Although Wisconsin’s public schools provide services for all children in the state, there are several programs that target children who are in poverty or are at higher likelihood to be affected by poverty because of their circumstance or special needs. The following guide lists these services from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) alphabetically.

* [School District Contact Information](http://dpi.wi.gov/directories): This directory will help you find contact information for any school district in the state.

* Closing the Achievement Gap: Recognizing that education of students of color requires swift, targeted and deliberate attention.
* [Promoting Excellence for All:](https://dpi.wi.gov/excforall) This website provides information and strategies that have been successfully used by Wisconsin educators to raise achievement among students of color, closing the gap between them and their peers.

**Child Nutrition Programs**

School-based [Child Nutrition Programs](http://dpi.wi.gov/nutrition) support access to healthy meals in Wisconsin schools and child care centers. The DPI Community and School Nutrition Teams provide nutrition information and program guidance to sponsors of the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Special Milk Program, and the USDA Commodity Food Distribution.

**Early Childhood Education**

Learn more about early childhood in Wisconsin at the [Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/) (WECCP) website. The DPI, Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Department of Health Services (DHS) work together with Wisconsin’s schools, child care, Head Start, and a wide array of other related early childhood organizations and agencies to improve quality services for young children.

**Education Data**

The [Wisconsin Information System for Education](http://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/portalHome.jsp) (WISEdash) is a public reporting tool to provide data to better understand and improve educational outcomes for Wisconsin students. The data portal uses “dashboards” or visual collections of graphs and tables, to provide multi-year education data about Wisconsin schools. WISEdash is used by districts, schools, parents, researchers, media, and other community members to view data published by DPI including academic progress, attendance, enrollment, graduation, discipline, finance, and other data sets.

**Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY)**

The [EHCY](https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless) program’s major responsibility is to implement the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. Homeless children and unaccompanied youth must have access to public school educational programs and services that allow them to meet the challenging state academic standards to which all students are held. Homelessness can impact stability in a child’s life. There are resources available specific to homelessness to decrease impact on functioning and learning and provide supports.

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**Health Education**

School health curriculum, instruction, and assessment that involve planning, implementing, and evaluating a sequential and developmentally appropriate PreK-12 curriculum that deals with important health and safety issues. Although primarily included in the subject areas of health, physical education, science, family and consumer education, social studies, and driver education and traffic safety, the curriculum transcends all disciplines to be delivered in an integrated, multidisciplinary approach. More information is available at the [Health Education](http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/health-education) website.

**Mental Health**

Schools in Wisconsin are working to understand and respond to student mental health needs. Webinars on mental health topics are available for educators to view. Additional resources for the mental health needs of students with hearing and/or visual impairment are available. 1 in 5 children in our schools has a mental health issue. The [Wisconsin School Mental Health Framework](http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health) address what supports are needed to increase access to mental health supports, reduce stigma, and help school staff address the complex needs caused by mental health issues.

Professional educators know that many students face challenges in their personal lives that adversely affect their learning in school. Unfortunately, many children have been traumatized by directly or vicariously experiencing violence, homelessness, loss (or fear of loss) of loved ones, or other kinds of devastating experiences. DPI has a [Trauma Sensitive Schools initiative](http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health/trauma) in targeted schools across the state. However, any school district can incorporate trauma sensitive practices and find many learning modules to support that work on the DPI website.



**Response to Intervention (RtI) Center**

[Response to Intervention](http://wisconsinrticenter.org/topnav/about-us.html) created to assist Wisconsin’s educational systems to build capacity, adopt and implement high quality practices, make informed decisions, ensure sustainability of efforts, and increased success for all students. The RtI Center provides professional development and technical assistance to help schools operationalize implementation of culturally responsive multi-level systems of support.

Examples include:

* The Wisconsin Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Network , operating within the Wisconsin RtI Center with a specific focus on behavior in school-age programs.
* Partnerships including the [Wisconsin Pyramid Model](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wi-pyramid-model-about.php) as a way to enhance quality of care and promote optimal social and emotional well-being for young children in child care, Head Start, and school early childhood programs.

