

*Date:* March 21, 2018  
*To:* District Administrators  
*From:* Mike Thompson, Deputy State Superintendent  
*Subject:* New State Aid and Grant Programs Created under 2017 Act 59

Governor Walker signed the 2017-19 biennial budget bill into law on September 21, 2017 as 2017 Wisconsin Act 59. This memo provides information pertaining to several new state categorical aid programs and grant opportunities for K-12 schools created under Act 59, including anticipated procedures and timelines, and where to find more information about the new programs. The information in this memo can also be found on the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) webpage for the 2017-19 Biennial Budget (Act 59): <https://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget/biennial-budget/current>

***Jump to Program:***

1. [Aid for School Mental Health Programs](#)
2. [School-Based Mental Health Services Collaboration Grants](#)
3. [Special Education Transition Readiness Grants](#)
4. [Early College Credit Program \(ECCP\) – State Aid](#)
5. [Personal Electronic Computing Devices Grants](#)
6. [Robotics League Participation Grants](#)
7. [School Performance Improvement Grants](#)
8. [MPS Summer School Grants](#)

**1. Aid for School Mental Health Programs (\$3.0 million annually, begins in 2018-19)**

*What is it?*

- A categorical aid program to support the expansion of mental health services to students by providing state reimbursements for expenditures on social worker services. This is a two-tiered program:
  - *Tier 1* will provide aid up to 50 percent of the increase in eligible expenditures for social worker services (from 2016-17 to 2017-18, for aid paid in 2018-19); and
  - *Tier 2* will provide aid for eligible expenditures not aided at Tier 1 (at the rate supported by the appropriation after Tier 1 payments are calculated).
- Aid payments will be prorated if the appropriation does not fully cover total aid eligibility.

*Who is eligible?*

- School boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in one of the state's parental choice programs, that have incurred expenses on social worker services.

*When will grant applications be available, when will payments be made?*

- This is not a competitive grant program; therefore, there will be no grant application.
- The Student Services/Prevention & Wellness (SSPW) Team at DPI is developing a process for determining eligible (aidable) expenditures in public school districts.
- DPI is required to promulgate an administrative rule for this new categorical aid program. The anticipated timeline for the rule is: 1) publish the emergency (temporary) rule, likely in August 2018; and 2) submit the permanent rule to the Legislature early in January 2019 (the soonest that a permanent rule may be submitted).
- While the rule will be published later this summer, the SSPW Team is currently developing guidance materials (consistent with the rule that is being drafted), and anticipates releasing the information prior to the end of the 2017-18 school year.

*Where can I find more information?*

- SSPW Team's School Mental Health homepage: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health>
- DPI Lead Contact: Julie Incitti, Julie.Incitti@dpi.wi.gov, (608-266-0963)
- Statute: [s. 115.364](#)

## **2. School-Based Mental Health Services Grants (\$3.25 million annually, begins in 2018-19)**

*What is it?*

- A competitive grant program to support initiatives to provide school-based mental health services to pupils in collaboration with community health agencies. Strategies may include co-locating community mental health clinics in schools; and providing screening and intervention services.

*Who is eligible?*

- School boards and independent charter schools (individually), as well as **consortia** of school boards, charter schools, or both.
- Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) can be considered a consortium of school boards.

*When will grant applications be available, when will payments be made?*

- The SSPW Team at DPI is currently working with an advisory council on the review of grant application materials, and plans to release information on the grant application process by the end of April 2018.
- The SSPW Team intends to host an online grant writing workshop to assist grant applicants, likely during May 2018.
- Grant applications will be due by late June / early July (specific date TBD).
- The grants will be awarded at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

- Payments will be made as reimbursement of eligible expenditures incurred between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 (upon approval of sufficient documentation – see grant application materials).

*Where can I find more information?*

- Grant information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health/school-based-grant-program>
- SSPW Team’s School Mental Health homepage: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health>
- DPI Lead Contact: Beth Herman, Beth.Herman@dpi.wi.gov, (608-267-9242)
- Statute: [s. 115.367](#)

### **3. Special Education Transition Readiness Grants (\$1.5 million annually, begins in 2018-19)**

*What is it?*

- A competitive grant program to expand special education workforce transition support services, including pupil transportation, professional development for school personnel, and employing adequate school personnel.
- Grant awards will be no less than \$25,000 nor more than \$100,000.

*Who is eligible?*

- School boards and independent charter schools (serving secondary students).

*When will grant applications be available, when will payments be made?*

- The grant application opened on March 5, 2018.
- The due date for submission of grant application is May 15, 2018.
- Notification of grant awards will be made no later than June 4, 2018.
- Payments will be made as reimbursement of eligible expenditures incurred between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 (upon approval of sufficient documentation – see grant application materials).

