. Rather, it is an individualized determination based on what Additional Services are required to address regression in skills and to accelerate the progress needed to account for the impact of the extended school closure.

The DPI determined school districts must individually analyze each student's circumstances and make a determination regarding the need for Additional Services within the first six months of the 2020-21 school year. After creating a step-by-step process, we completed our analysis in early February well before the deadline and have determined 1032 students will be receiving Additional Services. Approximately 1200 students were determined eligible however, in some situations, the families declined the offer. While the number of students receiving Additional Services vary between schools, the average elementary will have 12 students, middle school 20 students and high school 60 students.

Special educators and related service personnel are currently providing Additional Services to 231 students. The majority of our families have opted for their children (801) to receive their Additional Services during the summer, embedded into Summer Semester or separate depending on student needs. We expect most of the students currently receiving Additional Services will continue throughout the summer which means we will be providing Additional Services to approximately 1000 students. The goal is to provide all Additional Services prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year.

# Wisconsin School Referendum Results

Tuesday, April 6, 2021



Public Finance

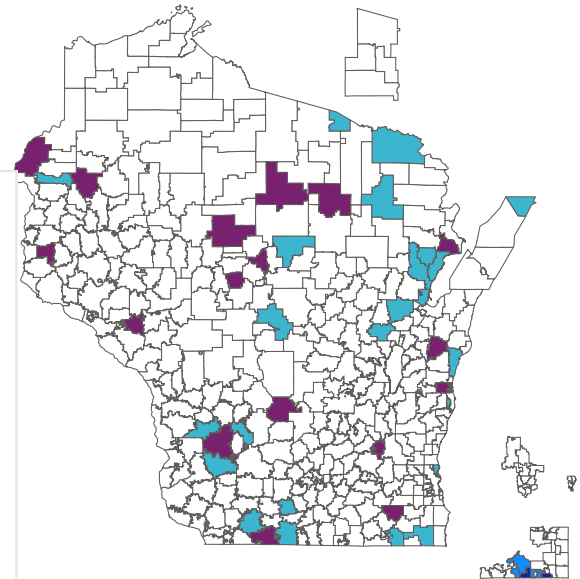
A total of: **56**  
Districts

Asked: **70**  
Questions

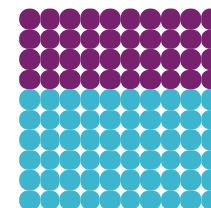
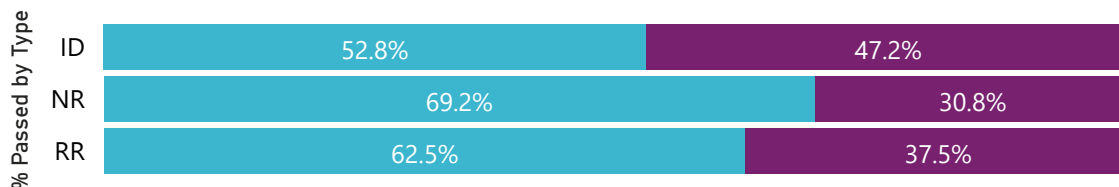
A total of: **35**  
Districts

Passed: **42**  
Questions

Type		Passed	Failed	Total
Issue Debt	# of ?s	19	17	<b>36</b>
	Total	377M	415M	<b>792M</b>
Non- Recurring	# of ?s	18	8	<b>26</b>
	Total	143M	34M	<b>177M</b>
Recurring	# of ?s	5	3	<b>8</b>
	Total	10M	11M	<b>21M</b>
<b>Total</b>	# of ?s	<b>42</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>70</b>
	Total	<b>530M</b>	<b>459M</b>	<b>990M</b>



