ACTION
October 27, 2026

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

27-28 WI Grant Formula Universities of WI Request

BOARD REPORT #27-13

UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN

Office of the President
1700 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706
president@wisconsin.edu or 608-262-2321

October 5, 2026

Tammie DeVooght
Executive Secretary *Via Electronic Mail*
Higher Educational Aids Board
4822 Madison Yards Way, Seventh Floor
PO Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885

Dear Executive Secretary DeVooght:

Thank you for the opportunity to forward the Universities of Wisconsin's recommendation on the 2027-28 Wisconsin Grant formula. This recommendation is based on input from UW Financial Aid Directors.

The UWs' recommendation for the 2027-28 formula is to distribute grants using the following criteria. The formula would include a student budget of the average annual tuition and fees for the comprehensive universities, which is approximately $9,700. The rationing factor would allow a maximum award of $3,880 or 40% of the student budget. The maximum federally accepted definition of need would be $6,750.

The UWs' recommendation also includes a second tier if funds are available. The second tier would expand the federally accepted definition of need to $10,000 and students would be awarded a maximum of $1,180.

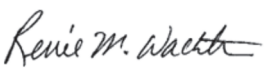
The Universities of Wisconsin continues to use the institutional allocation approach that was initially implemented during the 2011-12 academic year.

The Wisconsin Grant formula continues to strike the difficult balance between funding as many eligible students as possible while still providing grants in meaningful amounts that will help low-income students access a UW education. While our historical goal has been to award 50 percent of the average tuition and fees at the comprehensives, financing for the Wisconsin Grant has not kept pace with tuition rates. We acknowledge that this formula falls below this goal, but the Universities of Wisconsin would have considerable waitlists at the $4,850 (50 percent) amount. We believe the suggested formula uses the state's investment in the most effective manner.

I want to offer my appreciation to the HEAB staff for their hard work and support of the Wisconsin Grant Program. I look forward to hearing your final decision following the

meeting of the Higher Educational Aids Board on October 27, 2026.

Sincerely,



Renée Wachter
Interim President, UW System

CC: Chancellors
Cabinet
Financial Aid Officers
Lander Levers, Student Representative on HEAB Board

PROPOSED RECOMMENDED 2027-2028 FORMULA
WISCONSIN GRANT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

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Recommendation of the University of Wisconsin System Interim President Renee Wachter:

($9,700– SAI) x 40% = Award

(Student Budget – Student Aid Index) x Student Award Percentage = Award

Maximum Award: **$3,880**

Tier 2 if funds are available **SAI of $6,750 to $10,000 = award of $1,180**

Current Formula – 26-27:

($9,250 – SAI) x 40% = Award

(Student Budget – Student Aid Index) x Student Award Percentage = Award

Maximum Award: 3,700 Minimum Award: $1,000

Tier 2, if funds are available - SAI of $6,250 to $10,000 the award would be $1,000.

Current Year Spending: Committed is 144.48% and Spent is 45.08%

Other Information:

2026-2027	**Appropriation**	**$66,218,216**
2025-2026	Appropriation	$63,783,600
2024-2025	Appropriation	$61,894,100
2023-2024	Appropriation	$61,894,100