

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Business & Finance Committee

Thursday, August 20, 2026
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Symphony Room
Gordon Dining & Event Center
770 W. Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin
& via Zoom Videoconference

- A. Calling of the Roll
- B. Declaration of Conflicts
- C. Approval of the Minutes of the July 16, 2026 Meeting of the Business & Finance Committee
- D. Regent Policy Document Review: RPD 13-1, "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting" (Second Reading and Approval)
- E. Approval of an Amendment to the Connected Systems Institute (CSI) Membership Agreement between UW-Milwaukee and Rockwell Automation, Inc.
- F. Approval of a UW-Stout Polytechnic Contractual Agreement with Veritas Education, Inc.
- G. Approval of an Amendment to the UW System Report on Strategic Plans for Major Information Technology Projects
- H. Approval of the UW System Status Report on Large or High-Risk Information Technology Projects
- I. Approval of the 2027-29 Biennial Operating Budget Request

**REGENT POLICY DOCUMENT REVIEW:
RPD 13-1, "GENERAL CONTRACT APPROVAL, SIGNATURE
AUTHORITY, AND REPORTING" (SECOND READING AND APPROVAL)**

REQUESTED ACTION

Approval of Resolution D., approving revisions to Regent Policy Document 13-1.

Resolution D. That, upon recommendation of the Interim President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves amendments to Regent Policy Document 13-1, "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting," to clarify contract signature authority, Board approval requirements, delegation requirements, procurement authority, contract reporting obligations, and related governance responsibilities.

SUMMARY

The proposed revision updates Regent Policy Document 13-1 to improve clarity, strengthen governance, and enhance risk management.

The revisions accomplish five principal objectives:

1. Clarify the distinction between contract signature authority and procurement authority.
2. Expressly delegate the Board's Chapter 36 procurement authority to the President.
3. Modernize and clarify Board approval thresholds and approval triggers.
4. Establish more explicit delegation, governance, and reporting requirements.
5. Codify existing operational practices regarding amendments, extensions, and administrative execution of contracts.

Presenters:

- Quinn Williams, General Counsel, Universities of Wisconsin Administration
- Julie Gordon, Vice President for Finance & Administration, Universities of Wisconsin Administration
- Brent Tilton, Director of Procurement, Universities of Wisconsin Administration

BACKGROUND

RPD 13-1 governs when Board approval is required before execution of a contract, who may sign contracts on behalf of the Board, how contract authority may be delegated, and what reporting obligations apply. The policy serves as one of the Board's primary risk-management mechanisms for contractual commitments involving the Universities of Wisconsin.

The current revision is the product of a comprehensive review intended to clarify ambiguities that have developed over time, align the policy with current statutory authority, distinguish procurement authority from contract-signature authority, and provide greater operational guidance to institutions and UW System Administration.

Substantive Changes and Rationale

1. Express Delegation of Board Procurement Authority to the President

Change:

The proposal expressly recognizes the Board's procurement authority under Wis. Stat. § 36.11(1)(b), defines "Board Procurement Authority," and delegates that authority to the President for implementation and administration. The proposal also authorizes the President to develop policies necessary to implement that authority.

Rationale:

The Board possesses statutory procurement authority independent of Department of Administration procurement authority. The proposed revision makes explicit what has historically been administered operationally and ensures clear accountability for implementation of procurement policy at the system level. The amendment also clarifies that Department of Administration procurement authority remains separate and is not affected by this delegation.

2. Expanded Definitions to Improve Consistency and Administration

Change:

The proposal adds or significantly refines definitions, including:

- Board Procurement Authority
- DOA Procurement Authority
- Extramural Contract
- In-Kind Compensation
- Private Entity
- Total Contract Value
- UW System Employee
- UW System Institution

Rationale:

Many approval thresholds and delegation provisions depend on consistent interpretation of these terms. The revised definitions improve consistency, reduce ambiguity, and provide clearer guidance for contract administrators. Particular attention has been given to defining private entities, in-kind value, and total contract value so that approval thresholds are applied consistently.

3. Clarification of Delegation Structure and Governance Requirements

Change:

The proposal more clearly identifies the chain of delegation from the Board to the President, from the President to Chancellors and other designated employees, and from Chancellors to institutional employees. It also establishes specific requirements that delegations:

- be maintained in writing;
- be reviewed annually;
- generally be limited to categories of contracts; and
- not be further delegated.

Rationale:

Written and periodically reviewed delegations are important governance controls that promote accountability, ensure delegations remain current following personnel changes, and reduce the risk of unauthorized contractual commitments. These provisions reflect sound governance and internal control practices.

4. Recognition of Ministerial Execution Practices

Change:

The proposal clarifies that clerical or ministerial activities necessary to execute a contract may be performed by support staff acting at the direction of an authorized signatory, provided the authorized delegate retains approval responsibility.

Rationale:

This provision codifies common administrative practices associated with electronic signature platforms and contract processing while preserving accountability with the authorized contract signatory. It provides clearer guidance without expanding substantive contracting authority.

5. Reorganization and Clarification of Board Approval Requirements

Change:

The proposal reorganizes approval requirements into a clearer framework that separately addresses:

- contracts with private entities;

- athletics employment contracts;
- amendments and extensions; and
- circumstances where Board approval is not required.

The proposal also expressly addresses situations in which amendments or extensions trigger Board approval because a threshold is crossed for the first time or because the amendment itself exceeds an applicable threshold.

Rationale:

The revised structure better reflects how contracts are reviewed and administered in practice and resolves recurring questions about amendments, renewals, and threshold calculations. It promotes more consistent application of Board approval requirements while preserving appropriate Board oversight of significant contractual commitments.

6. Discretionary Board Review Authority for High-Risk Contracts

Change:

The proposal expressly authorizes the President or a Chancellor to bring a contract to the Board for review or approval when the contract presents significant financial risk, significant reputational risk, substantial public interest, or a significant change to terms previously approved by the Board.

Rationale:

Dollar thresholds alone do not always capture institutional risk. Certain contracts may have significant public, strategic, operational, or reputational implications even when they fall below formal approval thresholds. This provision preserves flexibility for leadership to seek Board guidance and oversight when warranted by the nature of a transaction rather than its financial value alone.

7. Clarification Regarding Contracts Executed Under Department of Administration Procurement Authority

Change:

The proposal expressly states that contracts entered into under Department of Administration procurement authority generally do not require Board approval, subject to the discretionary review provisions.

Rationale:

The amendment clarifies the relationship between Chapter 16 procurement authority and Board contract approval requirements and reduces uncertainty regarding transactions conducted under delegated state procurement authority.

8. Annual Reporting of Extramural Contracts

Change:

The proposal replaces the semi-annual reporting requirement with an annual reporting requirement under which UW System Administration will provide a summary of extramural contracts to the Business and Finance Committee. Semi-annual reporting of extramural contracts has historically provided incomplete information and, therefore, less utility to the Board.

Rationale:

Extramural agreements represent a substantial source of sponsored activity, grants, and research support across the Universities of Wisconsin.

Overall Effect of the Revisions

The proposed revisions strengthen governance and risk-management controls while preserving operational efficiency. The amendments provide clearer authority lines, improve consistency in contract administration, expressly address procurement authority, modernize approval provisions surrounding amendments and extensions, and give institutional leadership a mechanism to seek Board involvement when unique financial, reputational, or public-interest considerations warrant additional oversight.

Previous Action or Discussion

The Business & Finance Committee heard a first reading of proposed revisions to RPD 13-1 at its June 2026 meeting.

Related Policies

- [Regent Policy Document 13-2](#), “Real Property Contracts: Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting
- [Regent Policy Document 13-5](#), “Capital Projects Solely Managed by the UW System: Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting”
- [Regent Policy Document 20-21](#), “University Personnel Systems”
- [Regent Policy Document 20-27](#), “Selection Process for System President, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors and UW System Senior Leadership Positions”
- [Regent Policy Document 25-4](#), “Strategic Planning and Large or High-Risk Projects”

ATTACHMENTS

- A) Regent Policy Document 13-1, "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting" – Proposed (Tracked Changes)
- B) Regent Policy Document 13-1, "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting" – Proposed (Clean)
- C) Regent Policy Document 13-1, "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting" – Current

Regent Policy Document 13-1

General Contract Approval, Signature and Procurement Authority, and Reporting

Scope

This policy addresses ~~Board of Regents review and approval of contracts and official authorization to sign contracts on behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System; the authority of University of Wisconsin System (UW System) employees to enter into contracts that bind the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System (Board) and clarifies responsibilities for implementing the Board's procurement authority. It does not apply to:~~

- ~~Contracts that are subject to Regent Policy Document 13-2;~~
- ~~Contracts that are subject to Regent Policy Document 13-5;~~
- ~~Contracts that are subject to Regent Policy Document 20-21 (except for UW System Employee athletics employment Contracts);~~
- ~~Contracts that are subject to Regent Policy Document 20-27;~~
- ~~The authority of the Trust Officer and Assistant Trust Officers under Article III, section 6. of Board's Bylaws.~~

~~The policy applies to contracts that bind the Board of Regents and UW System institutions. These include, but are not limited to, grants, memorandums of understanding, certifications, releases, purchase orders, leases of personal property (not real property), and royalty agreements.~~

~~The policy does not apply to the following:~~

- ~~Settlement agreements;~~
- ~~Subawards or subcontracts issued to or by UW System institutions that pass through federal funding and are governed by the terms of a federal grant or contract;~~
- ~~Real property contracts (refer to Regent Policy Document 13-2, "Real Property Contracts: Signature Authority and Approval");~~
- ~~Design and construction contracts for capital projects solely managed by the UW System (refer to Regent Policy Document 13-5, "Capital Projects Solely Managed by the UW System: Approval and Signature Authority");~~

- ~~University trust accounts, which are subject to the terms and conditions of individual trust documents. Signature authority for these documents rests with the Trust Officer, Assistant Trust Officer, and Executive Director and Corporate Secretary of the Office of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System; and~~
- ~~Contracts and purchases issued under delegated state purchasing authority.~~

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ~~ensure that the Board of Regents reviews certain high-dollar-amount contracts and that individuals signing contracts that bind the Board of Regents are duly authorized to sign on behalf of, commit, and represent the Board of Regents. minimize the Board's financial, legal, operational, and compliance-related risks associated with contracts. This policy identifies when Board approval of a contract is required; when, to whom and how contract signature authority may be delegated; and what contract reporting obligations apply. This Policy also clarifies the relevant authorities and responsibilities for implementing the Board's procurement authority.~~

Definitions

1. **Board Procurement Authority** means the Board's procurement authority under Wis. Stat s. 36.11(1)(b).
2. **Contract** is an agreement between the Board (or any of its subunits) and another person(s), as defined under Wis. Stat. s. 990.01(26), that creates mutual obligations. For the purposes of this policy, a document may constitute a contract regardless of what it is titled. In that regard, a contract includes, but is not limited to, grants, legal settlements, memorandums of understanding, certifications, releases, facility use agreements, sponsorship agreements, purchase orders, leases of personal property (not real property), royalty agreements, nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements, and clinical or fieldwork affiliation agreements.
3. **DOA Procurement Authority** means the procurement authority under Wis. Stats. ss. 16.70 et al. that the State of Wisconsin's Department of Administration delegates to special designated agents and employees of both the Board and UW-Madison separately under Wis. Stats. s. 16.71(1).
4. **Extramural Contract** means a Contract pursuant to which a UW System Institution receives monetary or in-kind support, including gifts, gifts in kind, grants.

sponsored/research contracts, and cooperative agreements, but does not include fee-for-service contracts.

5. **In kind** means any form of compensation or exchange that does not involve money, including but not limited to equity, goods, services, or equipment.

6. **Private Entity** means any entity as defined under Wis. Stat. s. 181.0103(12), excluding all governmental entities, subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities (including but not limited to foreign, federal, state, local, and tribal governmental, government-created, and quasi-governmental entities), and also excluding nonprofit or nonstock corporations and organizations that are generally covered under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

7. **Total Contract Value** means the total dollar amount the Board reasonably anticipates it will pay, receive, or assign, over the entire contract term, including all optional renewal periods described in a Contract. This amount also includes the fair market value of in kind compensation or exchange the Board will provide, receive, or assign.

8. **UW System Employee** means any individual who holds a faculty, academic staff, university staff, limited appointment, student employment, employee-in-training, temporary or project appointment with any UW System Institution.

9. **UW System Institution** means any of the following: UW-Eau Claire; UW-Green Bay; UW-La Crosse; UW-Madison; UW-Milwaukee; UW-Oshkosh; UW-Parkside; UW-Platteville; UW-River Falls; UW-Stevens Point; UW-Stout Polytechnic; UW-Superior; UW-Whitewater; any branch campuses/additional locations; and UW System Administration.

Policy Statement

Through this policy, the Board of Regents recognizes that the efficient operation of the UW System depends on the UW System's and UW institutions' ability to conduct business transactions in an efficient manner. Therefore, the Board of Regents need not directly approve all contracts, but rather, delegates contracting authority for most contracts to designated university officials.

Individuals authorized to sign contracts under this policy are expected to have the necessary information and expertise to fully understand the implications of making such commitments. In addition, persons with this authority are expected to perform appropriate due diligence activities to ensure that any attendant liabilities are identified and can be effectively managed.

The Board authorizes certain officers and UW System Employees to enter into Contracts on its behalf pursuant to specific written delegations and subject to certain limitations described below, and delegates Board Procurement Authority to the President.