Passed Failed



**60%**  
of Questions Passed this Election

## Results 1993- present

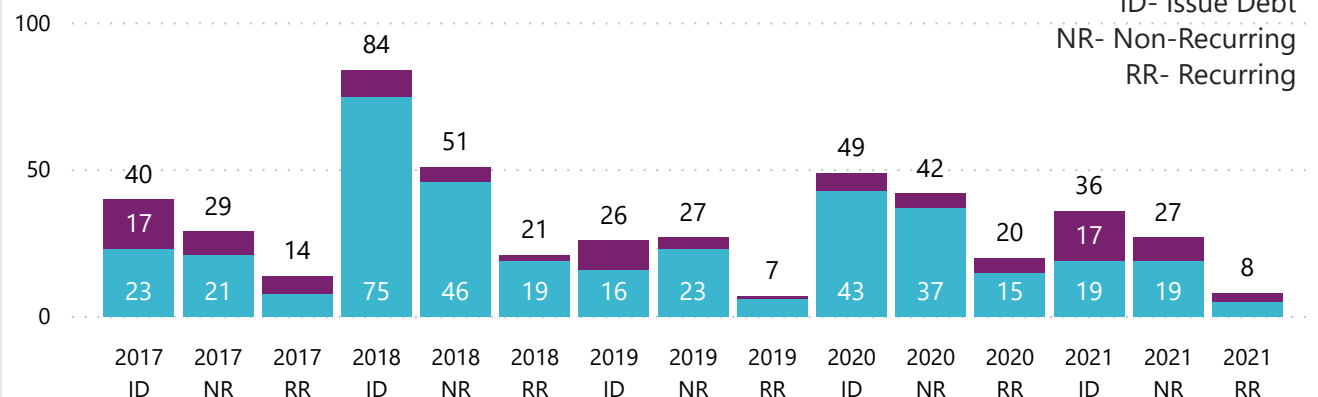
Passed Failed



**3406**

Total Questions

## Historical Referendum Results



### School Finance Team

Brian Brewer – Michel Clark  
Kevin Mullen – Lisa Voisin  
[BairdPublicFinance@rwbaird.com](mailto:BairdPublicFinance@rwbaird.com)

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Spring Primary	02/15/2022	02/21/2023	02/20/2024	2/18/2025
Spring General	04/05/2022	04/04/2023	04/02/2024	4/1/2025
Fall Primary	08/09/2022		08/13/2024	
Fall General	11/08/2022		11/05/2024	

### School Business Solutions Team

Dennis Birr – Debby Brunett –  
Todd Hajewski – Keith Lucius –  
Elise Murn – Diane Pertzborn  
[SchoolBusinessSolutions@rwbaird.com](mailto:SchoolBusinessSolutions@rwbaird.com)

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\*Results are preliminary, data gathered from various news outlets, direct phone calls to Districts, and DPI

Visuals Powered by  
Baird School Analytics



**Edition 2.21: Board of Education Memo**  
**State Education 2021-2023 Budget, COVID-19 Funding, Federal Education Budget**

**Updates since last version are highlighted in green**

**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:** April 1, 2021

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**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 every other month memo series began in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020.

This memo series now functions 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) and parameters around that funding
- Share information on federal funding for education including new developments as President Biden and Secretary of the Department of Education Miguel Cardona take office and the annual federal budget regarding K-12 education emerges beyond 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 2021 and forward will become part of the main body of this update.

## Section 1: Wisconsin State Education Biennial Budget

### Update:

In December 2020, the Wisconsin Policy Forum reported that Wisconsin's spending is projected to exceed revenues by about \$373M this year, painting a bleak picture for budget requests from state agencies being able to be fulfilled in the next biennial budget. In late January 2021, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau reported that Wisconsin general fund tax collections are projected to be almost \$1.2B higher over a three-year period than was originally estimated in November 2020. The increase in general fund tax collection projections is good news for MMSD because it allows for a stronger possibility that budget requests, like the current DPI biennial budget proposal, could be funded. However, Vos continues to suggest that the Governor's budget will not move forward.

Source: [Wisconsin State Journal, M. Schmidt](#)

### Background:

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](#)

On February 16, 2021, Governor Evers released his 2021-23 biennial budget proposal for the State of Wisconsin (i.e., the budget bill). The Governor's budget proposal includes the following key themes:

- supports  $\frac{3}{4}$  funding for K-12 schools
- maintains priorities for school aids (Special Education, mental health, English learners, etc.), public libraries, and College and Career Readiness
- Includes a few new grant programs and policy changes
- creates an Agency Equity Officer position in DPI.

[A specific comparison of DPI's budget request to the Governor's proposed budget is available here.](#)

The 2021-23 budget bill will be deliberated by the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF), which is made up of legislators appointed by leaders in both houses of the Legislature. The JCF conducts a series of hearings around the state, so people can come and give their input on the budget. Once they have gathered information from those hearings and other sources, the JCF prepares its own version of the budget. **This will take place in April through the end of May or into June.** The JCF'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 JCF 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.

