



Whitefish Bay SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Board for the Whitefish Bay School District
1200 E Fairmount Ave., Whitefish Bay, WI 53217



About WFB School District

- All schools have Significantly Exceeded Expectations on the Wisconsin School Report Card
- #1 Ranked School District where Students are Most Likely to Succeed in WI
- #1 Ranked Comprehensive High School in the Milwaukee Area

THE GOOD NEWS

The State of Wisconsin finds itself in an unprecedented position as the State's predicted budget surplus has reached \$6.6 billion.

THE REALITY

Six of the last eight years, revenue limits for public schools have remained unchanged. There is a growing gap between rising costs and school budgets, resulting in less sustainable services for students, especially with one-time Federal ESSER funding set to expire.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

1. Predictable, Sustainable, Spendable Inflationary-Responsive Revenue Limit Increases.

- At the end of 2022, budgets for public schools were approximately 20% lower than in 2011 due to the difference between inflation and revenue limit increases.
- Inflation measured 4.7% in 2021 and 8.01% in 2022 as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). During that same period, no increase was provided to the revenue limit for Wisconsin school districts.

REQUEST: Provide predictable, sustainable, spendable, inflationary-responsive revenue limit increases for public schools. This will provide public school districts with a reasonable long-term strategy to address regular cost increases.

2. Provide an Increase to the Special Education Reimbursement Rate.

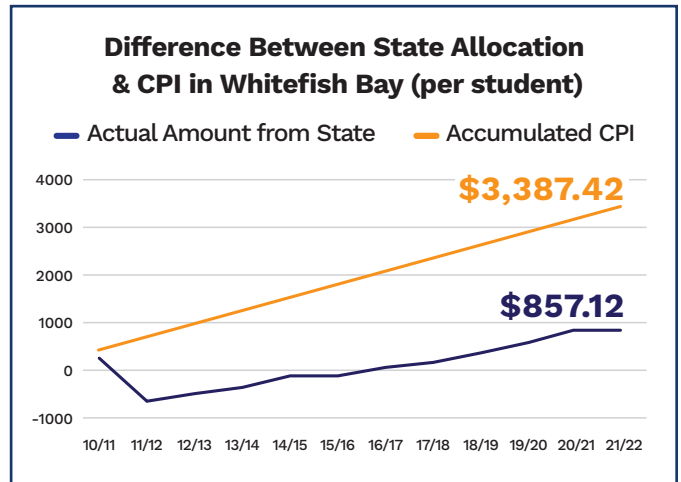
- In 2021-2022, Whitefish Bay School District transferred over \$3 million from its general education fund to support additional costs associated with providing special education for students.
- Increasing the special education reimbursement rate for public schools will help all students.

REQUEST: Increase the Special Education Reimbursement Rate for public schools. Increasing state aid for special education will help all students in our schools.

3. Provide Mental Health Funding.

- Community resources and student access to mental health services are not keeping up with the urgent level of need. Schools are asked to address the resulting gaps.
- According to Student Mental Health (2019), "One in five students faces a mental health issue. Over 80 percent of incidents go untreated."

REQUEST: Increase the amount of sustainable mental health funding in order to meet the increasing demands of providing mental health support for all students.



Inaction may result in:

- An impact on class sizes and course offerings
- An impact on school districts' ability to provide competitive compensation to attract and retain high quality employees
- An impact on school districts' ability to maintain facilities
- An impact on school districts' ability to identify, address, and support student mental health challenges

THE OPPORTUNITY

We have a new opportunity on the horizon to provide our public schools with funding from the current budget surplus to ensure stability and sustainability for Wisconsin students while continuing to move the State of Wisconsin forward. Don't miss this opportunity. Our students are worthy of your commitment.