Delegation of Authority

~~Subject to the limitations set forth in this policy, the Board of Regents authorizes the Executive Director and Corporate Secretary of the Office of the Board of Regents and the President of the University of Wisconsin System to sign contracts that bind the Board of Regents and/or UW System institutions.~~

~~The Board of Regents further authorizes the President of the University of Wisconsin System to: (1) delegate contract signature authority to other UW System Administration officials deemed to have the requisite knowledge, judgment, and operational need to exercise such authority; and (2) delegate to the chancellors of UW System institutions the authority to sign contracts related to programs or operations of their institutions. Chancellors may further delegate contract signature authority to other UW System institution employees deemed to have the requisite knowledge, judgment, and operational need to exercise such authority.~~

~~Delegations by the President or a chancellor must be made in writing and filed in the respective office of authority, i.e., the Office of the President of the University of Wisconsin System or the office of the chancellor.~~

~~Delegation of authority pursuant to the immediately preceding paragraph is subject to the following requirements:~~

- ~~• Delegations must be reviewed periodically to ensure that delegations are current, and employees are exercising their signature authority appropriately.~~
- ~~• Individuals should be delegated contract signature authority only for the specific documents, or types of documents, needed to allow them to perform the responsibilities of their positions efficiently and effectively.~~
- ~~• An individual granted this delegation may not further delegate these responsibilities; this authority remains solely with the President or Chancellor respectively.~~
- ~~• Individuals delegated contract signature authority are considered “contracting personnel” and subject to the conflict of interest reporting requirements of Ch. UWS 8, Wis. Admin. Code.~~

A. Delegation of Contract Signature Authority

Subject to the limitations set forth in section B of this policy:

1. Delegation from the Board

The Board delegates to the Executive Director and Corporate Secretary of the Office of the Board of Regents and the UW System President the authority to sign Contracts on behalf of the Board. The Board also delegates to the President the authority to further define, implement, and maintain this policy, with the exception of DOA Procurement Authority (which rests exclusively with DOA).

2. Delegation from the UW System President

The Board further authorizes the UW System President to delegate their Contract signature authority to:

- a. any chancellor of a UW System Institution; and
- b. UW System Employees deemed to have the operational need and the requisite knowledge and judgment to fully understand the implications to the Board, the UW System, and UW System Institutions when exercising such delegated Contract signature authority.

3. Delegation from a Chancellor

Chancellors may further delegate their Contract signature authority to employees of their UW System Institution deemed to have the operational need and the requisite knowledge and judgment to fully understand the implications to the Board, the UW System and UW System Institutions when exercising such delegated Contract signature authority.

4. Delegation Requirements

Delegations of Contract signature authority under subsections 2. and 3. above:

- a. Must be made in writing and maintained by the office of the delegator or their designee.
- b. Must be reviewed annually to ensure that they are current, and that the delegee is the appropriate signature authority.
- c. Should be generally limited to specific types or categories of Contracts.
- d. May not be further delegated. For clarity, a UW System Employee supervised by a delegee may, at the delegee's direction, affix the delegee's electronic signature to a Contract.
- e. Must notify the delegee if the delegation is for the purchase of goods or services that they are subject to the reporting requirements of s. UWS 8.06, Wis. Admin. Code, unless an exception under s. UWS 8.02(7)(a) or (b) applies.

Delegation Limitations and Thresholds for Formal Approval by the Board of Regents

~~Except as otherwise reserved for the Board of Regents, signature authority delegation for grants and contracts from private, profit-making organizations is limited to:~~

- ~~• Up to \$1,000,000 for Chancellors at all campuses other than UW-Madison; and~~
- ~~• Up to \$5,000,000 for the UW System President and the UW-Madison Chancellor. Upon request for an individual grant or contract, UW-Madison is authorized up to \$10,000,000 if the UW System President also approves.~~

~~Approval by the Board of Regents, prior to execution, is required for:~~

- ~~• Contracts for large or high-risk information technology projects, as defined in Regent Policy Document 25-4;~~
- ~~• Grants or contracts from private, profit-making organizations with a value greater than \$1,000,000 for all campuses other than UW-Madison;~~
- ~~• Grants or contracts from private, profit-making organizations with a value greater than \$5,000,000 for UW System and UW-Madison (greater than \$10,000,000 if the UW-Madison Chancellor and the UW System President jointly approve);~~
- ~~• UW-Madison athletics employment contracts with total annual compensation greater than \$3,000,000 and athletics employment contracts at other UW System institutions with total annual compensation greater than \$500,000; and~~
- ~~• Any other grants or contracts that, in the judgment of the President of the UW System or the relevant Chancellor, warrant Board review.~~

~~An institution's chief business officer should contact the UW System Office of Finance and Administration to request that contracts be presented for approval at the next meeting of the Board's Business and Finance Committee. Requests must be made well in advance of the desired effective date of a contract.~~

B. Limitations on Delegation

Contract signature authority that is delegated above is subject to the following limitations:

1. Mandatory Board Approval

Contracts with Private Entities or UW System Employee athletics employment Contracts must be approved by the Board prior to signature if any one of the following conditions is met:

- a. For Contracts with Private Entities the Total Contract Value exceeds:

- i. \$1,000,000 for all UW System Institutions other than UW–Madison.
 - ii. \$5,000,000 for UW System Administration.
 - iii. \$5,000,000 for UW–Madison.
 - iv. \$10,000,000 for UW-Madison if approved by the UW System President for a specific Contract.
- b. For UW System Employee athletics employment Contracts, the total annual compensation exceeds:
 - i. \$500,000 for all UW System Institutions other than UW–Madison.
 - ii. \$3,000,000 for UW–Madison.
- c. An amendment to or an extension of an existing Contract with a Private entity or a UW System Employee athletics employment Contract causes the Total Contract Value or annual compensation to exceed the applicable threshold for the first time.
- d. The Total Contract Value of an amendment to or an extension of an existing Contract with a Private Entity independently exceeds the applicable threshold.

2. Board Approval Not Required

- a. Board approval is not required for Contracts that are entered into using DOA Procurement Authority, with the exception of section B.3. below.
- b. Board approval is not required for Contracts that are not with Private Entities or UW System Employee athletic employment Contracts with the exception of section B.3. below.
- c. Board approval is not required for UW System Employee athletics employment Contracts for amendments or extensions that solely extend the term of the UW System Employee athletics employment Contract by one year, with the exception of section B.3. below.
- d. Board approval is not required for an amendment to or an extension of an existing Contract where the amendment or extension was previously approved by the Board (for example, when an approved Contract has

automatic extension periods, or a previous Board resolution anticipated a future amendment).

3. Discretionary Review or Approval

If in the judgment of the UW System President, or the relevant chancellor, a Contract presents significant financial risk; poses a significant reputational risk; is likely be of significant public interest; or constitutes a significant and material change to the scope and terms previously approved by the Board, a Contract may be brought before the Board for review or approval prior to signature.

C. Delegation of Board Procurement Authority

The Board delegates to the President the authority to implement and maintain the Board's Procurement Authority.

Extramural Contracts

Reporting Requirements

A summary of ~~e~~Extramural ~~Contracts gifts, grants, and contracts~~ will be reported ~~semi~~annually ~~to by~~ UW System Administration ~~for presentation~~ to the Business and Finance Committee of the Board of Regents.

Oversight, Roles, and Responsibilities

~~Delegation of signature authority allows considerable operational efficiency but requires appropriate oversight and on-going diligence to ensure that the interests of the university are best served.~~

~~In addition to oversight by the chancellor's office and chief business officer, compliance with this policy and sound business practices will be assessed through periodic review by the UW System Office of Internal Audit.~~

The Board delegates to UW System President the authority to develop policies to further define and implement this policy.

Related Regent Policy Documents and Applicable Laws

- Regent Policy Document 13-2, Real Property Contracts: Signature Authority and Approval

- Regent Policy Document 13-5, Capital Projects Solely Managed by the UW System: Approval and Signature Authority
- Regent Policy Document 20-21, University Personnel Systems
- [Regent Policy Document 20-27; Selection Process for System President, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors and UW System Senior Leadership Positions](#)
- Regent Policy Document 25-4, Strategic Planning and Large or High-Risk Projects
- [Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Art. III, Sec. 6.](#)
- Section 946.13, Wis. Stats., Private interest in public contract prohibited
- Section 16.71(1), (1m) and (4), Wis. Stats., Purchasing; powers
- Section 36.11(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

History: Res. 92, adopted 02/11/1972, created Regent Policy Document 72-2(a); Res. 965, adopted 03/07/1975, rescinded 72-2a and created Regent Policy Document 75-2; Res. 2791, adopted 04/08/1983, rescinded 75-2 and created Regent Policy Document 83-2; Res. 5945, adopted 11/08/1991, rescinded 83-2 and created Regent Policy Document 91-10; Res. 6042, adopted 03/06/1992, rescinded 91-10 and created Regent Policy Document 92-2; Res. 6314, adopted 02/05/1993, rescinded 92-2 and created Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 7548, adopted 09/05/1997, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 7844, adopted 02/05/1999, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 8074, adopted 02/11/2000, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 8875, adopted 06/11/2004, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1, subsequently renumbered 13-3, Authorization to Sign Documents.

Res. 7308, adopted 10/11/1996, created Regent Policy Document 96-5; Res. 8876, adopted 06/10/2004, amended Regent Policy Document 96-5, subsequently renumbered 13-4, Delegation of Responsibilities to the Vice President for Finance.

Res. 10014, adopted 02/10/2012, repealed Regent Policy Documents 13-3 and 13-4, and amended and consolidated the contents under a renumbered Regent Policy Document 13-1. Res. 10604, adopted 12/11/2015, amended and renamed Regent Policy Document 13-1, "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting." Res. 10706, adopted 06/10/2016, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1; Res. 11111, adopted 10/05/2018, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1. Technical correction made on 01/06/2020. Res. 11895, adopted 06/10/2022, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1. Technical correction made on 03/02/2023, as authorized by Res. 10835 (adopted 3/9/2017).

See Also:

[SYS 342, Extramural Support Administration](#) (formerly G2)

[SYS 500 Series: Procurement](#)

[UW System Administrative policies are included for reference and are separate from Regent Policy Documents adopted by the Board.]

Regent Policy Document 13-1

General Contract Approval, Signature and Procurement Authority, and Reporting

Scope

This policy addresses the authority of University of Wisconsin System (UW System) employees to enter into contracts that bind the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System (Board) and clarifies responsibilities for implementing the Board's procurement authority. It does not apply to:

- Contracts that are subject to Regent Policy Document 13-2;
- Contracts that are subject to Regent Policy Document 13-5;
- Contracts that are subject to Regent Policy Document 20-21 (except for UW System Employee athletics employment Contracts);
- Contracts that are subject to Regent Policy Document 20-27;
- The authority of the Trust Officer and Assistant Trust Officers under Article III, section 6. of Board's Bylaws.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to minimize the Board's financial, legal, operational, and compliance-related risks associated with contracts. This policy identifies when Board approval of a contract is required; when, to whom and how contract signature authority may be delegated; and what contract reporting obligations apply. This Policy also clarifies the relevant authorities and responsibilities for implementing the Board's procurement authority.

Definitions

1. **Board Procurement Authority** means the Board's procurement authority under Wis. Stat s. 36.11(1)(b).
2. **Contract** is an agreement between the Board (or any of its subunits) and another person(s), as defined under Wis. Stat. s. 990.01(26), that creates mutual obligations. For the purposes of this policy, a document may constitute a contract regardless of what it is titled. In that regard, a contract includes, but is not limited to, grants, legal settlements, memorandums of understanding, certifications, releases, facility use

agreements, sponsorship agreements, purchase orders, leases of personal property (not real property), royalty agreements, nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements, and clinical or fieldwork affiliation agreements.

3. **DOA Procurement Authority** means the procurement authority under Wis. Stats. ss. 16.70 et al. that the State of Wisconsin's Department of Administration delegates to special designated agents and employees of both the Board and UW-Madison separately under Wis. Stats. s. 16.71(1).
4. **Extramural Contract** means a Contract pursuant to which a UW System Institution receives monetary or in-kind support, including gifts, gifts in kind, grants, sponsored/research contracts, and cooperative agreements, but does not include fee-for-service contracts.
5. **In kind** means any form of compensation or exchange that does not involve money, including but not limited to equity, goods, services, or equipment.
6. **Private Entity** means any entity as defined under Wis. Stat. s. 181.0103(12), excluding all governmental entities, subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities (including but not limited to foreign, federal, state, local, and tribal governmental, government-created, and quasi-governmental entities), and also excluding nonprofit or nonstock corporations and organizations that are generally covered under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.
7. **Total Contract Value** means the total dollar amount the Board reasonably anticipates it will pay, receive, or assign, over the entire contract term, including all optional renewal periods described in a Contract. This amount also includes the fair market value of in kind compensation or exchange the Board will provide, receive, or assign.
8. **UW System Employee** means any individual who holds a faculty, academic staff, university staff, limited appointment, student employment, employee-in-training, temporary or project appointment with any UW System Institution.
9. **UW System Institution** means any of the following: UW-Eau Claire; UW-Green Bay; UW-La Crosse; UW-Madison; UW-Milwaukee; UW-Oshkosh; UW-Parkside; UW-Platteville; UW-River Falls; UW-Stevens Point; UW-Stout Polytechnic; UW-Superior; UW-Whitewater; any branch campuses/additional locations; and UW System Administration.

Policy Statement

The Board authorizes certain officers and UW System Employees to enter into Contracts on its behalf pursuant to specific written delegations and subject to certain limitations described below, and delegates Board Procurement Authority to the President.

A. Delegation of Contract Signature Authority

Subject to the limitations set forth in section B of this policy:

1. Delegation from the Board

The Board delegates to the Executive Director and Corporate Secretary of the Office of the Board of Regents and the UW System President the authority to sign Contracts on behalf of the Board. The Board also delegates to the President the authority to further define, implement, and maintain this policy, with the exception of DOA Procurement Authority (which rests exclusively with DOA).

2. Delegation from the UW System President

The Board further authorizes the UW System President to delegate their Contract signature authority to:

- a. any chancellor of a UW System Institution; and
- b. UW System Employees deemed to have the operational need and the requisite knowledge and judgment to fully understand the implications to the Board, the UW System, and UW System Institutions when exercising such delegated Contract signature authority.

3. Delegation from a Chancellor

Chancellors may further delegate their Contract signature authority to employees of their UW System Institution deemed to have the operational need and the requisite knowledge and judgment to fully understand the implications to the Board, the UW System and UW System Institutions when exercising such delegated Contract signature authority.

4. Delegation Requirements

Delegations of Contract signature authority under subsections 2. and 3. above:

- a. Must be made in writing and maintained by the office of the delegator or their designee.

- b. Must be reviewed annually to ensure that they are current, and that the delegee is the appropriate signature authority.
- c. Should be generally limited to specific types or categories of Contracts.
- d. May not be further delegated. For clarity, a UW System Employee supervised by a delegee may, at the delegee's direction, affix the delegee's electronic signature to a Contract.
- e. Must notify the delegee if the delegation is for the purchase of goods or services that they are subject to the reporting requirements of s. UWS 8.06, Wis. Admin. Code, unless an exception under s. UWS 8.02(7)(a) or (b) applies.