Source: [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Governor's Biennial Budget Proposal Overview](#), [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Summary of 2021-23 Biennial Budget Request & Governor Evers' 2021-23 Biennial Budget Proposal](#), [The Wisconsin Budget Process](#)

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

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 2021 and forward are as follows:

Local Fundraised Dollars: Funding Leveraged or Pending January 2021		
100 Black Men of Madison	\$500	support re-engagement of students in virtual tutoring /academic support through the Turn In and Take Out program
AT&T K-12 Homework Gap Program Grant	\$348K	wireless internet access, hotspot devices, and content filtering, valued at \$348K, to serve 500 students for one year across several schools with high needs
Ford Motor Company	\$75K	250,000 face masks
Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County via Ford Motor Company and United Parcel Service	\$1.43M	approximately 400,000 face masks and approximately 300,000 12 ounce bottles of hand sanitizer
Evjue Foundation	\$50K	\$25K to support MSCR Cares childcare services and \$25K to support Food & Nutrition efforts to provide ready made meals to students

### (1) Federal COVID-19 Response

#### American Rescue Plan - "ESSER III"

On March 11, President Biden signed the [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA), enacted through budget reconciliation, which includes an extension of expanded unemployment benefits, stimulus checks, enhanced tax credits for families, and a range of other programs designed to respond to the economic and public health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The [ARPA](#) will provide \$122B to help schools serve all students, no matter where they are learning, and support safe reopening of school buildings for in-person instruction. These investments include set asides at the local and state level to address learning loss and social

emotional needs of students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities.

In the education realm, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund portion of ARPA is being referred to as “ESSER III”. DPI estimates that Wisconsin will receive around \$1.4B, available for use by districts through September 30, 2024. There is no ‘supplement not supplant’ or ‘equitable participation’ requirements on this funding. Ninety percent (90%) of the funds are required to be allocated to districts using the Title I formula. DPI is estimating MMSD will receive about twice the amount available through ESSER II (\$18.9M for MMSD) under ESSER III, or about \$37M. However, this has not yet been confirmed and final DPI guidance has not been offered.

Districts receiving funds under this program are required to set aside 20% of the funds to address learning loss and are not allowed to reduce per-pupil funding for any high poverty school in fiscal year 2022 or 2023. Additionally, all districts receiving funds are required to develop and make publicly available on their website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. (MMSD already has our Reopening Plan on our website.) This plan had to have been open to and received public comment in its development. If a plan exists that already meets this requirement, a new plan is not required.

The uses of funds under ESSER III are as broad as they were under ESSER II. They include:

- any activity authorized under the ESEA;
- any activity authorized by the IDEA;
- any activity authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act;
- any activity authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act;
- coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments;
- activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, students of color, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population;
- developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of districts;
- training and professional development for staff of the district on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases;
- purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a district, including buildings operated by such agency;

- planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students and providing technology for online learning to all students;
- purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the district that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment;
- providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools;
- planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs;
- addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, students of color, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care;
- school facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs;
- inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and nonmechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement;
- developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff; and
- other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in districts.

At the state level, ten percent (10%) of the ESSER III funds, estimated to be \$140M are reserved for a state set-aside. Further, the DPI is required to reserve:

- 5% of the total funding to address learning loss (\$70M);
- 1% of the total funding for summer enrichment programs (\$14M); and

- 1% of the total funding for afterschool programs (\$14M).

These required set-asides are to be carried out by DPI directly or through grants or contracts. DPI plans to provide a minimum amount of funds to LEAs to ensure every LEA receives ARPA funds. Given the amount of money allocated under this program, however, the DPI will be required, as the department was under ESSER I and II, to present a plan to the JFC for approval before any money, including how formula amounts and required set-asides, can be allocated and spent.

#### Homeless Students and IDEA Provisions

The ARPA included \$800M for the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Secretary to use to identify and serve homeless students and award grants and the following additional amounts under IDEA:

- \$2.6M for grants to States under part B
- \$200M for preschool grants under section 619
- \$250M for programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities under part C

At this time, MMSD is awaiting details regarding if Wisconsin and MMSD will be in line to receive funds under these provisions.

#### Emergency Connectivity Fund

\$7B is appropriated through an Emergency Connectivity fund for eligible schools and libraries for the purchase of eligible equipment or advanced telecommunications and information services (or both) for use by students and staff of the school at locations that include locations other than the school.

MMSD is awaiting additional information surrounding eligibility and how to access funds, but we are aware that in providing support under this program, 100% of the costs are to be reimbursed up to a yet-to-be established limit.

ESSER III spending planning will occur over the summer after the June Preliminary Budget is approved and after more information from DPI is received. The goal will be to include it in the October final MMSD Budget.

Source: [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#).

#### Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act - “ESSER II”

On 12/21/2020, the US Congress passed the \$900B [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act \(CRRSAA\)](#). 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 realm, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund portion of CRRSAA is

being referred to as ESSER II. Wisconsin is slated to receive \$686.1M. MMSD is slated to receive \$18.9M. The Board will discuss the funding plan for ESSER II in the May Operation Work Group. This plan is then intended for the June Preliminary MMSD Budget.

