



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

SURVIVAL COALITION 2023-2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES

EDUCATION BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Special education categorical aid:** Increase special education categorical aid reimbursement rate to 90% for public schools; Wisconsin funds at least 90% for students in the Special Needs Scholarship Program.
- **Mental health:** Expand categorical aid funding for school mental health staff to \$30 million/year and expand to include school counselors, psychologists, and nurses as well as social workers. Support and incentivize school districts to redirect funding from school policing to pupil services staff. Increase community and school collaborative mental health grants from \$10 to \$15 million annually.
- **Transition readiness:** Increase the transition readiness grant from \$1.5 million to \$4.5 million annually to prepare students with disabilities for community employment and independence after high school.
- **Special Needs Scholarship Program:** Increase accountability for private SNSP schools to a level comparable to that required of public schools by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including a complaint and enforcement mechanism and robust data collection. Limit the special needs scholarships to currently-enrolled students with no new admissions.

Real Lives, Real Work, Real Smart, Wisconsin
Investing in People with Disabilities