B. Limitations on Delegation

Contract signature authority that is delegated above is subject to the following limitations:

1. Mandatory Board Approval

Contracts with Private Entities or UW System Employee athletics employment Contracts must be approved by the Board prior to signature if any one of the following conditions is met:

- a. For Contracts with Private Entities the Total Contract Value exceeds:
 - i. **\$1,000,000** for all UW System Institutions other than UW-Madison.
 - ii. **\$5,000,000** for UW System Administration.
 - iii. **\$5,000,000** for UW-Madison.
 - iv. **\$10,000,000** for UW-Madison if approved by the UW System President for a specific Contract.
- b. For UW System Employee athletics employment Contracts, the total annual compensation exceeds:
 - i. **\$500,000** for all UW System Institutions other than UW-Madison.
 - ii. **\$3,000,000** for UW-Madison.
- c. An amendment to or an extension of an existing Contract with a Private entity or a UW System Employee athletics employment Contract causes the Total Contract Value or annual compensation to exceed the applicable threshold for the first time.

- d. The Total Contract Value of an amendment to or an extension of an existing Contract with a Private Entity independently exceeds the applicable threshold.

2. Board Approval Not Required

- a. Board approval is not required for Contracts that are entered into using DOA Procurement Authority, with the exception of section B.3. below.
- b. Board approval is not required for Contracts that are not with Private Entities or UW System Employee athletic employment Contracts with the exception of section B.3. below.
- c. Board approval is not required for UW System Employee athletics employment Contracts for amendments or extensions that solely extend the term of the UW System Employee athletics employment Contract by one year, with the exception of section B.3. below.
- d. Board approval is not required for an amendment to or an extension of an existing Contract where the amendment or extension was previously approved by the Board (for example, when an approved Contract has automatic extension periods, or a previous Board resolution anticipated a future amendment).

3. Discretionary Review or Approval

If in the judgment of the UW System President, or the relevant chancellor, a Contract presents significant financial risk; poses a significant reputational risk; is likely be of significant public interest; or constitutes a significant and material change to the scope and terms previously approved by the Board, a Contract may be brought before the Board for review or approval prior to signature.

C. Delegation of Board Procurement Authority

The Board delegates to the President the authority to implement and maintain the Board's Procurement Authority.

Extramural Contracts

A summary of Extramural Contracts will be reported annually by UW System Administration to the Business and Finance Committee of the Board of Regents.

Oversight, Roles, and Responsibilities

The Board delegates to UW System President the authority to develop policies to further define and implement this policy.

Related Regent Policy Documents and Applicable Laws

- Regent Policy Document 13-2, Real Property Contracts: Signature Authority and Approval
- Regent Policy Document 13-5, Capital Projects Solely Managed by the UW System: Approval and Signature Authority
- Regent Policy Document 20-21, University Personnel Systems
- Regent Policy Document 20-27; Selection Process for System President, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors and UW System Senior Leadership Positions
- Regent Policy Document 25-4, Strategic Planning and Large or High-Risk Projects
- Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Art. III, Sec. 6.
- Section 946.13, Wis. Stats., Private interest in public contract prohibited
- Section 16.71(1), (1m) and (4), Wis. Stats., Purchasing; powers
- Section 36.11(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

History: Res. 92, adopted 02/11/1972, created Regent Policy Document 72-2(a); Res. 965, adopted 03/07/1975, rescinded 72-2a and created Regent Policy Document 75-2; Res. 2791, adopted 04/08/1983, rescinded 75-2 and created Regent Policy Document 83-2; Res. 5945, adopted 11/08/1991, rescinded 83-2 and created Regent Policy Document 91-10; Res. 6042, adopted 03/06/1992, rescinded 91-10 and created Regent Policy Document 92-2; Res. 6314, adopted 02/05/1993, rescinded 92-2 and created Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 7548, adopted 09/05/1997, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 7844, adopted 02/05/1999, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 8074, adopted 02/11/2000, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 8875, adopted 06/11/2004, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1, subsequently renumbered 13-3, Authorization to Sign Documents.

Res. 7308, adopted 10/11/1996, created Regent Policy Document 96-5; Res. 8876, adopted 06/10/2004, amended Regent Policy Document 96-5, subsequently renumbered 13-4, Delegation of Responsibilities to the Vice President for Finance.

Res. 10014, adopted 02/10/2012, repealed Regent Policy Documents 13-3 and 13-4, and amended and consolidated the contents under a renumbered Regent Policy Document 13-1. Res. 10604, adopted 12/11/2015, amended and renamed Regent Policy Document 13-1, "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting." Res. 10706, adopted 06/10/2016, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1; Res. 11111, adopted 10/05/2018, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1. Technical correction made on 01/06/2020. Res. 11895, adopted 06/10/2022, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1. Technical correction made on 03/02/2023, as authorized by Res. 10835 (adopted 3/9/2017).

SEE ALSO:

[SYS 342, Extramural Support Administration](#) (formerly G2)

SYS 500 Series: Procurement

[UW System Administrative policies are included for reference and are separate from Regent Policy Documents adopted by the Board.]

Regent Policy Document 13-1

General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting

Scope

This policy addresses Board of Regents review and approval of contracts and official authorization to sign contracts on behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

The policy applies to contracts that bind the Board of Regents and UW System institutions. These include, but are not limited to, grants, memorandums of understanding, certifications, releases, purchase orders, leases of personal property (not real property), and royalty agreements.

The policy does not apply to the following:

- Settlement agreements;
- Subawards or subcontracts issued to or by UW System institutions that pass through federal funding and are governed by the terms of a federal grant or contract;
- Real property contracts (refer to Regent Policy Document 13-2, "Real Property Contracts: Signature Authority and Approval");
- Design and construction contracts for capital projects solely managed by the UW System (refer to Regent Policy Document 13-5, "Capital Projects Solely Managed by the UW System: Approval and Signature Authority");
- University trust accounts, which are subject to the terms and conditions of individual trust documents. Signature authority for these documents rests with the Trust Officer, Assistant Trust Officer, and Executive Director and Corporate Secretary of the Office of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System; and
- Contracts and purchases issued under delegated state purchasing authority.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Board of Regents reviews certain high-dollar-amount contracts and that individuals signing contracts that bind the Board of Regents are duly authorized to sign on behalf of, commit, and represent the Board of Regents.

Policy Statement

Through this policy, the Board of Regents recognizes that the efficient operation of the UW System depends on the UW System's and UW institutions' ability to conduct business transactions in an efficient manner. Therefore, the Board of Regents need not directly approve all contracts, but rather, delegates contracting authority for most contracts to designated university officials.

Individuals authorized to sign contracts under this policy are expected to have the necessary information and expertise to fully understand the implications of making such commitments. In addition, persons with this authority are expected to perform appropriate due diligence activities to ensure that any attendant liabilities are identified and can be effectively managed.

Delegation of Authority

Subject to the limitations set forth in this policy, the Board of Regents authorizes the Executive Director and Corporate Secretary of the Office of the Board of Regents and the President of the University of Wisconsin System to sign contracts that bind the Board of Regents and/or UW System institutions.

The Board of Regents further authorizes the President of the University of Wisconsin System to:

- (1) delegate contract signature authority to other UW System Administration officials deemed to have the requisite knowledge, judgment, and operational need to exercise such authority; and
- (2) delegate to the chancellors of UW System institutions the authority to sign contracts related to programs or operations of their institutions. Chancellors may further delegate contract signature authority to other UW System institution employees deemed to have the requisite knowledge, judgment, and operational need to exercise such authority.

Delegations by the President or a chancellor must be made in writing and filed in the respective office of authority, i.e., the Office of the President of the University of Wisconsin System or the office of the chancellor.

Delegation of authority pursuant to the immediately preceding paragraph is subject to the following requirements:

- Delegations must be reviewed periodically to ensure that delegations are current, and employees are exercising their signature authority appropriately.
- Individuals should be delegated contract signature authority only for the specific documents, or types of documents, needed to allow them to perform the responsibilities of their positions efficiently and effectively.
- An individual granted this delegation may not further delegate these responsibilities; this authority remains solely with the President or Chancellor respectively.
- Individuals delegated contract signature authority are considered "contracting personnel" and subject to the conflict-of-interest reporting requirements of Ch. UWS 8, Wis. Admin. Code.

Delegation Limitations and Thresholds for Formal Approval by the Board of Regents

Except as otherwise reserved for the Board of Regents, signature authority delegation for grants and contracts from private, profit-making organizations is limited to:

- Up to \$1,000,000 for Chancellors at all campuses other than UW-Madison; and
- Up to \$5,000,000 for the UW System President and the UW-Madison Chancellor. Upon request for an individual grant or contract, UW-Madison is authorized up to \$10,000,000 if the UW System President also approves.

Approval by the Board of Regents, prior to execution, is required for:

- Contracts for large or high-risk information technology projects, as defined in Regent Policy Document 25-4;
- Grants or contracts from private, profit-making organizations with a value greater than \$1,000,000 for all campuses other than UW-Madison;
- Grants or contracts from private, profit-making organizations with a value greater than \$5,000,000 for UW System and UW-Madison (greater than \$10,000,000 if the UW-Madison Chancellor and the UW System President jointly approve);
- UW-Madison athletics employment contracts with total annual compensation greater than \$3,000,000 and athletics employment contracts at other UW System institutions with total annual compensation greater than \$500,000; and
- Any other grants or contracts that, in the judgment of the President of the UW System or the relevant Chancellor, warrant Board review.

An institution's chief business officer should contact the UW System Office of Finance and Administration to request that contracts be presented for approval at the next meeting of the Board's Business and Finance Committee. Requests must be made well in advance of the desired effective date of a contract.

Reporting Requirements

A summary of extramural gifts, grants, and contracts will be reported semiannually to UW System Administration for presentation to the Business and Finance Committee of the Board of Regents.

Oversight, Roles, and Responsibilities

Delegation of signature authority allows considerable operational efficiency but requires appropriate oversight and on-going diligence to ensure that the interests of the university are best served.

In addition to oversight by the chancellor's office and chief business officer, compliance with this policy and sound business practices will be assessed through periodic review by the UW System Office of Internal Audit.

Related Regent Policy Documents and Applicable Laws

- Regent Policy Document 13-2, Real Property Contracts: Signature Authority and Approval
- Regent Policy Document 13-5, Capital Projects Solely Managed by the UW System: Approval and Signature Authority
- Regent Policy Document 20-21, University Personnel Systems
- Regent Policy Document 25-4, Strategic Planning and Large or High-Risk Projects
- Section 946.13, Wis. Stats., Private interest in public contract prohibited
- Section 16.71(1), (1m) and (4), Wis. Stats., Purchasing; powers
- Section 36.11(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

History: Res. 92, adopted 02/11/1972, created Regent Policy Document 72-2(a); Res. 965, adopted 03/07/1975, rescinded 72-2a and created Regent Policy Document 75-2; Res. 2791, adopted 04/08/1983, rescinded 75-2 and created Regent Policy Document 83-2; Res. 5945, adopted 11/08/1991, rescinded 83-2 and created Regent Policy Document 91-10; Res. 6042, adopted 03/06/1992, rescinded 91-10 and created Regent Policy Document 92-2; Res. 6314, adopted 02/05/1993, rescinded 92-2 and created Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 7548, adopted 09/05/1997, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 7844, adopted 02/05/1999, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 8074, adopted 02/11/2000, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1; Res. 8875, adopted 06/11/2004, amended Regent Policy Document 93-1, subsequently renumbered 13-3, Authorization to Sign Documents.

Res. 7308, adopted 10/11/1996, created Regent Policy Document 96-5; Res. 8876, adopted 06/10/2004, amended Regent Policy Document 96-5, subsequently renumbered 13-4, Delegation of Responsibilities to the Vice President for Finance.

Res. 10014, adopted 02/10/2012, repealed Regent Policy Documents 13-3 and 13-4, and amended and consolidated the contents under a renumbered Regent Policy Document 13-1. Res. 10604, adopted 12/11/2015, amended and renamed Regent Policy Document 13-1, "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting." Res. 10706, adopted 06/10/2016, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1; Res. 11111, adopted 10/05/2018, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1. Technical correction made on 01/06/2020. Res. 11895, adopted 06/10/2022, amended Regent Policy Document 13-1. Technical correction made on 03/02/2023, as authorized by Res. 10835 (adopted 3/9/2017).

August 20, 2026

**APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONNECTED SYSTEMS
INSTITUTE (CSI) MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN UW-
MILWAUKEE AND ROCKWELL AUTOMATION, INC.**

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of Resolution E., approval of the amendment to the membership agreement.

Resolution E. That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Interim President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendment to the Connected Systems Institute (CSI) Amended & Restated Membership Agreement between UW-Milwaukee and Rockwell Automation, Inc.

SUMMARY

The Connected Systems Institute (CSI) is a center of excellence at UW-Milwaukee (UWM) that develops manufacturing domain specialists through education, state-of-the-art lab facilities and collaborative research opportunities. At CSI, industry collaborates with academia on research to support the development of advanced manufacturing processes. This includes working with the tools that support domain-specific research and education on the Industrial Internet of Things, factory automation, and the implementation of Industry 4.0 solutions. Key areas of focus include accelerating innovation by bringing together industry and academic researchers, facilitating digital transformation for small and medium-sized manufacturers, and developing an educational curriculum to better prepare the workforce of the future.

UWM and Rockwell Automation, Inc. (Rockwell) entered into the CSI Amended & Restated Membership Agreement in May 2020. The proposed amendment, under which Rockwell will contribute an additional \$1 million to CSI over five years, provides for technical updates and a revised membership obligation and advantage structure to reflect CSI's evolving structure.

Presenter

- Robin Van Harpen, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administrative Affairs, UW-Milwaukee

BACKGROUND

Regent Policy Document 13-1 requires that any grant or contract with private, profit-making organizations with a value greater than \$1,000,000 for any university other than UW-Madison be presented to the Board of Regents for formal approval prior to execution.

Related Policies

- [Regent Policy Document 13-1](#), "General Contract Approval, Signature Authority, and Reporting"

August 20, 2026

**APPROVAL OF A UW-STOUT POLYTECHNIC CONTRACTUAL
AGREEMENT WITH VERITAS EDUCATION, INC.**

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of Resolution F., approval of a contractual service agreement between the Board of Regents and Veritas Education, Inc.

