



Each family has a voice.
Together, our voices will be heard.

Connect with Us!

familyvoiceswi.org



Family Voices helps families navigate health care and community supports and services by providing training, in-person and online, information and education.

As a family-run organization, we support families in their own leadership and advocacy journey, and we promote family-centered care and family/professional partnerships.

Visit our website to view our fact sheets, newsletters and online trainings.

The Governor's Budget: Special Education & Children's Mental Health

disability**rights** | WISCONSIN

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Facts About Special Education in Wisconsin

- ❑ Fourteen percent of the student population are students with disabilities – just over 120,000 individuals
- ❑ Students with disabilities lag significantly behind their peers in academics; their proficiency rate on standardized tests is 3x less than their non-disabled peers
- ❑ For Wisconsin students without disabilities, there is about 1 out-of-school suspension each year for every 16 students. For students with disabilities, it's 1 suspension for every 4 students.
- ❑ Youth with disabilities who leave school unprepared for adult life are more likely to end up living in poverty and are more reliant on public benefits

Special Education State Budget 2019/2021 (last time around)

- ❑ State funding for special education increased for the first time in 10 years
- ❑ State funding had slipped to 24% of special education; the 2019/21 budget aimed for 30% (but hit 29%)

Special Education ASK!

State Budget 2021/2023

- ❑ Governor Evers has proposed an INCREASE of \$718 million for special education funding in the next biennium.
 - ❑ Fund special education at 50% by 2022/23 - even if costs are higher than expected
 - ❑ Fund high-cost special education at 60% by 2022/23
- ❑ **ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR** to support these special education funding increases in the state budget.
- ❑ **TELL YOUR STORY:** How would school improve for your student if the school felt less funding pressure?

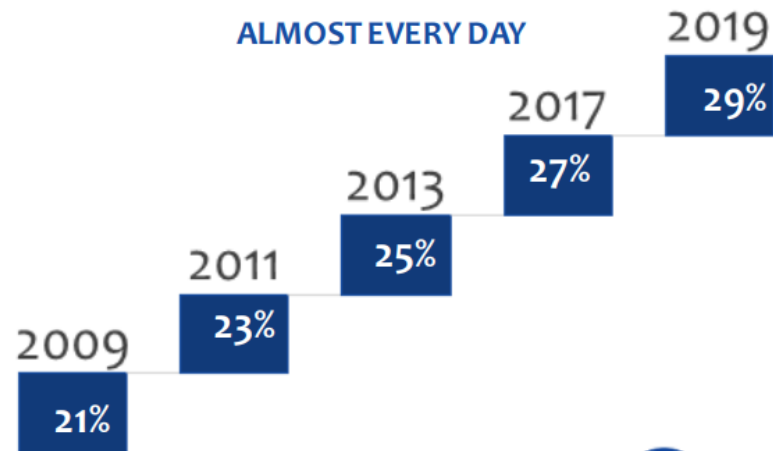
Facts About Children's Mental Health in Wisconsin

Anxiety and Depression

Almost 60% of students in 9-12th grades experienced depression, anxiety, self-harm, or suicidal ideation in 2019.

15% of 12-17 yr. olds had an episode of **Major Depression** in the last year.

STUDENTS WHO FEEL SAD OR HOPELESS



Source: McCoy, Katherine. 2019 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Summary Report. Madison, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, 2020.



More Facts About Children's Mental Health in Wisconsin

- ▶ Students with Emotional / Behavioral Disabilities have:
 - ▶ The highest suspension rate of any disability group
 - ▶ The second-lowest graduation rate of any disability group

- ▶ Pupil Services staff (school counselors, psychologists, social workers and nurses) are on the front lines of children's mental health in our schools, but Wisconsin falls far short of recommended staffing ratios

Pupil Services Position	Wisconsin Pupil Services Ratios					National Organization Recommendations
	2012	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Counselors	466:1	399:1	444:1	420:1	424:1	250:1
Psychologists	956:1	1,073:1	993:1	967:1	934:1	500-700:1
Social Workers	1,050:1	1,528:1	1,567:1	1,468:1	1,418:1	400:1
Nurses	1596:1	1,721:1	1,911:1	1,871:1	1,850:1	*750:1

Student Mental Health ASK!

State Budget 2021/2023

- ❑ Governor Evers has proposed an INCREASE of \$45 million for pupil services staffing across the biennium
 - ❑ The funding would be able to reimburse 10% of estimated expenditures
- ❑ **ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR** to support this pupil services funding increase in the state budget.
- ❑ **TELL YOUR STORY:** How would having better access to social workers, counselors, psychologists and nurses help your family and your school?

▶ **Contact Disability Rights Wisconsin**

disabilityrightswi.org