



Green Bay Area Public School District  
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## Media Statement

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### **GBAPS Statement Regarding State Biennial Budget: Unprecedented No Increase in State Aid while Wisconsin has Budget Surplus**

**GREEN BAY, WI – July 8, 2025**– The Green Bay Area Public School District is appreciative that Governor Evers and the State Legislature were able to pass a budget, which allows us to continue our planning efforts for the 2025-26 school year. However, this 2025-27 biennium budget falls far short of addressing the financial needs of our District and shifts the burden onto local property owners. Here are a few key points of the budget that our community should be aware of:

- At a time when Wisconsin has a budget surplus, this budget does not provide any new state aid to address inflation. **This is unprecedented.**
- The \$325 per pupil aid for 2025-26 and 2026-27, which would normally be funded through state aid, instead is shifted to local property owners, requiring the school district to increase its levy. This is a dramatic change in how public schools have been funded since revenue limits were implemented in 1993.
- The special education reimbursement increase to 42% in 2025-26 and 45% in 2026-27 is not guaranteed, and the past tells us that the District will not receive the full amount of the promised funding. Instead a more accurate assumption would be 39%

reimbursement, which is approximately \$3.1M more to support our students with disabilities. Each year the District shifts \$35M from the general fund to special education. While an additional \$3.1M is helpful, it comes far short of addressing our needs.

- The budget also includes an increase to higher cost special education expenses which will equate to about \$200,000 for GBAPS. This funding increase will impact very few school districts, and have little positive impact for students.
- GBAPS is one of the 66% of Wisconsin public school districts that will receive less state aid in 2025-26. When state aid decreases, property taxes increase because of the structure of revenue limits set forth by the State Legislature since 1993. This budget shifts the burden of funding public schools to property taxpayers.

Last week the State Legislature also took action regarding funding for Act 20, which changed requirements for how schools are to teach literacy. Originally this legislation passed with an allocation of \$50M to implement the policy. However, this money was not released, requiring school districts to purchase literacy screeners and curriculum materials. GBAPS used one-time ESSER (COVID-relief) funds to support these purchases. On June 30, 2025, the Legislature released \$9M of the \$50M to the Department of Public Instruction to go toward literacy coaching. GBAPS does not anticipate receiving any of this additional support, since literacy coaches are already staffed within the District.

GBAPS administration and the Board of Education will continue its efforts to balance its budget; however, for the next two school years the 2025-27 state budget will result in the District making additional cuts as revenue will not keep pace with inflation.