Resolution F. That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout Polytechnic and the Interim President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the five-year contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Stout Polytechnic, and Veritas Education, Inc.

SUMMARY

UW-Stout Polytechnic seeks approval of its proposed agreement with Veritas Education, Inc. ("Veritas") under the terms of the Master Services Agreement and Participating Institution Form provided for review by the Board of Regents. The agreement is expected to exceed \$1 million in value over the 5-year life of the contract.

The Universities of Wisconsin have implemented a strategic approach to enhance the recruitment of international students by partnering with reputable and capable international recruitment agent aggregators. These aggregators are not agents themselves, but engage with agents overseas to identify and recruit interested international students. Since these agreements are non-exclusive and only provide revenue to the recruiter when they actually identify students, a Request for Proposals is not necessary, and an exception to UW System Administrative Policy 522 allows for such contracts.

To promote consistency in contractual terms and conditions when multiple UW universities contract with the same agent aggregator, reduce the need for UW universities to compete against each other through the offering of higher agent fees, and increase bargaining power vis-à-vis agent fees across the UW universities, UW Administration (UWSA) created a Master Service Agreement (MSA) based on common industry terms and incorporating the suggestions from UWSA's Office of Internal Audit on best practices regarding such relationships. This MSA is the basis for negotiations between UW universities and any

vendor with whom an MSA has been established, which to date include Shorelight LLC, Kings Education, and Veritas under identical terms.

UW universities choosing to utilize the MSA work closely with the respective vendor, utilizing a UWSA-developed Participating Institution Form (PIF) to itemize the details of services between the university and the vendor. Each UW university choosing to utilize this MSA is required to gain Board approval prior to signing a PIF with the vendor if the value is estimated to be greater than \$1 million.

Presenter

- Erik Guenard, Vice Chancellor of Business, Finance, and Administrative Services, UW-Stout Polytechnic

BACKGROUND

Regent Policy Document 13-1 requires that any grant or contract with private, profit-making organizations with a value greater than \$1,000,000 for all universities other than UW-Madison be presented to the Board of Regents for formal approval prior to execution.

Related Policies

- [Regent Policy Document 13-1](#), "General Contract Signature Authority, Approval, and Reporting"

August 20, 2026

**APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE UW SYSTEM REPORT ON
STRATEGIC PLANS FOR MAJOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
PROJECTS**

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of Resolution G., approving the addition of a project to the February 2026 report on strategic plans for major IT projects.

Resolution G. That, upon the recommendation the Interim President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendment to the UW System Report on Strategic Plans for Major Information Technology Projects.

SUMMARY

The Report on Strategic Plans for Major Information Technology Projects seeks to provide the Board with the information it needs to execute appropriate oversight of the technology projects planned for 2026-27. Approved by the Board of Regents in February 2026, an amendment is requested to add a new project over the \$1 million threshold for inclusion in the report.

The project will establish a long-term data center hosting solution for UW-Madison to support the academic, administrative, and research computing needs of the university.

UW-Madison's procurement authority to continue purchasing services from its current provider (US Signal in Fitchburg, WI) expires in January 2029. Following a Request for Proposal (RFP) process under its delegated Chapter 16 purchasing authority, UW-Madison intends to award the contract to Data Holdings in Milwaukee, WI. The university must immediately begin a multi-year migration of all IT services hosted at US Signal to Data Holdings.

The Data Holdings facility provides the necessary capabilities to meet the present and future needs of research, academic, and administrative computing, and will be used as the secondary data center along with the State of Wisconsin data center in Madison.

The project entails contracting for services with Data Holdings, and UW-Madison deploying fiber optic infrastructure, installing wide and local-area networks into the Data Holdings facility, and conducting a cybersecurity risk assessment. Upon completion of the project, UW-Madison will begin migrating equipment from US Signal to Data Holdings on an operational basis.

The project is budgeted at \$17 million and will be sourced from funds available internally at UW-Madison.

Presenters

- Steven Hopper, Senior Associate Vice President for the Office of Learning and Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, UW Administration
- Rob Cramer, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, UW-Madison

BACKGROUND

[Section 36.59, Wis. Stats.](#) requires all UW universities to adopt and submit to the Board of Regents annual strategic plans for the utilization of information technology no later than March 1st of each year to cover the following fiscal year. [Regent Policy Document 25-4](#) requires that all projects over \$1 million or defined as high-risk be approved by the Board before the project can begin.

UW-Madison previously conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) under its delegated Chapter 16 purchasing authority in 2016, and subsequently awarded a contract to OneNeck IT Solutions, LLC in 2017. OneNeck IT Solutions, LLC was acquired by US Signal in 2024. The procurement authority for the RFP expired in 2024, and the university was granted an extension of procurement authority until January 2029 to allow time for a new competitive RFP process and migration to the awarded party.

Related Policies

- [Section 36.59, Wis. Stats.](#), "Information technology"
- [Regent Policy Document 25-4](#), "Strategic Planning and Large or High-Risk Projects"

ATTACHMENT

- A) Project Summary for the Project Added to the UW System Strategic IT Plan

PROJECT SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT ADDED TO THE UW SYSTEM STRATEGIC IT PLAN

Research and Administrative Data Center



Milestone

Request for
Approval

Description: Migrate all IT infrastructure (servers, storage, networking, etc.) from the existing commercial data center from Fitchburg to a new data center in Milwaukee to establish a stable, long-term data center infrastructure to accommodate growing demand for high-density research computing and administrative data processing needs.

Impact: Provides researchers and administration with mission-critical data center resources, improves the university's ability to secure new grants/contracts, and consolidates physical security and regulatory compliance of IT business assets.

Notes: The schedule is starting as yellow due to known disruptions of IT supply chains related to AI data center buildouts and the geopolitical landscape. The project timeline will be extended if supplier lead times continue to worsen but would likely not impact the budget.

Timeline

Aug 2026 – Dec 2027

Budget

\$17,000,000

Source of Funds

Internally Available
to UW-Madison

Current Status:

Schedule
Scope
Budget
Other

UW SYSTEM STATUS REPORT ON LARGE/HIGH-RISK INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

REQUESTED ACTION

Approval of Resolution H., approving submission of the required reports to the legislative Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology.

Resolution H. That, upon the recommendation the Interim President of the UW System, the Board of Regents approves: (1) the UW System Status Report on Large/High-Risk Information Technology Projects dated August 20, 2026; and (2) UW System Administration's submittal of the report on the Board's behalf to the legislative Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology, as required by [s. 36.59\(7\), Wis. Stats.](#)

SUMMARY

The Status Report on the Large/High-Risk Information Technology Projects seeks to provide the Board of Regents with the information it needs to execute appropriate oversight over the large and high-risk IT projects across the Universities of Wisconsin.

Presenter

- Steven Hopper, Senior Associate Vice President for the Office of Learning and Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, UW Administration

BACKGROUND

[Section 36.59, Wis. Stats.](#), requires that by no later than March 1 and September 1 of each year, the Board of Regents submit to the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology a report that documents each information technology project within the system with an actual or projected cost greater than \$1,000,000 or that the board has identified as a large, high-risk information technology project.

[Regent Policy Document 25-4](#) implements the requirements of [s. 36.59, Wis. Stats.](#), which coordinates information technology strategic planning across the Universities of Wisconsin, and specifies management and reporting requirements related to large or high-risk information technology projects.

Attachments A and B provide a dashboard along with individual progress reports on the UWs' major IT technology projects. There are six (6) major projects to report.

	University	Project Name	Milestone since Feb. 2026 BOR Meeting
1	UW-Madison	Active Directory Migrations	Steady Migrations
2	UW-Madison	Campus Access Controls Replacement Phase 2	Steady Progress
3	UW-Madison	Research and Administrative Data Center	Request for Approval
4	UW-Parkside	Network Equipment Refresh	Wireless Network in Service
5	UW System	Act 15 Core General Education Requirement - Transfer	Approved by Board and Steady Progress
6	UW System	CDR Modernization	Production Environment Built

The overall portfolio totals \$40.6 million, which is an 83% decrease from the \$238.4 million reported at the February 2026 Board of Regents meeting. This change can be attributed to the completion of the UW System's Administrative Transform Program (ATP) and the Enterprise Analytics Platform (EAP), the addition of the UW System's Act 15 Core General Education Requirement - Transfer project (approved at the March 2026 Board meeting), and the requested addition of UW-Madison's Research and Administrative Data Center project.

- The UW-Madison's Research and Administrative Data Center project will migrate its data center infrastructure from the current Fitchburg co-location facility to a new long-term hosting environment at Data Holdings in Milwaukee. The project is scheduled to complete the transition by December 2027 at a cost of \$17.0 million.

This transition is both a strategic necessity and a business requirement. The university's authority to continue purchasing services from the current provider expires in January 2029, requiring a multi-year migration effort to ensure uninterrupted support for critical research and administrative operations. The new facility provides the capacity, resiliency, and scalability needed to support the university's growing computing demands over the next decade and beyond.

The investment will significantly enhance UW-Madison's ability to meet the needs of researchers and administrative units by providing modern, high-density computing infrastructure capable of supporting advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other data-intensive research workloads. The new

environment will offer improved power, cooling, and network capabilities, including support for next-generation technologies such as direct liquid cooling for GPU-based computing. In addition, the project strengthens the university's competitiveness for major research grants and contracts by ensuring access to enterprise-scale infrastructure that can accommodate future growth.

The migration also advances institutional objectives related to security, risk management, and regulatory compliance. Consolidating critical workloads within a modern, highly secure facility will improve physical security, operational resilience, and compliance with standards such as HIPAA, PCI, FISMA, CMMC, and SOC 2, while providing a robust secondary site for mission-critical administrative systems.

Although the project schedule is currently rated yellow due to industry-wide supply chain constraints and extended lead times for networking and computing equipment driven by AI-related data center demand and broader geopolitical factors, any anticipated delays are expected to affect timeline rather than overall project budget. The proposed investment establishes a stable, long-term foundation for the university's research and administrative computing needs while reducing operational risk and positioning UW-Madison for future growth.

The following five (5) projects have noteworthy updates since the February 2026 BOR meeting:

- UW-Madison's Active Directory Migrations project continues to deliver a steady stream of migrations over the past six (6) months. However, the schedule has shifted to yellow since a handful of departments will likely not be completed by December 2026. The project continues to trend \$500,000 under budget.
- UW-Madison's Campus Access Controls Replacement Phase 2 project added some relatively small elements of scope (handful of wireless lockets and a full wireless installation at Vilas Hall). While the bulk of the total scope was completed by June 2026, a few installations remain, which will extend the schedule until September 2026. The project continues to trend \$4.0 million under the revised budget.
- UW-Parkside's Network Equipment Refresh project will significantly improve the wireless network performance, reliability, and capacity for students and faculty when they return for the Fall 2026 semester. The project has successfully completed replacement of the core network, and more than 95% of wireless network upgrades will be in service by the start of the semester. The remaining wireless installations are scheduled for completion in September 2026.

Wireless deployment activities were delayed three (3) months due to issues associated with the separate fiber-optic replacement capital project. Following the Department of Administration's (DOA) termination of the original design firm's

contract for poor performance, the project team implemented contingency plans, secured alternative contractor support, and maintained overall project momentum. The required construction work is expected to be completed in August 2026, enabling completion of the remaining wireless installations. Despite these unanticipated challenges, the project is expected to remain within its approved budget.

Migration of more than 4,000 devices to the new wired network has required substantially more effort than originally anticipated due to infrastructure condition issues, incomplete documentation, inventory inaccuracies, and the discovery of numerous undocumented devices. These conditions have increased the discovery and remediation effort required throughout the project. As a result, the project schedule will be extended through September 2027 to complete the remaining wired device migrations. However, user impact is expected to be minimal, as the upgraded wireless environment, which supports the vast majority of daily network usage, will be fully available for Fall 2026.

- UW System's Act 15 Core General Education Requirement - Transfer project was approved during the March 2026 Board of Regents meeting and has been officially initiated. Universities have successfully mapped their courses to the standard CGER categories, technical implementation has started with our transcript and degree audit vendors, and universities are working through the manual credit evaluations required to best serve the students until the automation is in place.

Project leadership is monitoring risks related to competing priorities as many project activities are dependent on existing staff with operational responsibilities. The project remains on schedule and within budget.

- UW System's Central Data Request (CDR) Modernization project successfully built the production environment and university Student Information System (SIS) data is being ingested nightly. Approximately 70B rows of data have been processed with about 40M having changes each day, and the production environment is performing as expected.

Delivery of the pilot data models is currently five (5) months behind schedule due to contract delays and resource constraints among staff balancing project and operational responsibilities. As a result, the original schedule contingency has been fully consumed, and further delays would compress the testing and parallel pilot phase.

Although the schedule variance is not ideal, it reflects deliberate decisions to ensure the long-term sustainability and quality of the solution. Executive sponsors support the current design and remain confident that the overall project completion date can be achieved. They are also actively evaluating staffing demands and resource

allocations to alleviate capacity bottlenecks and mitigate schedule risk. The project remains within budget.

The attached project dashboard and individual progress reports provide additional information and details on the status of each of these major projects.