*Where can I find more information?*

- Transition Readiness Grant page: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/about/state-performance-plan/indicators/13-transition/update>
- Special Education Team – Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/topics/transition>
- **WEBINAR:** Barb Van Haren (Director, Special Education Team) and Nancy Molfenter hosted a webinar on Tuesday, March 20, to answer questions about the application and process. The webinar was recorded and posted on the “What’s New in Transition Planning” page of the DPI website (<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/about/state-performance-plan/indicators/13-transition/update> ) for people not able to join live on March 20.
- DPI Lead Contact: Courtney Jenkins; Courtney.Jenkins@dpi.wi.gov, (608-267-9168)
- Statute: [s. 115.885](#)

#### **4. Early College Credit Program (ECCP) – State Aid for School Districts and Private Schools with Participating Students (\$1.7 million annually, begins in 2018-19)**

*What is it?*

- A categorical aid program to partially reimburse school districts and private schools for the costs associated with high school students participating in the ECCP. The reimbursement rates are as follows, for pupils receiving:
  - High school credit (even if also post-secondary credit): 25percent of the tuition charged to the district/school.
  - Post-secondary credit **only** (no high school credit): 50percent of the tuition charged to the district/school.
- Aid payments will be prorated if the appropriation does not fully cover total aid eligibility.

*Who is eligible?*

- School boards and private schools (serving secondary students).

*When will grant applications be available, when will payments be made?*

- DPI must receive claims from all eligible districts/private schools for the entire school year (summer school, and first and second semesters) before aid payments can be calculated. DPI anticipates that the data related to second semester tuition charges will not be received from all eligible districts/schools until June 2019.
- DPI will strive to distribute aid payments as soon as possible after all the necessary data is received; however, it is likely that the reimbursements for tuition charges incurred in 2018-19 will be distributed *after June 30, 2019*.
- DPI is required to promulgate an administrative rule for this new categorical aid program. The anticipated timeline for the rule is: 1) publish the emergency (temporary) rule no later than September 1, 2018; submit the permanent rule to the Legislature early in January 2019 (the soonest that a permanent rule may be submitted).
- DPI is developing specific processes regarding data collection and submission of claims, and will make that information available when processes have been finalized.

*Where can I find more information?*

- ECCP home webpage: <https://dpi.wi.gov/dual-enrollment/eccp>
- ECCP FAQs: <https://dpi.wi.gov/dual-enrollment/eccp-faq>
- DPI Lead Contact: Tahira Chaudary, Tahira.Chaudary@dpi.wi.gov, (608-267-3161)
- Statute: [s. 118.55 \(5\) \(e\)](#) and [s. 106.125](#)
- Contacts for Institutions of Higher Education:
  - **Wisconsin Technical College System:** Ann Westrich, Education Director, Ann.westrich@wtcsystem.edu, (608-261-4588). For more information on *Start College Now* (formerly Youth Options), please [click here](#).

- **University of Wisconsin System:** Barbara Bales, Director, Strategic Initiatives & Educational Innovation, [bbales@uwsa.edu](mailto:bbales@uwsa.edu), (608-890-3282). For more information on the ECCP at it relates to the UW System, please [click here](#).
- **WAICU:** Rebecca Larsen, Senior Vice President for Advocacy, [rebecca.larsen@waicu.org](mailto:rebecca.larsen@waicu.org), (608-256-7761). For more information on the ECCP at it relates to WAICU, please [click here](#).
- **Tribal Colleges:** *Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College:* Julie Turpin, Enrollment Specialist, [jturpin@lco.edu](mailto:jturpin@lco.edu); *College of Menominee Nation:* Austin Retzlaff, Admissions Manager, [aretzlaff@menominee.edu](mailto:aretzlaff@menominee.edu).

## **5. Personal Electronic Computing Device Grants (\$9.2 million annually, 2018-19 to 2022-23)**

*What is it?*

- A grant program to provide schools with \$125 per ninth grade pupil, for the purchase of mobile devices and supporting software, curriculum, and professional development. While the grant amount is based on the number of ninth grade pupils, the grant (and matching) funds may be used to support allowable expenditures for all grade levels.
- **A local match equal to the grant amount is required.**
- This is a sum-certain appropriation; payments will be prorated if the appropriation does not fully cover all claims.

*Who is eligible?*

- All school boards, independent charter schools, private schools, and tribal schools in the state.

