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DPI-NR 2024-109

Friday, Nov. 15, 2024

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## State superintendent proposes \$60M to expand career and technical education, college and career ready opportunities

*Dr. Jill Underly's budget request includes holding down property taxes, significant increases to special education reimbursement and general aids, universal school meals at no cost, and other provisions*

CHIPPEWA FALLS – State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly today proposed an additional \$60 million to expand career and technical education programs throughout the state, helping prepare students for success in work, community, and life. She made the announcement during a visit to Chippewa Falls Senior High School, in which she toured the school's CTE programming.

"Wisconsin students need more meaningful opportunities to explore possible career aspirations – my budget proposal makes a strategic investment in both our students and our communities," Dr. Underly said. "Innovative programs like the ones at Chippewa Falls Senior High School exist at schools around the state, but not all students have access to those opportunities."

Wisconsin is one of just six states that do not have ongoing funding dedicated to CTE programs in public schools. The proposal is part of Dr. Underly's 2025-27 Biennial Budget request, [which is available in full on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's website](#).

"My budget supports schools in creating, implementing and growing CTE and career pathways available to students," Dr. Underly said. "These offerings help prepare students for the workforce and a future career. An educated, prepared workforce will help our state in continuing to build our economy."

Specifically, Dr. Underly's budget request:

- Creates a categorical aid program expanding CTE and career pathway offerings to students across the state. Grant funding would be allocated to districts based on the number of high school students (\$45 million over the biennium).
- Provides funding to each of the state's six Career and Technical Student Organizations (DECA, FCCLA, HOSA, FBLA, FFA and SkillsUSA), which help students in developing citizenship, technical, leadership, and teamwork skills essential in preparing for careers and further education (\$9 million over the biennium).

(more)

- Increases high quality, robust academic and career planning by providing crucial software and technical support to educators so they can implement one-on-one student centered advising (\$400,000 over the biennium).

Earlier this week, [Dr. Underly proposed significant new investments](#) to hold down property tax increases and help meet the needs of local schools, students, and educators. Her proposal includes increasing the state reimbursement rate for special education services to 90 percent by Fiscal Year 2027, making per-pupil adjustments to revenue limits and indexing those revenue limits to inflation for the first time in 15 years, and expanding the per-pupil categorical aid program.

“The way that we, as a state, fund public education has left schools and districts in perilous financial positions for years,” Dr. Underly said. “The time is past due to invest in our schools, especially in this moment. The need is there, and we can hold down property taxes, support our kids, and provide sustainable funding to Wisconsin public schools.”

On Tuesday, [Dr. Underly held a youth mental health roundtable](#) at Wausau East High School where she listened to students on their current mental health needs and explained how her [\\$304 million budget proposal](#) invests in additional resources and services. She also [proposed funding supporting schools in modernizing water fountains](#), ensuring students have access to clean drinking water.

In October, Dr. Underly [announced a budget proposal investing nearly \\$60 million](#) to help school districts resolve staffing challenges and retain teachers and [another \\$42 million proposal](#) that supports the development of readers and schools in implementing mandated early literacy initiatives. Dr. Underly also recently [announced a \\$311 million proposal for school nutrition](#) that provides universal meals to Wisconsin students at no cost to families.

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