



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

Department of Public Instruction Summary of 2009-11 Biennial Budget Request Items Related to Global Literacy and Competitiveness

For our Wisconsin economy to be strong in this 21st century, our students and our schools must be world ready. Our partners in higher education and Wisconsin's business community tell us they need high school graduates who:

- are creative and innovative;
- can think critically, identify and solve problems;
- have communication skills;
- are responsible and ethical; and
- understand other cultures and perspectives.

For Wisconsin students to be world ready, investment in STEM must be a priority. The Department's 2009-11 biennial budget calls for:

- Expanded STEM grants;
- STEM academies that would link local businesses, industry, and schools to meet workforce needs in Wisconsin economic development regions; and
- a STEM stewardship fund to upgrade middle and high school classrooms and laboratories for 21st century instruction.

The budget also calls for investments in elementary world languages, international education and assisting school districts in providing expanded opportunities for advanced placement courses and our gifted and talented programs. We must empower all students to thrive in the job markets of Wisconsin and the global economy.

Wisconsin Education for STEM

The Department requests funding for the following programs to assist high schools and middle schools with conducting state-of-the-art instruction in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM):

- Physical capacity (STEM Stewardship) grants: \$5,000,000 Bonding Revenue (BR) in FY11 for STEM grants to school districts for capital projects providing technological improvements to STEM classrooms; \$400,000 GPR in FY11 for annual debt service costs;
- Programmatic (non-physical capacity) requests: Increase the current STEM grant program under s. 20.255 (2) (fz), Wis. Stats., by \$938,500 GPR (for a total of \$1,000,000 GPR) in FY11 to address achievement and participation gaps in STEM coursework and career pursuits in these fields;
- Establishment of four STEM academies to provide intensive training to STEM educators; \$253,000 in FY10 and \$1,148,000 in FY11; and

- Project Lead the Way: Continue to provide \$250,000 GPR in FY10 and FY11 for annual grants to Project Lead the Way (PLTW) to provide discounted professional development services and software for participating high schools in this state.

World Language Initiative for Elementary Schools

The Department requests \$812,500 GPR in FY11 to fund the first year of a nine-year project entitled *Wisconsin's World Language Initiative for Elementary Schools*. It is proposed to be implemented in 25 school districts each year starting in FY11 for four years, resulting in a total of 100 districts expanding world language offerings at the elementary level.

Funding will include funding for 25 teachers (\$750,000); professional development (\$37,500); and curriculum materials (\$25,000).

International Education

The Department requests \$37,000 GPR in both FY10 and FY11 to increase dedicated agency funding for international education activities from the current \$38,000 to \$75,000 annually. Proposed uses of the \$37,000 annual/\$74,000 biennial increased international education budget include development of International Education Standards (\$5,000); support for the Statewide International Education Council (\$5,000); International Teacher Professional Development Seminars (\$40,000); support for International Partnerships (\$18,000); and National and International Conferences (\$6,000).

Environmental Education Consultant

The Department requests \$74,800 GPR in FY10 and \$97,600 GPR in FY11 and 1.0 FTE GPR position authority to serve as an environmental education consultant. The State of Wisconsin recognizes the importance of environmental education. Section PI 8.01 (2) (k), Wis. Admin. Code, requires school districts to write curriculum plans for environmental education for grades K-12. The state has adopted *Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education*. The Department formerly had an environmental education consultant, until the position was eliminated in the mid-1990's because of budget cuts. This proposal would restore the consultant position and provide meaningful statewide leadership in curricular and instructional issues.

Advanced Placement Grants

The Department requests an increase of \$443,000 GPR in both FY10 and FY11 (from the current \$100,000 annually) to increase the current advanced placement (AP) grant program to partially reimburse school districts at the maximum of \$300 per pupil taking an AP course as allowed under statute.

Supporting Gifted and Talented Pupils

The Department requests an increase of \$227,000 GPR in both FY10 and FY11 (from the current \$273,000 annually) to expand the current gifted and talented grant program in order to benefit more schools and pupils.