*When will grant applications be available, when will payments be made?*

- For public schools, the statutes define 9th grade enrollment as *prior year membership*. The School Financial Services (SFS) Team in DPI will work with public school districts to collect the data on ninth grade members after 2017-18 membership audits have concluded (end of May, 2018).
- DPI is required to use *current year enrollment data* for independent charter schools and private schools
- The application for the grant will open only after the data collection for those schools is finished (likely during November 2018).
- Thus, DPI anticipates that for the 2018-19 school year, the application period will open in early December 2018 and close in late January 2019.
- When the grant application is released, it will be prepopulated with the ninth grade student count data (and thus maximum grant award) for each district and school, as reported by that district and school to DPI.
- Notice of grant awards will be made by late March 2019.
- Reimbursements will be made by June 30, 2019, for allowable expenditure incurred between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 (upon approval of sufficient documentation).

*Where can I find more information?*

- PECD Grant webpage: <https://dpi.wi.gov/mobile-device-grant>
- PECD FAQs: <https://dpi.wi.gov/mobile-device-grant/faq>
- DPI Lead Contact: Bill Herman, William.Herman@dpi.wi.gov, (608-267-2346)
- Statute: [s. 115.438](#)

## **6. Robotics League Participation Grants (\$250,000 annually, beginning in 2017-18)**

*NOTE: This grant program is not new, but was converted from a one-time grant for the 2017-18 school year to an ongoing grant program, under 2017 Act 59.*

*What is it?*

- A grant program designed to facilitate participation in robotics competitions for students in grades 9 through 12. Allowable expense include fees, kits, supplies required to participate in robotics competitions, travel expenses, and a stipend for the mentor of an eligible team.
- **A local match equal to the grant amount is required.**
- Maximum grant is \$5,000 per team.

*Who is eligible?*

- School boards, independent charter schools, private schools, and administrators of home-based private educational programs (i.e., for home-schooled students), on behalf of students in grades 9 through 12 who are participating in a robotics league competition as a team (with a mentor).
- Pending legislation (SB 483) would also allow inclusion of students in grades 6 through 8

*When will grant applications be available, when will payments be made?*

- DPI is finalizing the timeline for grant applications for the 2018-19 school year.
- For 2017-18 grants, the grant applications were due at the end of October 2017, and notification of grant award were mailed out in January 2018 (this timeline may be accelerated for grants in the 2018-19 school year and after, as grant process have been established).
- Payments will be made as reimbursement of eligible expenditures incurred between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 (upon approval of sufficient documentation – see grant application materials).

*Where can I find more information?*

- Webpage: <https://dpi.wi.gov/stem/grants/robotic-league>
- DPI Lead Contact: Brent Kindred, Brent.Kindred@dpi.wi.gov, (608-266-2683)
- Statute: [s. 115.45](#)

## **7. School Performance Improvement Grants (\$3.69 million annually, beginning in 2018-19)**

*What is it?*

- This grant program provides funding for eligible schools on the basis of enrollment if:
  - The school is located within an eligible school district (*see below*); and
  - The school develops a written school improvement plan to improve pupil performance in math and reading.
- An eligible school may continue to receive a grant beyond the first year only if the numerical score on the school's accountability report increased from one year to the next.

*Who is eligible?*

- All public, independent charter, and private parental choice schools in the geographic boundaries of a public school district that is located in a first class city (i.e., MPS boundaries).
- All public, independent charter, and private parental choice schools in the geographic boundaries of school district that was placed in the lowest performance category on the accountability report in the previous school year.

*When will grant applications be available, when will payments be made?*

- DPI is currently reviewing the processes that will be required to collect the necessary data to determine eligibility, and the resulting timeline for grant notification and payment, and will share this information as soon as possible.
- Beyond gathering pupil count data and verifying development of written improvement plans, the statutes require approval of grant award calculations by the Department of Administration before DPI can make the grant payments to eligible schools.
- DPI anticipates that the grant payments will be made late in the school year (likely June 2019).

*Where can I find more information?*

- DPI Lead Contact: Jonas Zuckerman, [Jonas.Zuckerman@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:Jonas.Zuckerman@dpi.wi.gov), (608-267-9136)
- Statute: [s. 115.387](#)

## **8. MPS Summer School Grants (\$1.4 million annually, begins in 2018-19)**

*What is it?*

- A grant to support development, redesign, or implementation of a summer school program.

*Who is eligible?*

- Milwaukee Public Schools.

*When will grant applications be available, when will payments be made?*

- The School Financial Services (SFS) Team is currently reviewing the processes that will be required to distribute this grant payment and will provide information regarding the process and timeline for payments in a subsequent communication.

*Where can I find more information?*

- DPI Lead Contact: Roger Kordus, [Roger.Kordus@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:Roger.Kordus@dpi.wi.gov), (608-267-3752)
- Statute: [s. 115.447](#)

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