Related Policies

- [Section 36.59, Wis. Stats.](#), “Information technology”
- [Regent Policy Document 25-4](#), “Strategic Planning and Large or High-Risk Projects”

ATTACHMENTS

- A) Dashboard for the Large/High-Risk Information Technology Projects
- B) Progress Reports for the Large/High-Risk Information Technology Projects

LARGE/HIGH-RISK INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

ROW	Milestone Since Last BOR Meeting	University	Project Name	Start Date	Scoped End Date	Revised Scoped End Date	Original Scoped Project Budget	Revised Scoped Project Budget	Schedule Status	Scope Status	Budget Status	Other Issues	Notes
1	Steady Migrations	UW-Madison	Active Directory Migrations	March 2024	July 2026	December 2026	\$ 4,327,000						The project team continued steady migrations over the past six (6) months. However, the schedule has shifted to yellow since a handful of departments will likely not be completed by December 2026. The project continues to trend \$500k under budget.
2	Steady Progress	UW-Madison	Campus Access Controls Replacement Phase 2	July 2023	December 2027	September 2026	\$ 18,790,000	\$ 8,046,705					After further discovery and risk analysis, project leadership expanded scope to add a handful of wireless locksets and antenna cards along with a full wireless installation at Vilas Hall. While the bulk of the total scope was completed by June 2026, a few installations remain, which will extend the schedule until September 2026. The project continues to trend \$4.0M under the revised budget.
3	Request for Approval	UW-Madison	Research and Administrative Data Center	August 2026	December 2027		\$ 17,000,000						Migrate all IT infrastructure (servers, storage, networking, etc.) from the existing commercial data center from Fitchburg to a new data center in Milwaukee to establish a stable, long-term data center infrastructure to accommodate growing demand for high-density research computing and administrative data processing needs. The schedule is starting as yellow due to known disruptions of IT supply chains related to AI data center buildouts and the geopolitical landscape. The project timeline will be extended if supplier lead times continue to worsen but would likely not impact the budget.
4	Wireless Network in Service	UW-Parkside	Network Equipment Refresh	September 2024	June 2026	September 2027	\$ 3,900,000						The network modernization project will deliver significantly improved performance, reliability, and capacity for Fall 2026. The core network replacement is complete, and more than 95% of wireless network upgrades will be operational by the start of the semester, with the remaining installations scheduled for completion in September 2026. Wireless deployment was delayed three months due to issues with the fiber-optic replacement capital project. Following the Department of Administration's (DOA) termination of the original design firm's contract for poor performance, the project team implemented contingency plans, secured alternative contractor support, and maintained overall project momentum. Despite these challenges the project remains on budget. Migration of more than 4,000 wired devices has required substantially more remediation effort than anticipated, extending the wired migration schedule through September 2027. User impact is expected to be minimal, as the upgraded wireless environment supporting the vast majority of daily network usage will be fully available for Fall 2026.
5	Approved by Board and Steady Progress	UW System	Act 15 Core General Education Requirement - Transfer	April 2026	October 2028		\$ 3,998,101						The project was approved during the March 2026 Board of Regents meeting and has been officially initiated. Universities have successfully mapped their courses to the standard CGER categories, technical implementation has started with our transcript and degree audit vendors, and universities are working through the manual credit evaluations required to best serve the students until the automation is in place. Project leadership is monitoring risks related to competing priorities as many project activities are dependent on existing staff with operational responsibilities. The project remains on schedule and within budget.

DASHBOARD
LARGE/HIGH-RISK INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

ROW	Milestone Since Last BOR Meeting	University	Project Name	Start Date	Scoped End Date	Revised Scoped End Date	Original Scoped Project Budget	Revised Scoped Project Budget	Schedule Status	Scope Status	Budget Status	Other Issues	Notes
6	Production Environment Built	UW System	CDR Modernization	August 2025	August 2028		\$ 3,363,726						The production environment is built, and university SIS data is being ingested nightly. Approximately 70B rows of data have been processed with about 40M having changes each day. The production environment is performing as expected. Delivery of the pilot data models is currently five (5) months behind schedule due to contract delays and resource constraints among staff balancing project and operational responsibilities. As a result, the original schedule contingency has been fully consumed, and further delays would compress the testing and parallel pilot phase. Although the schedule variance is not ideal, it reflects deliberate decisions to ensure the long-term sustainability and quality of the solution. Executive sponsors support the current design and remain confident that the overall project completion date can be achieved. They are also actively evaluating staffing demands and resource allocations to alleviate capacity bottlenecks and mitigate schedule risk. The project remains within budget.

Total Scoped Budget \$ 40,635,532
Prior BOR Meeting Scoped Budget \$ 238,403,548
Change Since Prior BOR Meeting \$ (197,768,016)
% Change Since Prior BOR Meeting -83.0%

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTS FOR THE LARGE/HIGH-RISK INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Active Directory Migrations



Milestone

Steady
Migrations

Description: The Active Directory Migrations Project is a multi-year initiative to centralize the university's distributed directory environments into one Campus Active Directory (CAD) environment.

Impact: The campus has multiple instances of Active Directory (AD) which create challenges in advancing campus-wide cybersecurity controls. Reducing the number of domains on campus by migrating them into Campus Active Directory (CAD) is the most effective and sustainable strategy for reducing attack surface area, applying consistent domain policy and practices, consolidating infrastructure to enable the implementation of modern cybersecurity tooling, and reducing complexity of campuswide services leveraging S/C/D Active Directories. Further, this project will provide a better end-user experience by eliminating multiple credentials used in many environments.

Notes: The project team continued steady migrations over the past six (6) months. However, the schedule has shifted to yellow since a handful of departments will likely not be completed by December 2026. The project continues to trend \$500k under budget.

Timeline

March 2024 – Dec 2026
(shortened from July 2027)
(extended from July 2026)

Budget

\$4,327,000

Source of Funds

Internally Available
to UW-Madison

Current Status:

Schedule
Scope
Budget
Other

Campus Access Controls Replacement – Phase 2



Milestone

Steady
Progress

Description: The second phase of the project to replace the 15-year-old system that controls the electronic door locks across the UW-Madison campus.

Impact: Completion of replacing existing door locks on the legacy software.

Notes: After further discovery and risk analysis, project leadership expanded scope to add a handful of wireless locksets and antenna cards along with a full wireless installation at Vilas Hall. While the bulk of the total scope was completed by June 2026, a few installations remain, which will extend the schedule until September 2026. The project continues to trend \$4.0M under the revised budget.

Timeline

July 2023 – Sept. 2026
(extended from June 2026)
(extended from Jan. 2026)
(extended from Mar. 2025)
(shortened from Dec. 2027)

Budget

\$8,046,705
(reduced from \$8,818,705)
(reduced from \$18,790,000)

Source of Funds

Internally Available
to UW-Madison

Current Status:

Schedule
Scope
Budget
Other

Research and Administrative Data Center



Milestone

Request for
Approval

Description: Migrate all IT infrastructure (servers, storage, networking, etc.) from the existing commercial data center from Fitchburg to a new data center in Milwaukee to establish a stable, long-term data center infrastructure to accommodate growing demand for high-density research computing and administrative data processing needs.

Impact: Provides researchers and administration with mission-critical data center resources, improves the university's ability to secure new grants/contracts, and consolidates physical security and regulatory compliance of IT business assets.

Notes: The schedule is starting as yellow due to known disruptions of IT supply chains related to AI data center buildouts and the geopolitical landscape. The project timeline will be extended if supplier lead times continue to worsen but would likely not impact the budget.

Timeline

Aug 2026 – Dec 2027

Budget

\$17,000,000

Source of Funds

Internally Available
to UW-Madison

Current Status:

Schedule
Scope
Budget
Other

Network Equipment Refresh



Milestone

Wireless
Network in
Service

Description: Upgrade the core wired and wireless campus network by replacing aging hardware, improve capacity, modernizing the architecture, and improving overall security posture. Executed in partnership to the Telecom Cable Replacement capital project, which will handle the construction-related costs to place new wireless access points to improve density and bandwidth.

Impact: Network access for academic classrooms, residence halls, administrative offices, and community spaces will be upgraded in partnership with UW System's IT as a Service (ITaaS) for a more sustainable support model that can be expanded to other universities in the future.

Notes: Students, faculty, and staff will experience significantly improved network performance, reliability, and capacity when they return for Fall 2026. The project has successfully completed replacement of the core network, and more than 95% of wireless network upgrades will be in service by the start of the semester. The remaining wireless installations are scheduled for completion in September 2026.

Timeline

Sept. 2024 – Sept 2027
(extended from June 2026)

Budget

\$3,900,000

Source of Funds

Internally Available
to UW-Parkside
and UW System

Current Status:

Schedule
Scope
Budget
Other

Wireless deployment activities were delayed three months due to issues associated with the fiber-optic replacement capital project. Following the Department of Administration's (DOA) termination of the original design firm's contract for poor performance, the project team implemented contingency plans, secured alternative contractor support, and maintained overall project momentum. The required construction work is expected to be completed in August 2026, enabling completion of the remaining wireless installations. Despite these unanticipated challenges, the project is expected to remain within its approved budget.

Migration of more than 4,000 devices to the new wired network has required substantially more effort than originally anticipated due to infrastructure condition issues, incomplete documentation, inventory inaccuracies, and the discovery of numerous undocumented devices. These conditions have increased the discovery and remediation effort required throughout the project. As a result, the project schedule will be extended through September 2027 to complete the remaining wired device migrations. However, user impact is expected to be minimal, as the upgraded wireless environment, which supports the vast majority of daily network usage, will be fully available for Fall 2026.

ACT 15 Core General Education Requirement - Transfer



Milestone

Approved
by Board
and Steady
Progress

Description: The Wisconsin Legislature passed Act 15, requiring creation of policies for Core General Education Requirements (CGER). The scope of the project to implement this policy includes updating degree audits, mapping course attributes, revising equivalencies, and automating transcript exchange and CGER processes.

Impact: Automation will eliminate the need for additional staff and significantly reduce manual transcript reviews, improving turnaround times and the student experience.

Notes: The project was approved during the March 2026 Board of Regents meeting and has been officially initiated. Universities have successfully mapped their courses to the standard CGER categories, technical implementation has started with our transcript and degree audit vendors, and universities are working through the manual credit evaluations required to best serve the students until the automation is in place.

Project leadership is monitoring risks related to competing priorities as many project activities are dependent on existing staff with operational responsibilities. The project remains on schedule and within budget.

Timeline

April 2026 – Oct 2028

Budget

\$3,998,101

Source of Funds

Internally Available
to the UW System

Current Status:

Schedule
Scope
Budget
Other

Central Data Request (CDR) Modernization



Milestone

Production
Environment
Built

Description: The project will modernize the data infrastructure and overall data collection process to provide new university-level student data warehouse capabilities while also streamlining submission of Central Data Request (CDR) at the system-level.

Impact: The new approach will create a sustainable CDR data collection process that reduces effort, aligns to broader data strategies, and reduces the lag-time to report official numbers while collectively reducing or avoiding \$1.4M in annual operating expense.

Notes: The production environment is built, and university SIS data is being ingested nightly. Approximately 70B rows of data have been processed with about 40M having changes each day. The production environment is performing as expected.

Delivery of the pilot data models is currently five (5) months behind schedule due to contract delays and resource constraints among staff balancing project and operational responsibilities. As a result, the original schedule contingency has been fully consumed, and further delays would compress the testing and parallel pilot phase.

Although the schedule variance is not ideal, it reflects deliberate decisions to ensure the long-term sustainability and quality of the solution. Executive sponsors support the current design and remain confident that the overall project completion date can be achieved. They are also actively evaluating staffing demands and resource allocations to alleviate capacity bottlenecks and mitigate schedule risk. The project remains within budget.

Timeline

Aug 2025 – Aug 2028

Budget

\$3,363,726

Source of Funds

Internally Available
to the UW System

Current Status:

Schedule
Scope
Budget
Other

**APPROVAL OF THE 2027-29 BIENNIAL OPERATING
BUDGET REQUEST**

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of Resolution I., approving the 2027-29 Biennial Operating Budget Request.

- Resolution I.** That, upon the recommendation of the Interim President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the submission of:
- (1) the Board's 2027-29 Biennial Operating Budget request, totaling \$730,000,000 biennially in General Purpose Revenue (GPR) for key initiatives;
 - (2) a request to the Higher Educational Aids Board to fully fund tuition remissions for eligible veterans along with their spouses and children as required by Wisconsin law;
 - (3) a request to the newly elected Governor and state legislators to provide funding to Wisconsin school districts to expand dual enrollment opportunities;
 - (4) the Wisconsin Grant-UW request to the Higher Educational Aids Board for inclusion in its 2027-29 biennial budget request totaling \$10,500,000 in ongoing funds;
 - (5) two statutory language requests that would modify an allocation model and change an appropriation of funds first provided in 2025 Wisconsin Act 15;
 - (6) the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's request for additional funding for services and equipment totaling approximately \$220,000 in one-time funds and an additional \$82,300 in ongoing funds;
 - (7) the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene's request for additional funding for services and equipment totaling approximately \$720,000 in one-time funds and an additional \$3,121,500 in ongoing funds.

In addition, the Board of Regents delegates authority to the UW System President to approve and submit a 0% and 5% biennial budget reduction plan, as required by 2015 WI Act 201, and to revise the

standard budget adjustment amount as needed, when calculated and finalized by the State's Department of Administration (DOA).

SUMMARY

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System is required to submit a budget request to the DOA by September 15 of each even-numbered year. The UW President provides the Regents, for their consideration, a recommended submission at the August meeting in the same even-numbered year.

The 2027-29 biennial budget request includes General Purpose Revenue (GPR) to address college affordability for Wisconsinites and enable the Universities of Wisconsin to address some of the state's most pressing needs. The UW request, which totals \$730 million over the biennium and is summarized in Attachment A, includes funding focused on three promises that continue to ensure "Wisconsin's Future is Built Here" at the Universities of Wisconsin:

- Ensure every Wisconsinite has access to an affordable, high-quality UW education
- Build Wisconsin's workforce and next generation of businesses
- Advance life-saving discoveries and improve access to health care across Wisconsin

The budget presentation will include remarks from three UW Chancellors and their guests, who will share their perspectives on the importance of these initiatives to their universities and to the students and communities they serve. For these initiatives, a summary of the funding that would be provided to each UW university is included in Attachment A.

The request also includes standard budget adjustments and recommended statutory language changes. The budget recommendation also includes forwarding a request to the state's Higher Educational Aids Board to raise the maximum Wisconsin Grant award amount and further the goal of covering half of the average tuition and fee costs at the comprehensive universities. Lastly, the request includes items for the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, which require Board approval as they are administratively attached to UW-Madison.

Presenters

- Julie Gordon, Vice President for Finance & Administration, UW Administration
- Lynn Akey, Chancellor, UW-Parkside
- Tammy Evetovich, Chancellor, UW-Platteville
- John Chenoweth, Interim Chancellor, UW-River Falls

Related Policies

- [Chapter 16.42](#), Wis. Stats.
- [Chapter 36](#), Wis. Stats.
- [Chapter 230](#), Wis. Stats.

ATTACHMENT

- A) 2027-29 Biennial Operating Budget Request



2027-29

Biennial Operating Budget Request

Universities of Wisconsin
August 2026

**2027-29 BIENNIAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Summary and Background	1.
Ensuring Affordability to Every Wisconsinite Requests	6.
Building Wisconsin's Workforce & Next Generation of Businesses Requests	10.
Advancing Discoveries & Improving Access to Healthcare Requests	15.
Standard Budget Adjustments	18.
Statutory Language Requests	18.
Wisconsin Grant-UW Request	19.
Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) Requests	19.
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) Requests	20.