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**Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Center**

The [Wisconsin Safe and Health (WISH) Schools Center](http://www.wishschools.org/) is a collaboration between the Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) statewide network and DPI as a statewide delivery mechanism for alcohol, tobacco, other drug, violence, and bullying prevention training. The goal of the Safe and Healthy Schools Center is to provide professional learning opportunities and follow-up technical assistance for adults.

**School Nursing and Health Services**

DPI provides [School Health Resources](https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pupil-services/school-nurse) in the areas of school nursing practice, school health policy and school health programs. Technical assistance is available on a number of topics including: legal issues in school nursing, school health program planning, implementation and evaluation, education programs and related services for children with special health care needs, school health records, medication administration, and emergency services.

**Screening and Assessment**

The DPI and local schools collaborate with community partners to support a comprehensive approach to screening and assessment in the early childhood period.

**Special Education Services**

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state law define the schools role in the provision of [special education and related services](https://dpi.wi.gov/sped) for children 3 to 21 years. In Wisconsin, infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities are served by the [Birth to Three program](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health-care-coverage/health-care-coverage/birth-3-program).

Parents can find support, information and personal assistance navigating the special education systems through the [Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training and Support (FACETS)](http://www.wifacets.org/) and the [Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)](http://wspei.org/). WSPEI's goal is to help families and school districts find or create resources that will help them build positive working relationships that lead to shared decision making and better outcomes for students.

Additional resources include:

* [Rules for eligibility](http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/laws-procedures-bulletins/laws/eligibility) criteria can be found in Wisconsin Administrative Code, Section PI 11.36. This covers the areas of autism, cognitive disabilities, emotional behavioral disabilities, hearing impairments, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, significant developmental delay, speech/language impairments, specific learning disabilities, traumatic brain injury, visual impairments, and the need for special education.
* The [Introduction to Special Education](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/families-students/intro-se.pdf) provides an overview of the law for parents and the general public.
* DPI provides information and resources specific to [autism](http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/program/autism).
* [Child Find](http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/early-childhood/child-find) is a continuous process of public awareness activities and screening designed to “find” children who may have a delay in development or a disability. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires all states to have a comprehensive Child Find System that ensures all children (birth to 21) who are in need of early intervention or special education services are identified, located and evaluated. **Physicians may refer a child to Child Find by contacting the special education department of the child’s school district.**

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**Title I Programs**

[Title I](http://dpi.wi.gov/title-i) is a federal program that provides funds to school districts and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children who are disadvantaged to support a variety of services. Its overall purpose is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high–quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and assessments.

The grant contains provisions for ensuring that children who are disadvantaged and enrolled in private schools also benefit from the academic enrichment services funded with Title I, Part A funds. Critical program elements are: needs assessment and program plan design, parent involvement, services to students enrolled in private schools, and high-quality teachers and paraprofessionals.

* **Migrant Education**

Title I [migrant education](http://dpi.wi.gov/migrant) is a federally-funded program that assists selected local school districts in providing supplemental education services needed by migratory children. The program helps children develop oral and written language, and other communication skills. It also focuses on reading, mathematics, and other core subjects to improve student achievement. Coordinated supportive services may also be provided. Local school districts may submit funding applications per departmental guidelines.

* **Neglected and Delinquent Youth**

[Federal Neglected and Delinquent funds](http://dpi.wi.gov/neglected-delinquent) are provided to enable failing and at-risk neglected, delinquent, and incarcerated youth to have the same opportunity as students in other Title I instructional programs. Such youth receive supplementary programs and services to improve their achievement in reading, mathematics, and language arts, have access to vocational life-skills training, and are engaged in working toward a successful transition to obtain a high school diploma in a regular school setting, earn a GED or HSED at the institution, find employment, or enroll in a postsecondary program.

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