

ACTION
August 28, 2026

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #27-03

Budget Recommendation for UW System Schools



Office of Finance

Julie Gordon

Vice President for Finance

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August 21, 2026

Board Chair (Vacant)
Tammie DeVooght Blaney, Executive Director
Higher Educational Aids Board
Via Electronic Mail

Dear Board Chair (Vacant) and Executive Director DeVooght:

Enclosed with this letter please find a resolution adopted by the Board of Regents of the Universities of Wisconsin at their August 20, 2026, meeting. This resolution contains the recommendations for the:

1. Wisconsin Grant-UW program and
2. Wisconsin veteran, spouse, and child tuition remissions.

For the Wisconsin Grant program, the Universities of Wisconsin seek \$5,400,000 ongoing funding in 2027-28 and \$5,100,000 ongoing funding in 2028-29, for a biennial total of \$15,900,000, to allow for increases to the maximum award amount to continue to get closer to awarding 50 percent of the average cost of tuition and fees at the comprehensive universities.

For the remissions request, the Universities of Wisconsin seek a sum sufficient appropriation to fund tuition remissions for Wisconsin veterans and their spouses and children. Funding would continue to be provided to HEAB for distribution.

The Board of Regents has requested these proposals be included in the Higher Educational Aids Board's 2027-29 biennial budget submission. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julie Gordon'.

Julie Gordon

**APPROVAL OF THE 2027-29 BIENNIAL OPERATING
BUDGET REQUEST**

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of Resolution I., approving the 2027-29 Biennial Operating Budget Request.

- Resolution I.** That, upon the recommendation of the Interim President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the submission of:
- (1) the Board's 2027-29 Biennial Operating Budget request, totaling \$730,000,000 biennially in General Purpose Revenue (GPR) for key initiatives;
 - (2) a request to the Higher Educational Aids Board to fully fund tuition remissions for eligible veterans along with their spouses and children as required by Wisconsin law;
 - (3) a request to the newly elected Governor and state legislators to provide funding to Wisconsin school districts to expand dual enrollment opportunities;
 - (4) the Wisconsin Grant-UW request to the Higher Educational Aids Board for inclusion in its 2027-29 biennial budget request totaling \$10,500,000 in ongoing funds;
 - (5) two statutory language requests that would modify an allocation model and change an appropriation of funds first provided in 2025 Wisconsin Act 15;
 - (6) the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's request for additional funding for services and equipment totaling approximately \$220,000 in one-time funds and an additional \$82,300 in ongoing funds;
 - (7) the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene's request for additional funding for services and equipment totaling approximately \$720,000 in one-time funds and an additional \$3,121,500 in ongoing funds.

In addition, the Board of Regents delegates authority to the UW System President to approve and submit a 0% and 5% biennial budget reduction plan, as required by 2015 WI Act 201, and to revise the

standard budget adjustment amount as needed, when calculated and finalized by the State's Department of Administration (DOA).

SUMMARY

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System is required to submit a budget request to the DOA by September 15 of each even-numbered year. The UW President provides the Regents, for their consideration, a recommended submission at the August meeting in the same even-numbered year.

The 2027-29 biennial budget request includes General Purpose Revenue (GPR) to address college affordability for Wisconsinites and enable the Universities of Wisconsin to address some of the state's most pressing needs. The UW request, which totals \$730 million over the biennium and is summarized in Attachment A, includes funding focused on three promises that continue to ensure "Wisconsin's Future is Built Here" at the Universities of Wisconsin:

- Ensure every Wisconsinite has access to an affordable, high-quality UW education
- Build Wisconsin's workforce and next generation of businesses
- Advance life-saving discoveries and improve access to health care across Wisconsin

The budget presentation will include remarks from three UW Chancellors and their guests, who will share their perspectives on the importance of these initiatives to their universities and to the students and communities they serve. For these initiatives, a summary of the funding that would be provided to each UW university is included in Attachment A.

The request also includes standard budget adjustments and recommended statutory language changes. The budget recommendation also includes forwarding a request to the state's Higher Educational Aids Board to raise the maximum Wisconsin Grant award amount and further the goal of covering half of the average tuition and fee costs at the comprehensive universities. Lastly, the request includes items for the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, which require Board approval as they are administratively attached to UW-Madison.

Presenters

- Julie Gordon, Vice President for Finance & Administration, UW Administration
- Lynn Akey, Chancellor, UW-Parkside
- Tammy Evetovich, Chancellor, UW-Platteville
- John Chenoweth, Interim Chancellor, UW-River Falls

Related Policies

- [Chapter 16.42](#), Wis. Stats.
- [Chapter 36](#), Wis. Stats.
- [Chapter 230](#), Wis. Stats.

ATTACHMENT

- A) 2027-29 Biennial Operating Budget Request