

What's Best for Our Kids

The Badger Bounceback Live Session on What's Best for Our Kids will cover topics such as ensuring every kid has access to a high-quality, public education, providing mental health supports for students at schools, special education reimbursement rates, expanding access to early childhood education and childcare, and investing in our higher education institutions.

This document provides a quick overview on how this agenda plans to address these topics.

Having spent most of his career as an educator, Governor Evers knows what's best for our kids is what's best for our state, and that begins with education. Every kid in our state should have access to high-quality, public education from early childhood to our university and technical college systems.

Improving Childcare Affordability & Access

Governor Evers is proposing a nearly **\$106 million** investment of new funds over the biennium for an initiative totaling **\$140 million** designed to address quality, affordability, access, and equity for children and childcare. Additionally, the governor's budget proposes investing more than **\$3 million** in funding for early childhood social-emotional training and technical assistance. The governor also proposes working to increase childcare affordability by creating a nonrefundable tax credit equal to the federal child and dependent care credit while eliminating the current law subtraction for child and dependent care expenses, which is based on the qualifying expenditures under the federal credit.

Investing in Our Kids & Our Schools

The governor's Badger Bounceback agenda makes substantial investments in our K-12 schools and restores our state's commitment to two-thirds funding for our schools. The governor is also calling for a general aid increase of over **\$600 million** over the next two years and more than **\$709 million** for special education aid.

Governor Evers also proposes more than **\$54 million** in funding for student mental health programs and

an increase in English learners aid to ensure that all Wisconsin students have the resources they need to succeed. And for our rural communities and schools, the Badger Bounceback agenda increases funding for sparsity aid, increases the reimbursement rate for students transported over 12 miles, and fully funds high-cost transportation aid for school districts with relatively high transportation costs on a per-student basis. The governor also addresses climate change, rising energy costs, and the need to modernize outdated school building features by providing **\$10 million** in each fiscal year to support a new energy efficiency grant program.

\$140 MILLION

**TO ADDRESS QUALITY,
AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS, &
EQUITY FOR CHILDREN
& CHILDCARE**

Strengthening Higher Education

Governor Evers' Badger Bounceback agenda invests **\$190 million** in the University of Wisconsin System, including continuing the UW System tuition freeze for Wisconsin residents, while also funding that freeze by providing more than **\$50 million** in unrestricted, flexible dollars. Governor Evers is also calling for **\$36 million** in funding for Wisconsin's technical colleges so that they're able to keep providing critical services to the

over 280,000 students they currently serve and ensure that Wisconsin has the skilled workforce it needs to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$709 MILLION

**INCREASE IN SPECIAL
EDUCATION AID**

Governor Evers also proposes expanding the “Bucky’s Tuition Promise” program to all UW System campuses as a commitment to making college accessible for low-income students. And, as part of the governor’s efforts to make education more accessible and affordable for all Wisconsin students, the Badger Bounceback agenda features several initiatives to help the Wisconsin residents who have more than **\$24 billion** in outstanding student loan debt. Those initiatives include creating a student loan borrower bill of rights, establishing the Office of Student Loan Ombudsman, increased funding for the Wisconsin Grants program and providing fellowships and loan repayment assistance to individuals who commit to teaching nursing at a UW System institution for at least three years.



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The Badger Bounceback Live Sessions series provides Governor Evers with opportunities to hear directly from Wisconsinites on the topics within the Governor’s budget that impact them and their communities. Topics covered in these sessions include pressing issues facing Wisconsin families, including affordable healthcare, bolstering our state’s economy, improving education for all Wisconsin students, and more. Wisconsinites can also share their questions about the Governor’s budget on social media by posting using the “#BadgerBounceback” hashtag.

#BADGERBOUNCEBACK