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

The UWs Board of Regents is required to submit a budget request to the Department of Administration (DOA) by September 15 of each even-numbered year. The UW President provides the Regents, for their consideration, a recommended submission at the August meeting in the same even-numbered year.

The 2027-29 biennial budget request includes General Purpose Revenue (GPR) to address college affordability for Wisconsinites and enable the Universities of Wisconsin to address some of the most pressing needs of our state. The Universities of Wisconsin will address these challenges by building on its 175-year history of preparing Wisconsinites for the careers of today and tomorrow, as well as advancing discoveries that help save lives every day.

The UW request, which totals \$730 million over the biennium and is summarized below, includes funding focused on three promises that continue to ensure Wisconsin's Future is Built Here at the Universities of Wisconsin:

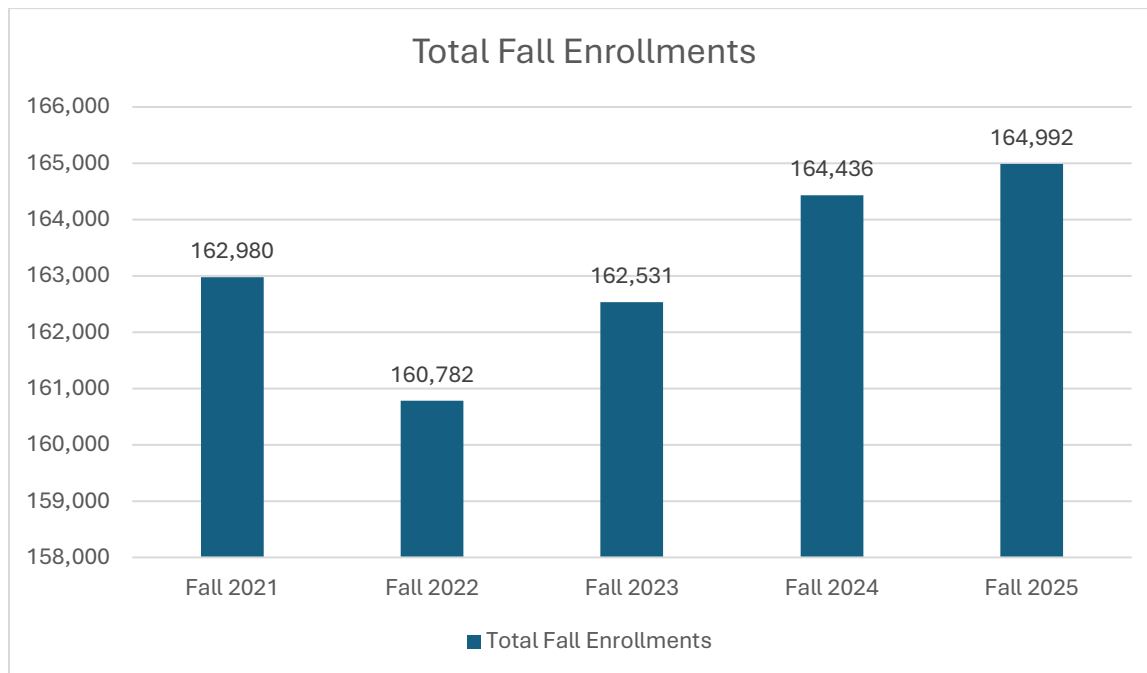
- Ensure every Wisconsinite has access to an affordable, high-quality UW education
- Build Wisconsin's workforce and next generation of businesses
- Advance life-saving discoveries and improve access to health care across Wisconsin

The request also includes items for the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) and the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH), which require Board approval as they are administratively attached to UW-Madison. The budget recommendation includes forwarding a request to the state's Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) to raise the maximum Wisconsin Grant award amount and further the goal of covering half of the average tuition and fee costs at the comprehensive universities. Lastly, the budget includes standard budget adjustments. A summary of individual requests by UW university is provided within the narrative of each initiative.

Promise	FY28	FY29 Ongoing Request	Biennial Request
Ensure Affordable, High-Quality Education for Wisconsinites	\$137,000,000	\$173,000,000	\$310,000,000
Build Wisconsin's Workforce and Businesses	\$120,000,000	\$120,000,000	\$240,000,000
Advance Life-Saving Discoveries and Improve Access to Health Care	\$57,500,000	\$57,500,000	\$115,000,000
Standard Budget Adjustments	\$32,500,000	\$32,500,000	\$65,000,000
Recommendation	\$347,000,000	\$383,000,000	\$730,000,000

Despite demographic and international recruitment headwinds, the Universities of Wisconsin have grown enrollment over the last several years, reversing recent declines. University leadership has taken the necessary steps to ensure both short- and long-term financial sustainability, leading to the elimination of structural deficits across all 13 universities and the dedication of more resources

to academic instruction, student support services, and ensuring every student is career ready upon graduation.



Wisconsin's biggest workforce challenge over the next decade is not a lack of jobs—it's a lack of workers. An aging population, retirements, and relatively slow labor-force growth mean employers will compete intensely for talent across several sectors. The greatest shortages are expected in health care; engineering and advanced manufacturing; computer science, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and data analytics; education; and business, supply chain and logistics, with health care representing the single largest workforce challenge due to an aging population and resource utilization. By continuing to keep higher education affordable, addressing student needs, and further shortening time to degree, the Universities of Wisconsin are uniquely positioned to help educate today's students to meet the needs of Wisconsin employers.

From Cisco, Epic Systems and Microsoft to Culvers, Menards and Kimberly Clark, Universities of Wisconsin graduates—which number 30,000 strong every year—have founded or led some of Wisconsin's and the nation's most iconic brands and businesses. Many of their stories start out the same. An innovative idea nurtured by hard work and perseverance and forged with the knowledge and leadership acquired during their time at their alma mater sparks success that breeds a growing and thriving business. The Universities of Wisconsin prepare thousands of undergraduate and graduate students as the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders. Furthermore, colleges and schools within our UWs, along with continuing education programs, UW Extension, and UW Office of Business and Entrepreneurship, provide technical assistance and training to Wisconsinites looking to start or expand businesses in all 72 counties.

Researchers, faculty, staff and students across the Universities of Wisconsin are also on the cutting edge of scientific discoveries that help improve our daily lives and make the once impossible

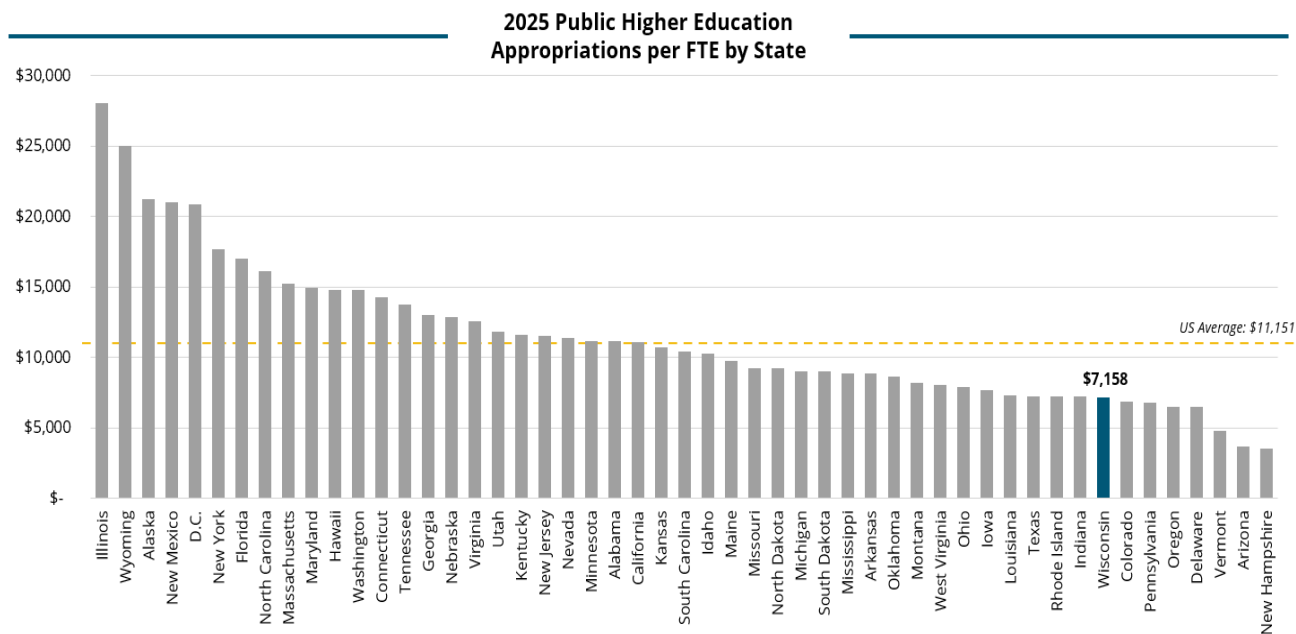
treatment or cure possible. The Universities of Wisconsin have a long history of being on the forefront of medical advances, including vitamin discoveries and vitamin D fortification, new drug advances such as the chemotherapy drug 5-fluorouracil, transplantation, and medical device innovation in areas such as medical imaging, diagnostics, digital health sensors, neuromodulation/brain-mapping devices, and healthcare informatics.

Outside health sciences, Universities of Wisconsin research can be found in Wisconsin homes, businesses, and factory floors. Cutting-edge research has led to discoveries in fields such as biotechnology, agriculture, freshwater, and advanced manufacturing, leading to the creation of thousands of jobs, lower costs for consumers, and improved quality and safety for workers and consumers.

Prior State Investments

2025 marked the first significant state investment in higher education after decades of reductions or minimal non-debt service or compensation related priorities. This historic level of lagging financial support continues to constrain the Universities' ability to meet the state's needs and ensure that a University of Wisconsin education is affordable for Wisconsinites.

The latest SHEEO analysis of public higher education financing, reflecting state support, shows that Wisconsin currently ranks 43rd out of the 50 states in public funding to support 4-year universities. The UWs received GPR of \$7,158 per student (FTE) while the national average was \$11,151. For comparison, Wisconsin technical colleges received GPR \$14,099 per student on average, ranking them 8th highest amongst two-year institutions in the country.



Biennial Budget Promises

This \$730 million ongoing biennial budget request allows the Universities of Wisconsin to address affordability and pressing needs across the state of Wisconsin and includes initiatives in three strategic areas, along with an estimate for standard budget adjustments. Each of these areas are aligned with the 2023-28 strategic plan approved by the Board of Regents in December 2022. A summary of each of the strategic areas is set forth below with additional detail starting on page 7.

- Promise #1: Every Wisconsinite will have access to an affordable, high-quality UW education.

The Universities of Wisconsin will be the Midwest leader in college affordability as measured by tuition relative to median household income. Central to addressing affordability, the Board of Regents is committing to freeze undergraduate resident tuition over the next two academic years (2027-28 and 2028-29) upon passage of its budget request. In addition to a tuition freeze for the 2027-29 biennium, the Universities of Wisconsin would limit any potential increases in the 2029-31 biennium to no more than the rate of inflation. To close the opportunity gap, the Wisconsin Work and Learn Promise would cover tuition through financial aid for Wisconsin students attending any UW university from households below the median household income, while requiring a work component. The initiative is comparable to other states' efforts to ensure educational opportunities for all their residents. Additionally, it will provide the Universities with funding to support the needs of our veterans, their children and spouses, and the state-mandated tuition remissions.

- Promise #2: Build Wisconsin's workforce and next generation of businesses.

The Universities of Wisconsin will graduate 300,000 new career-ready workers, upskill one million workers for better jobs, and assist Wisconsinites in creating 2,500 new businesses over a decade. These initiatives are designed to help Wisconsinites advance their careers, start new businesses, and work with employers to support their workforce needs. Funding would be provided to accelerate career readiness beginning in high school through the expansion of dual enrollment college courses and continue into college through increased enhanced academic and career counseling, additional internship and student work experiences, and increased student support services. Continuing education, online programs, professional learning, and credentialing programs will be expanded to assist Wisconsin adults looking to learn new skills, complete a degree, or retrain to stay relevant in today's workforce. Lastly, University of Wisconsin faculty and researchers will harness new ideas to help Wisconsin businesses bring products to market and expand their Made in Wisconsin brands across the globe.

- Promise #3: Advance life-saving discoveries and improve access to health care across Wisconsin.

The Universities of Wisconsin will improve access to care by increasing the number of health care professionals serving Wisconsin communities by 35,000 health care professionals by 2037. UW researchers will advance our knowledge to find new cures and treatments for illnesses and diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's. Funding will support increased enrollment capacity, expanded faculty and instructional resources, development of new academic programs, and strengthened educational pathways that prepare more qualified professionals to serve communities across the state. Investments will also expand behavioral health training opportunities and increase the number of licensed providers available to meet growing demand for healthcare and mental health services throughout Wisconsin. Additionally, investments would support research and innovation across a broad range of health challenges, including infectious and inflammatory diseases, neurological disorders, and other significant conditions. These

initiatives strengthen the entire innovation pipeline, from discovery and translation to commercialization by expanding research capacity, clinical and community partnerships, student training opportunities, and technologies that enhance quality of life, prevention, and care.

- Standard Budget Adjustments:** This estimate includes items that will need to be requested to support current operating levels such as fringe benefit increases.

Additionally, the Board is being asked to approve funding requests for the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the State Lab of Hygiene, which are administratively attached to UW-Madison, and for the UW's Wisconsin Grant program, which will be forwarded to the Higher Educational Aids Board for inclusion in its 2027-29 biennial budget request.

Lastly, the Universities of Wisconsin 2027-29 biennial budget recommendation includes a request for two statutory changes. 2025 Wisconsin Act 15, the 2025-27 biennial budget, provided additional funding to universities with declining enrollment over the past 10 years. While this funding is appreciated, relatively small enrollment increases and decreases result in some universities frequently switching from being eligible and ineligible for this funding. The Universities of Wisconsin request that the funding be allocated on a student credit hour basis to eliminate the volatility of the current allocation methodology. Second, Act 15 also provided additional funding for high-demand faculty in a separate UW appropriation. The Universities of Wisconsin request that this funding be added to the UW's general operating appropriation. Through coding within Workday, the UWs will still be able to track and monitor this funding to ensure legislative intent is met.

