

WPP EDUCATION POLICY

While the Wisconsin People's Party (WPP) considers education to be of vital interest to the people of Wisconsin, it acknowledges that private education has a long history in American culture. Given that cultural tradition, the WPP recognizes that private education will continue to exist in Wisconsin, but objects to spending public tax dollars on private schools. The WPP would end the state private school voucher program and all other programs that direct public tax dollars to private education. If parents want to exercise their option of educating their children outside of the public school system, they may do it at their own expense.

The WPP proposes the following policy to provide the best possible education for all the children of Wisconsin:

- Full state funding of public education from preschool/daycare through high school.
- Moving all public education funding from property taxes to income and corporate taxes. (Each district would receive \$13,000 for each pupil registered after the 10th day of the new school year. (This figure is a placeholder until the effect of taking health insurance off the school district's budget can be calculated.
https://captimes.com/news/education/report-wisconsin-per-pupil-spending-rank-continues-to-decline/article_97ce14a7-8410-5050-9c66-e00070c82764.html)

In addition to changing the funding source of public education, the WPP would provide state funding for the following:

- Creation of a publicly owned preschool/daycare system within every school district in the state of Wisconsin with full funding from the state.
- Optional free breakfast and lunch for all public-school children through the 12th grade.
- State-salaried mental health counselors for every public school district at the ratio of one counselor per 250 pupils.
[https://www.schoolcounselor.org/About-School-Counseling/School-Counselor-Roles-Ratios#:~:text=Although%20ASCA%20recommends%20a%20250,Counselor%20Ratios%20\(2022%2D2023\)](https://www.schoolcounselor.org/About-School-Counseling/School-Counselor-Roles-Ratios#:~:text=Although%20ASCA%20recommends%20a%20250,Counselor%20Ratios%20(2022%2D2023))
- State grant-supported programs for individual school districts to address different pupil learning styles through public charter schools.

The WPP also proposes the following for public higher education:

- The state university system, two-year colleges, and technical schools will be funded by the state at the 90% level with the balance coming from federal funding, charitable donations, and other sources. Currently, only 15% of the UW-System budget comes from GPR, and 21% comes from tuition and fees making college unaffordable for many students.
https://budget.wisc.edu/content/uploads/Budget-in-Brief_2021-22_V15-1.pdf

- An annual stipend to students attending a state university, two-year college, or technical school to help defray the cost of housing, books, and other student expenses, so long as the student remains full-time and maintains a 2.5 GPA on a four-point scale.

Finally, to attract quality candidates to the teaching profession, and to public education administration, and to strengthen public employee unions, the WPP proposes the following.

- Termination of Act 10.
- Employment of all public education administrators, teachers, teacher's aides, and other public education personnel as state employees with union-negotiated wages and benefits.
- The use of student testing to identify struggling teachers.
- Review of struggling teachers by a panel of in-house colleagues with mentorship suggestions for improvement.
- A union for public universities, two-year colleges, and technical school faculty with a standard wages and benefits scale.

In addition, we propose considering year-round school, possibly in rotating blocks and **universal free school lunch**:

1. Curriculum Connection:

- Use meals as practical learning opportunities and preventative health, as a continuation of a class structure

2. Funding Approach:

- Federal and state allocation for school meal programs*
- Support for necessary infrastructure and resources*

3. Program Structure:

- Develop guidelines for meal quality and nutrition (??)*
- Create opportunities for student involvement*
- Planting/growing/agriculture as part of the nutrition program*

4. Expected Outcomes:

- Improved student well-being*
- Enhanced educational experiences*
- Community benefits*