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

(Sources: [Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget](#), [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) Other Wisconsin COVID Relief

- On 3/29/21, Governor Evers unveiled his initial plan for allocating the \$3.2B in federal funds Wisconsin is slated to receive through ARPA. The Governor's priorities include a proposed \$200M investment in infrastructure support to expand broadband access.
- The plan for allocating state funds must be reviewed by the JCF. The DPI has until April 10, 2021 to submit its plan to the JCF.
- DPI has provided [COVID Response and Relief Planning Recommendations](#) to assist school districts in planning how to use CRRSA funds and future relief funding.
- On 1/7/21, the Assembly adopted the [Assembly Bill 1 COVID Relief Package](#) and passed the bill. The Senate approved the bill on 2/5/21 after the Assembly amended and approved it on 2/4/21. Governor Evers vetoed the bill on 2/12/21. 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 **(Passed and Governor Signed)**
  - 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.

(Removed by Senate, did not pass)

- Unfavorable changes to MMSD (favorable for other districts) the full-time open enrollment application process (Passed and Governor Signed)

Source: [Wisconsin Association of School Boards Legislative Update](#), [Wisconsin Legislative Council](#).

### Section 3: Federal Education Budget

**(1) Federal Fiscal Year 22 Education Funding** Under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the President is supposed to submit a budget to Congress for the following fiscal year on the [first Monday in February each year](#). During a presidential transition year, this deadline is routinely delayed. As of this writing, the President's federal fiscal year 22 budget has not been submitted to Congress.

**(2) Federal Fiscal Year 21 Education Funding** The federal fiscal year (FY21) started October 1, 2020 and runs through September 30th 2021. 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. On December 27, 2020 President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) which provides funding for the Department of Education through September 30, 2021.

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 Programs 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](#))

## **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
<a href="#">UW-Madison Humorology</a>	\$35K	Weekend snack packs for students. This is part of a three year, \$335K gift.
<a href="#">University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health WI Partnership Program</a>	\$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
<a href="#">Madison Community Foundation</a>	\$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.
<a href="#">Foundation for Madison's Public Schools</a> 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
<a href="#">No Kid Hungry Coronavirus Emergency Response 2020 Grant</a>	\$15K	Offset costs of providing meals during COVID-19 closure
<a href="#">Foundation for Madison's Public Schools</a> 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
<a href="#">GenYOUth COVID-19 Emergency School Nutrition Funding</a>	\$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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$825,199</b>	



# NEWS REPORT

Weekly Edition: 4/8/21

DATE	NEWS ORG	HEADLINE/LINK
3/30/21	Madison365	<a href="#">In new school district role, pastor David Hart wants to create "a two-way conversation"</a>
3/31/21	Madison365	<a href="#">Madison school board changes layoff policy: no longer based on seniority alone</a>
4/3/21	Cap Times	<a href="#">Randall Elementary School gets creative to share music performances during virtual learning</a>
4/4/21	Cap Times	<a href="#">Creating 'a community of realness in education': Pair of MMSD educators start teacher-focused podcast</a>
4/5/21	Madison365	<a href="#">"We all in Madison benefited tremendously from her leadership." Gloria Reyes wraps up school board presidency full of challenges - madison365.com</a>
4/5/21	WI State Journal	<a href="#">Wisconsin school districts set to receive at least \$2.2 billion in federal stimulus aid</a>
4/5/21	WI State Journal	<a href="#">68% of MMSD students will return for in-person learning</a>
4/5/21	Cap Times	<a href="#">Parents' hesitancy could impede efforts to vaccinate school kids - Madison.com</a>
4/6/21	Cap Times	<a href="#">MMSD high schools moving toward eliminating standalone honors courses for ninth, 10th grades - Madison.com</a>
4/6/21	WI State Journal	<a href="#">Majority of Madison students chose to return to in-person learning but online option here to stay</a>
4/7/21	Madison365	<a href="#">MMSD's new layoff practice, and what is cultural competency? W/Savion Castro</a>
Future stories currently in development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Story on Office of Youth Re-Engagement - WI State Journal</li><li>• In-Depth look at All Day 4k - NBC 15</li><li>• QR Code Tracking of Students - Cap Times</li><li>• 2021-22 Virtual Academy - Cap Times</li><li>• Profile Story on David Hart - WI State Journal</li><li>• Profile Story on Dr. Marvin Pryor - Madison365</li><li>• Profile Story on Jorge Covarrubias - Madison365</li></ul>