Ensuring Affordability to Every Wisconsinite				
Initiative	FY28	FY29 Ongoing Request	Biennial Request	FTE Request
4-Year Tuition Pledge	\$85,000,000	\$105,000,000	\$190,000,000	89.0
Wisconsin Work & Learn	\$17,000,000	\$33,000,000	\$50,000,000	0.0
Veterans Tuition Remissions	-	-	-	-
UW Excellence	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000	\$70,000,000	0.0
Recommendation	\$137,000,000	\$173,000,000	\$310,000,000	0.0

4-Year Tuition Pledge

\$105.0M Ongoing

Affordability has been and continues to be a primary focus of the Universities of Wisconsin, resulting in UW tuition rates consistently at or near the lowest of their peer groups. To further solidify the UWs' long-standing position as a leader in affordability, this funding allows the UWs to freeze tuition for resident undergraduate students during the 2027-29 biennium. To provide additional predictability, the UWs would commit to limiting any potential tuition increases in the 2029-31 biennium to no more than the rate of inflation.

Past tuition increases have largely been driven by the requirement that the UWs cover 30% of the State's pay plan and fringe benefits, as well as inflationary pressures on goods and services. The requested funding would address these needs. In addition, this request includes \$45.0 million annually to further develop the UW's artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities in an ethical manner. Funding for increasingly costly AI infrastructure and resources ensures students, faculty and staff have access to vital technology that supports teaching and learning without the need for tuition increases.

The UW's AI approach is multi-faceted, including:

- AI infrastructure to build and operate a high-performance computing environment for large-scale AI work. The investment covers the hardware, software, and networking infrastructure required to run advanced AI systems, as well as the staff needed to manage the environment and support faculty and students in their AI research and coursework. Rather than renting computing power from commercial vendors at escalating costs, this infrastructure would be owned and operated by the Universities of Wisconsin, giving Wisconsin universities reliable, affordable access to the computing resources needed to train and develop AI tools.
- Enterprise licenses that provide appropriate coverage for UW faculty, staff, and students to access the leading AI tools currently available, such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and specialized AI platforms, at a level beyond the free versions available to the general public.
- Data infrastructure and cybersecurity enhancements to further ensure that AI can be deployed safely and effectively at scale across the UWs and that the UWs' capabilities keep pace with the evolving threats of an AI-enabled world.

- Resources and staffing needed to ensure that UW faculty, staff, and students have the knowledge and confidence to use AI responsibly and effectively. This includes access to external training programs, online learning platforms, and fellowship opportunities, as well as dedicated specialists at each university who work directly with faculty and instructional staff to thoughtfully incorporate AI into courses and academic programs, research, and operations.

Wisconsin Work & Learn

\$33.0M Ongoing

The Wisconsin Work & Learn program will cover the cost of tuition and segregated fees for eligible students and, in turn, require those students to work while attending school. Work may include employment both on and off campus, including internships, co-ops, service learning, practicums, and student teaching.

Eligible students include incoming Wisconsin freshman and transfer students beginning in the fall of 2027 whose household adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$77,500 or less, the median AGI in Wisconsin. This is a “last dollar” program, meaning the Work & Learn program dollars will be applied after all other scholarships and grants have been exhausted. Freshmen will be eligible for four years and transfer students will be eligible for two years.

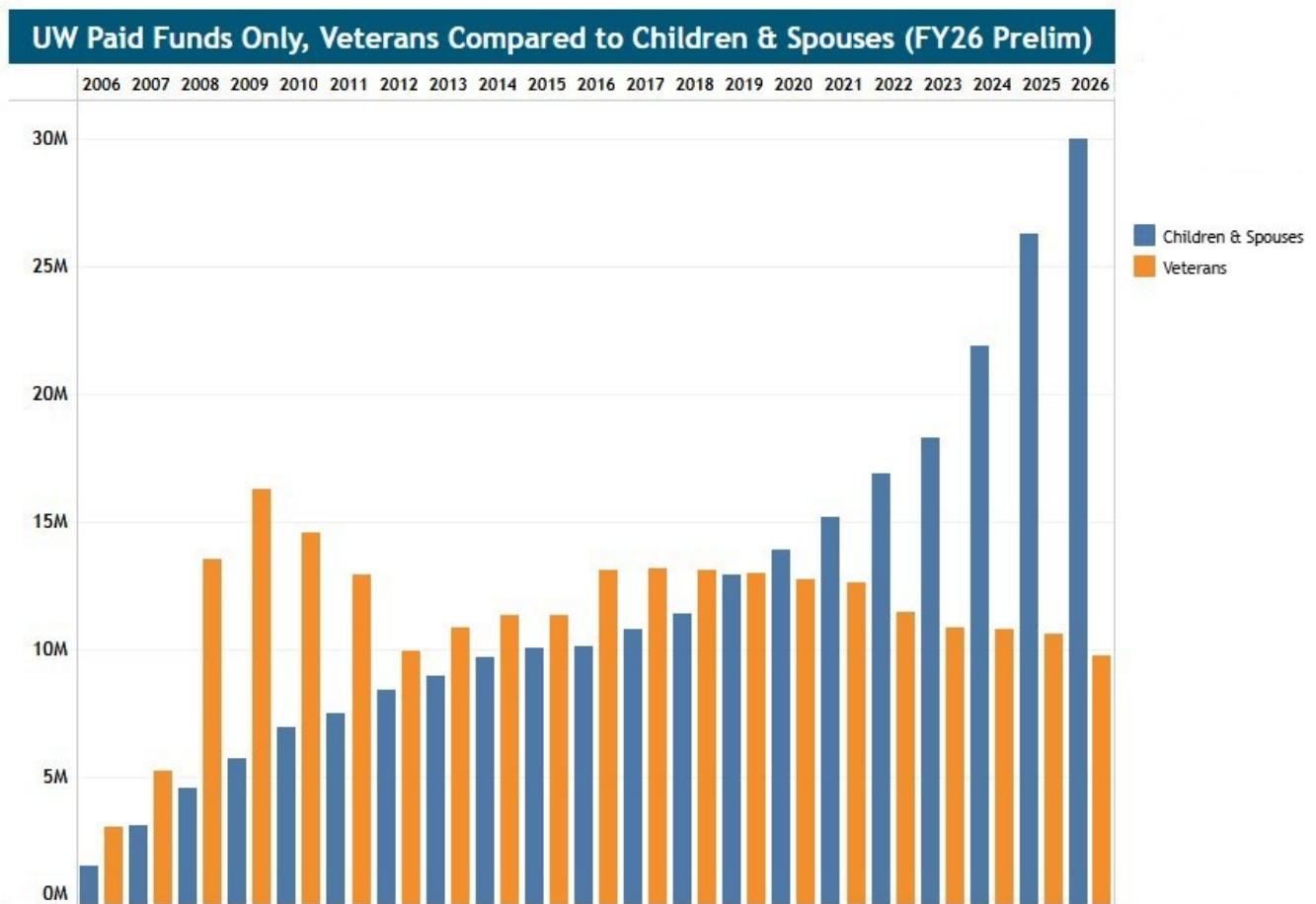
The total cost for a four-year cohort is estimated to be \$108 million, benefiting approximately 6,000 Wisconsin students in the first two years.

Veterans Tuition Remissions

The Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) currently receives a state appropriation to reimburse the Universities of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Technical Colleges for tuition remissions mandated by the Wisconsin GI Bill. However, the approximately \$5.4 million appropriated to the UWs supports less than 15% of current remissions. As part of the 2027-29 biennial budget, the Universities of Wisconsin recommend that HEAB include a request in its budget to fully fund the UW remitted tuition.

While the number of veterans eligible for Wisconsin GI Bill benefits has been relatively stable, the number of children and spouses of veterans with federally determined service-connected disability ratings has risen sharply at both the state and federal levels. As a result, over the last 5 years, Wisconsin GI Bill tuition remissions have grown by an average of 8.3% annually. Below is a table showing historical UW funding for Wisconsin veteran-related students.

Assuming the trend continues and if the current HEAB funding remains flat as it has over the past several years, the unfunded remissions are projected to total nearly \$80.0 million over the biennium. The UWs are honored to educate Wisconsin veterans and their families, and full funding from the state would ensure that universities have the resources to provide all students the quality education and services they deserve.



UW Excellence

\$35.0M Ongoing

The UWs' talented faculty and staff are some of our greatest assets. To ensure a high-quality educational experience and well-run organization, the UWs need to ensure they are compensated at rates comparable to the local, regional, and sometimes national markets.

Unfortunately, compensation for several categories of UW employees now lag behind those markets. For example, instructional academic staff, which include, but are not limited to, lecturers and clinical instructors, are currently 17% behind the national median at the UW comprehensive universities. UW-Milwaukee's instructional academic staff lag the national median by 42%. In addition, UWs are also experiencing retention issues with certain university staff titles, such as police officers, custodians, and power plant operators, who often leave for other governmental positions or the private sector. While the requested funding does not close the entire gap, it allows UWs to raise starting salaries to be more competitive and provides some funds for limited market-based increases.

Ensuring Affordability to Every Wisconsinite – FY 2028 Funding by UW University (in millions):

University	Tuition Pledge		Work and Learn		UW Excellence	
	Funding	FTE	Funding	FTE	Funding	FTE
UW-Eau Claire	\$4.7	5.5	\$1.0	0.0	2.4	0.0
UW-Green Bay	3.9	5.1	0.8	0.0	1.8	0.0
UW-La Crosse	5.3	5.9	1.5	0.0	2.7	0.0
UW-Madison	35.1	26.1	6.0	0.0	10.6	0.0
UW-Milwaukee	9.1	8.6	2.6	0.0	4.8	0.0
UW-Oshkosh	4.2	5.3	0.7	0.0	2.0	0.0
UW-Parkside	1.9	3.9	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0
UW-Platteville	3.6	4.8	0.7	0.0	1.7	0.0
UW-River Falls	2.7	4.3	0.4	0.0	1.2	0.0
UW-Stevens Point	4.2	5.2	1.4	0.0	2.1	0.0
UW-Stout Polytechnic	3.3	4.7	0.8	0.0	1.6	0.0
UW-Superior	1.4	3.6	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0
UW-Whitewater	5.6	6.0	0.8	0.0	2.8	0.0
UW Administration	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	\$85.0	89.0	\$17.0	0.0	35.0	0.0

Ensuring Affordability to Every Wisconsinite – FY 2029 Funding by UW University (in millions):

University	Tuition Pledge		Work and Learn		UW Excellence	
	Funding	FTE	Funding	FTE	Funding	FTE
UW-Eau Claire	\$6.1	5.5	\$1.9	0.0	2.4	0.0
UW-Green Bay	4.9	5.1	1.5	0.0	1.8	0.0
UW-La Crosse	6.9	5.9	2.9	0.0	2.7	0.0
UW-Madison	41.2	26.1	12.0	0.0	10.6	0.0
UW-Milwaukee	11.9	8.6	4.9	0.0	4.8	0.0
UW-Oshkosh	5.3	5.3	1.4	0.0	2.0	0.0
UW-Parkside	2.3	3.9	0.3	0.0	1.7	0.0
UW-Platteville	4.5	4.8	1.3	0.0	0.8	0.0
UW-River Falls	3.4	4.3	0.7	0.0	1.2	0.0
UW-Stevens Point	5.4	5.2	2.6	0.0	2.1	0.0
UW-Stout Polytechnic	4.2	4.7	1.5	0.0	1.6	0.0
UW-Superior	1.7	3.6	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
UW-Whitewater	7.2	6.0	1.5	0.0	2.8	0.0
UW Administration	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	\$105.0	89.0	\$33.0	0.0	35.0	0.0

Building Wisconsin's Workforce & Next Generation of Businesses				
Initiative	FY28	FY29 Ongoing Request	Biennial Request	FTE Request
Tech for Tomorrow	\$45,000,000	\$45,000,000	\$90,000,000	71.80
Accelerate WI	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$50,000,000	95.95
U Succeed	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$50,000,000	117.65
UW for U	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$50,000,000	123.00
Wisconsin Jump Start	-	-	-	0.0
Recommendation	\$120,000,000	\$120,000,000	\$240,000,000	408.40

Tech for Tomorrow

\$45.0M Ongoing

Tech for Tomorrow will ensure Wisconsin's economic and workforce competitiveness will be strengthened through investments in emerging technologies, research, workforce training, industry partnerships, and experiential learning. These efforts will accelerate the transition of new technologies from research labs to commercialization and help Wisconsin consumers and businesses in areas such as agriculture, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, and freshwater innovation. Expanding capacity in areas such as these will attract investment, support strategic industries, improve environmental and health outcomes, and develop a highly skilled workforce prepared to meet the state's evolving needs. Examples of proposed university investments include:

UW-Madison would use this funding to address the needs for modernization and additional capital equipment investments at the state's 15 agricultural research stations. The research stations support Wisconsin's agricultural economy through applied crop, soil, livestock, and environmental research used directly by producers. They also provide critical information to state agencies, conservation partners, and communities on water quality, climate adaptation, and natural resource management. In addition, the stations provide hands-on research experiences that help prepare the state's future agricultural and environmental workforce. Modernization and capital equipment investments at the stations would further facilitate student learning opportunities across UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and UW-River Falls.

UW-La Crosse would create an Empowering Quality, Use, And Innovation in Practical Technology (EQUIPT) program that will function as a regional catalyst for emerging technologies, strengthening partnerships between the university, local employers, and community organizations to address workforce needs and regional challenges in the areas of agriculture, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and freshwater industries. By connecting academic expertise with real-world applications, EQUIPT will help advance emerging technologies from research to commercialization while expanding opportunities for applied research, innovation, and talent development. Wisconsin businesses and consumers will benefit from greater access to faculty expertise,

research capabilities, and a pipeline of skilled graduates prepared to meet evolving workforce demands.

UW-Milwaukee would use this funding to establish a multidisciplinary artificial intelligence (AI) for manufacturing initiative that expands research and teaching capacity, strengthens partnerships with Wisconsin manufacturers, and prepares the future workforce through enhanced student research opportunities. The addition of a dedicated faculty expert and student research fellowships is expected to attract significant external funding, engage more than 100 students in research experiences, and position the university as a leader in advanced manufacturing innovation across multiple industries.

