ACTION
October 27, 2026

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

27-28 WI Grant Formula Private, Non-Profit Colleges and Universities Request

#27-10

Alverno College
Bellin College
Beloit College
Carroll University
Carthage College
Concordia University Wisconsin
Edgewood University
Herzing University
Lakeland University
Lawrence University



Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities
working together for educational opportunity

Marian University of Wisconsin
Marquette University
Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Mount Mary University
Ripon College
St. Norbert College
Viterbo University
Wisconsin Lutheran College

October 13, 2026

Jeff Neubauer, Chair
Tammie DeVooght Blaney, Executive Secretary
Higher Educational Aids Board
4822 Madison Yards Way, Seventh Floor
P.O. Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885

Dear Chair Neubauer and Executive Secretary DeVooght Blaney,

As directed by Wisconsin statute, we are submitting the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) recommendation for the Wisconsin Grant funding formula for low-income Wisconsin students attending private, nonprofit colleges and universities.

WAICU's goal in recommending the formula components continues to be in alignment with WAICU's mission: "working together for educational opportunity." While WAICU institutions do not receive operating dollars from the state as do public institutions, our low-income students do receive support through the Wisconsin Grant which is the primary state-funded, need-based financial aid program for Wisconsin students attending private, nonprofit colleges and universities.

Wisconsin Grants are a proven, cost-effective vehicle for expanding opportunity. By providing state grant aid and targeting those who, without help, could not attend a college or university, Wisconsin will expand its qualified workforce. Additionally, state appropriations for need-based aid also help ensure that low-income students who do enroll in college emerge with an on-time degree and reduced debt levels.

WAICU remains focused on prioritizing our lowest income students. Given this and recognizing that the Wisconsin Grant Private Nonprofit continues to have a waitlist of eligible but unfunded students, we are recommending a formula that will maintain the maximum grant award at $4,850 for our lowest income students. We are also recommending an additional tier of funding that can be implemented, only if sufficient funding is available. Please see our attached formula recommendation.

WAICU is committed to the public-private partnership between member institutions and the State of Wisconsin. In addition to the state and federal aid low-income students may receive, WAICU members support students by:

- Raising funds. Ninety-five percent of grant aid distributed to students enrolled in Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities are private funds raised/provided by the institutions themselves.
- Educating more than 53,000 students each year and graduating nearly a quarter of the state's bachelor's degrees and 33 percent of the state's graduate degrees.

Investments in state aid also serve as an incentive for students to remain in Wisconsin for college. While WAICU is grateful for the recent increase in our appropriation, we remain hopeful there will be continued investments in the Wisconsin Grant Private Nonprofit appropriation, given Wisconsin continues to rank last among our Great Lakes counterparts in need-based aid for students in our sector. WAICU continues to advocate for increased support for this critical program. For the 2027-29 biennial state budget, WAICU has recommended a doubling of the Wisconsin Grant Private Nonprofit appropriation.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) staff, specifically Brenda Yang, Joy Dyer, and HEAB consultant Todd Brown for working with WAICU members and WAICU staff. Todd Brown's expertise in projections and formula simulations was a welcome addition to HEAB's ability to review previous data trends and simulate formula options for the 2027-28 academic year for our sector.

As always, WAICU reserves the right to recommend modifications in the formula, particularly if new information becomes available and/or if additional funds are allocated for the Wisconsin Grant.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this WAICU recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Fulcomer

Eric W. Fulcomer, PhD
President and CEO

Attachment

cc: WAICU Presidents
WAICU Financial Aid Directors Group

Private, Nonprofit Wisconsin Grant Formula 2027-2028

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
SAI Tier	-1,500	8,001	10,001	12,001	14,001
	8,000	10,000	12,000	14,000	16,000
2027-2028 full-time, full-year award	$4,850	$3,500	$2,500	$2,000	$1,000

Additional tier only if funds are available: students with SAI between 16,001 and 18,000 receive $1,000.

PROPOSED 2027-28 FORMULA
WISCONSIN GRANT – PRIVATE NON-PROFIT (WG-PNP)

October 27, 2026
Board Report #27-10

Recommendation 2027-28 WG-PNP Formula:

Recommendation of Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU):

Maximum award: $4,850

Maximum SAI to receive the maximum WG-PNP award: 8,000

SAI tier	-1,500 – 8,000	8,001 – 10,000	10,001 – 12,000	12,001 – 14,000	14,001 – 16,000
2027-2028 Full-time, full-year WG-PNP award	$4,850	$3,500	$2,500	$2,000	$1,000

Additional tier only if funds are available to students with SAI between $16,001 - $18,000 receive $1,000.

Current 2026-27 WG-PNP Formula

Maximum award: $4,850

Maximum SAI to receive the maximum WG-PNP award: 8,000

SAI tier	-1,500 – 8,000	8,001 – 10,000	10,001 – 12,000	12,001 – 14,000	14,001 – 16,000
2026-2027 Full-time, full-year WG-PNP award	$4,850	$3,500	$2,000	$1,000	$0

Additional tier only if funds are available to students with SAI between $14,001 - $16,000 receive $1,000.

Other Information:

2026-2027 Appropriation: $32,472,600

2025-2026 Appropriation: $30,394,100

2024-2025 Appropriation: $28,504,600