Accelerate WI

\$25.0M Ongoing

Accelerate WI will strengthen Wisconsin's economic competitiveness by supporting entrepreneurship, business creation and expansion, commercialization, responsible AI adoption, and workforce development. Investments will help move new technologies from research to market, expand entrepreneurship education and business support, develop new Wisconsin products and markets, and address workforce needs through industry-responsive education and training. These efforts will foster business growth, support emerging entrepreneurs and underserved communities, and position Wisconsin for continued economic growth, innovation, and workforce success. Examples of proposed university investments include:

UW-Stevens Point would establish the Central Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Center at UW-Stevens Point by bringing together the Sentry School of Business and Economics and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in the future Sentry Hall, creating a consolidated and visible hub for entrepreneurship services and programming. The Center would expand the scale and scope of both credit and noncredit entrepreneurship education, provide one-on-one mentorship for student entrepreneurs, offer fractional expertise and operational services to help emerging businesses grow, and establish long-term funding for the SBDC site in Antigo to continue serving northern Wisconsin. It would also serve as a regional entrepreneurship touchpoint by convening partners, coordinating services, expanding networking opportunities, supporting entrepreneurship financing efforts, collaborating with entrepreneurship programs across the Universities of Wisconsin, and connecting alumni entrepreneurs with students and community entrepreneurs to strengthen the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem.

UW-Platteville would expand entrepreneurship, rural business development, and e-commerce across Southwest Wisconsin. This investment would strengthen the region's agricultural, manufacturing, and small business sectors through enhanced business support and expanded innovative programs such as UW-Extension business support, mobile processing units, innovation center expansion and strengthened corporate partnership pipelines. Focused on hands-on training, digital literacy, and commercialization, this initiative aims to modernize rural economies and supply chains while supporting rural business growth, expanding entrepreneurship opportunities across counties, and advancing agricultural workforce development.

UW-River Falls proposes a targeted investment to strengthen Wisconsin's entrepreneurial ecosystem and support the creation and expansion of value-added agricultural and food-based businesses, both within UW-River Falls and with regional partners. This initiative builds on the

university's established strengths and existing infrastructure, including its Meat Plant, Dairy Pilot Plant, laboratory farms, and University Business Collaboration Center, which together provides a unique, integrated platform for product development, testing, and market entry. The proposed investment will expand the university's capacity to support entrepreneurs, small businesses, and industry partners by enhancing coordination, technical expertise, and facility utilization.

U Succeed

\$25.0M Ongoing

U Succeed will ensure UW students have the academic, career, and support services needed to succeed in college and graduate ready for tomorrow's workforce. Investments in advising, career counseling, mental health services, high-impact learning experiences, and financial and basic needs support will improve student retention and graduation rates while expanding access to internships, undergraduate research, experiential learning, and other career-connected opportunities that prepare graduates to meet Wisconsin's workforce needs. Examples of proposed university investments include:

UW-Green Bay will strengthen student success by providing proactive, personalized support from enrollment through graduation, improving retention, degree completion, career readiness, and post-graduation outcomes. Investments in internship coordination, career advising, community-based learning coordination, academic advising, success coaching, peer mentoring, tutoring, and student success technology will help students navigate their academic pathways, connect coursework to career opportunities, access timely support, and build stronger connections to campus and the workforce.

UW-Whitewater would enhance student support services by expanding access to licensed mental health counselors to reduce wait times, restore regular counseling for students, and improve the quality, privacy, security, and effectiveness of clinical services through facility, technology, and operational improvements. It would also expand financial literacy education, financial aid assistance, and personal financial coaching through campus support centers. They would also add professional academic advisors dedicated to graduate students in both in-person and online programs, providing targeted support while strengthening academic support for graduate students to aid in persistence.

UW for U

\$25.0M Ongoing

UW for U strengthens Wisconsin's workforce pipeline by expanding degree completion, competency-based education, continuing education, online learning, workforce-aligned programs, and industry-responsive credentials. Developed in partnership with employers and informed by labor market needs, these efforts will increase access to workforce-relevant education, strengthen transfer and experiential learning pathways, and prepare learners of all backgrounds for high-demand careers while supporting economic growth across Wisconsin. Examples of proposed university investments include:

UW-Stout Polytechnic has supported working professionals through flexible educational pathways since 1999. This investment would strengthen the infrastructure needed to expand competency-based education by aligning student services and learning delivery through a coordinated systems

approach, ultimately increasing degree and certification completions. The funding would also enhance support for re-entry students by providing dedicated academic advising, tutoring and peer mentoring helping students successfully return, persist, and graduate on time. Additionally, scholarships may be provided to make a polytechnic college education affordable.

UW-Superior will collaborate with external workforce development partners to develop and deliver ten new noncredit professional development microcredentials and/or customized training offerings, ten new credit-bearing microcredentials that address workforce and learner needs and build one reduced credit degree program. They will also design and host an annual one-day event on high-demand topics with a target enrollment of 50 participants.

Wisconsin Jump Start

This is a pivotal time for a state investment to expand dual enrollment opportunities for all Wisconsin high school students through a comprehensive, statewide funding model that supports dual enrollment in all its forms including Early College Credit Programs (ECCP), Start College Now, concurrent enrollment partnerships between institutions and school districts (also referred to as College Credit in High Schools, Dual Enrollment at the High School, or Transcribed Credit, among other terms) and dual credit. Such an investment will reduce financial barriers for Wisconsin students, provide sustainable funding and avoid financial burdens on school districts, and increase access to high-quality college coursework, particularly for students in rural and underserved communities.

Expanding dual enrollment opportunities will accelerate student success, strengthen pathways to post-secondary credentials, and help meet Wisconsin's future workforce needs by allowing more students to earn transferable college credit while still in high school. Generally, in states with the highest levels of dual enrollment participation, the state, rather than students, pays most or all the tuition, and the program is available statewide, not through isolated local agreements.

The Board of Regents recommends that the state include such a program in its biennial budget. No amount is included within the UW's request because the money would be allocated to an administering state agency, for distribution to Wisconsin school districts.

Building Wisconsin's Workforce and Next Generation of Businesses – Annual Funding by UW University (in millions):

	Tech for Tomorrow		Accelerate WI		U Succeed		UW for U	
University	Funding	FTE	Funding	FTE	Funding	FTE	Funding	FTE
UW-Eau Claire	\$2.0	5.00	\$1.7	5.00	\$1.6	7.00	\$1.7	8.50
UW-Green Bay	1.5	5.00	1.3	10.00	1.3	11.00	1.3	15.00
UW-La Crosse	2.7	5.00	2.0	6.25	1.9	7.00	2.0	8.00
UW-Madison	20.0	7.00	7.6	24.00	7.7	8.00	7.6	27.00
UW-Milwaukee	6.4	11.00	3.4	8.00	3.5	27.00	3.4	17.00
UW-Oshkosh	1.7	11.00	1.4	8.00	1.2	7.90	1.4	9.00
UW-Parkside	0.9	1.00	0.6	3.00	0.6	6.5	0.6	3.00
UW-Platteville	1.3	-	1.2	3.00	1.2	8.00	1.2	3.00
UW-River Falls	1.1	4.00	0.9	4.00	0.9	7.00	0.9	8.00
UW-Stevens Point	2.0	8.80	1.5	10.00	1.5	14.25	1.5	12.00
UW-Stout Polytechnic	1.6	6.00	1.1	5.20	1.2	7.00	1.1	7.00
UW-Superior	1.0	4.00	0.3	1.50	0.4	3.00	0.3	1.50
UW-Whitewater	2.8	4.00	2.0	8.00	2.0	4.00	2.0	4.00
UW Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	\$45.0	71.80	\$25.0	95.95	\$25.0	117.65	\$25.0	123.00

Advancing Discoveries & Improving Access to Health Care				
Initiative	FY28	FY29 Ongoing Request	Biennial Request	FTE Request
Healthy Wisconsin	\$45,000,000	\$45,000,000	\$90,000,000	82.50
Cures for Tomorrow	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000	\$25,000,000	42.00
Recommendation	\$57,500,000	\$57,500,000	\$115,000,000	124.50

Healthy Wisconsin

\$45.0M Ongoing

Wisconsin continues to face significant workforce shortages across healthcare and behavioral health professions, including nursing, pharmacy, allied health, healthcare administration, counseling, social work, and other emerging fields. To address these critical needs, funding will support increased enrollment capacity, expanded faculty and instructional resources, development of new academic programs, and strengthened educational pathways that prepare more qualified health care professionals to serve communities across the state. Investments will also expand behavioral health training opportunities and increase the number of licensed providers available to meet growing demand for healthcare and mental health services throughout Wisconsin. Examples of proposed university investments include:

UW-La Crosse will grow its healthcare programs, such as those for physician assistants, physical therapists, and radiation therapy. The requested funding will allow faculty, instructional academic staff, and support staff to provide student services, including instruction, academic success support, career advising, financial aid, and enhanced clinical training opportunities in rural environments for medical and all health care students. UW-La Crosse will implement a preceptor training program to train practicing professionals to provide guidance, teaching, and evaluation within the students' clinical sites. Investments in distance education technology and infrastructure, lab enhancements, and other student spaces will be necessary.

UW-Parkside will expand healthcare education opportunities in southeastern Wisconsin by developing accredited nursing programs that increase the pipeline of qualified healthcare professionals entering Wisconsin's workforce. Through expanded clinical partnerships with hospitals, health systems, long-term care facilities, and community health organizations, students will gain greater access to high-quality hands-on training and experiential learning opportunities. These partnerships will strengthen alignment between academic programming and employer workforce needs, ensuring graduates develop the clinical, technical, and professional competencies most in demand across healthcare settings. By creating stronger pathways from education to employment and responding directly to regional workforce shortages, UW-Parkside will increase the number of practice-ready healthcare professionals available to improve access to care and support the health needs of communities throughout Wisconsin.

UW-Oshkosh will enhance health-related academic programs and training capacity to increase the number of qualified healthcare professionals entering Wisconsin's workforce. By strengthening programs across nursing, health professions, STEM, population health, and health informatics, the university will provide more students with access to high-quality clinical, simulation, and

community-based learning experiences that prepare them for practice in today's evolving healthcare environment. The integration of digital care, analytics, artificial intelligence, and population health competencies into curricula will support growth in program enrollment and graduate output. These efforts will strengthen workforce readiness, create additional pathways into high-demand healthcare careers, expand the availability of health professionals, and improve access to care throughout Wisconsin.

Cures for Tomorrow

\$12.5M Ongoing

Advancing the Universities of Wisconsin's mission to improve human health and accelerate cures, these investments support research, innovation, and workforce development across a broad range of health challenges, including cancer, infectious and inflammatory diseases, neurological disorders, and other significant conditions. These initiatives strengthen the entire innovation pipeline, from discovery and translation to commercialization by expanding research capacity, clinical and community partnerships, and technologies that enhance quality of life, prevention, and care. Through collaboration across UW universities, these efforts reinforce Wisconsin's biomedical innovation ecosystem, promote interdisciplinary research, and position the state for sustained leadership in healthcare advancement, scientific discovery, and economic growth. Examples of proposed university investments include:

UW-Madison would use this funding to sustain the infrastructure that has enabled significant growth in clinical trials across the School of Medicine and Public Health, a critical investment that can no longer rely solely on the annual support UW-Madison has provided since FY21. Expanding clinical trials remains one of the most effective ways to accelerate the development of treatments and cures for complex diseases, with the number of active trials increasing steadily during this period, including a substantial portfolio at the Carbone Cancer Center. Beyond this growth, clinical trials have driven important advances in patient care, including innovative cellular therapies that harness a patient's immune system to fight cancer and theragnostic approaches that both identify tumor locations and deliver targeted radiation treatment.

UW-Milwaukee will accelerate the discovery and translation of new treatments and cures for Alzheimer's disease, cancer, neurological disorders, infectious diseases, and other major health challenges by expanding interdisciplinary research capacity, advancing drug discovery, strengthening rehabilitation and human performance innovation, and enhancing pathways from laboratory discoveries to real-world patient care. Leveraging UWM's nationally recognized strengths in brain health, neuroscience, digital health, and translational research, this work will support research infrastructure, partnerships with healthcare systems and regional universities, and shared innovation resources that accelerate the development, testing, and commercialization of new therapies, medical technologies, and diagnostics.

UW-Eau Claire will advance innovative treatments and community-based solutions for neurological conditions and chronic diseases, including stroke, Parkinson's disease, dementia, traumatic brain injury, aphasia, and other age-related health challenges. Building on the university's strengths in health sciences and community partnerships, the Blugold Brain Health program and Healthspan Research & Education Center will expand access to evidence-based care, support healthier aging, improve health outcomes, and help translate research into practice, particularly in rural communities.

Advancing Discoveries and Improving Access to Health Care – Annual Funding by UW University (in millions):

University	Healthy WI		Cures for Tomorrow	
	Funding	FTE	Funding	FTE
UW-Eau Claire	\$1.0	6.50	\$0.8	1.00
UW-Green Bay	0.8	1.50	-	
UW-La Crosse	11.2	5.00	0.8	
UW-Madison	24.5	23.00	5.0	24.00
UW-Milwaukee	2.1	17.00	5.0	13.00
UW-Oshkosh	0.9	6.00	-	
UW-Parkside	0.3	2.00	-	
UW-Platteville	0.7	3.00	-	
UW-River Falls	0.5	4.00	0.8	4.00
UW-Stevens Point	0.9	9.00	-	
UW-Stout Polytechnic	0.7	3.00	-	
UW-Superior	0.2	1.50	-	
UW-Whitewater	1.2	1.0	-	
UW Administration	-	-	-	
Totals	\$45.0	82.50	\$12.5	42.00

Standard Budget Adjustments

Standard Budget Adjustments are changes in funding related to the current biennium which allow for continued base level services into the upcoming biennium and are determined by the Department of Administration (DOA).

Fringe Benefits and Lease Rental Payments

Est. \$65.0M Ongoing

The figures for calculating the fringe benefits and lease rental payments are not currently available; therefore, the UW System Board of Regents is asked to delegate the authority to approve these requests and any others that may arise to the Universities of Wisconsin President.

Statutory Language Requests

The Universities of Wisconsin request two statutory language changes that will provide more stable funding to universities, improve incentives, and increase efficiency.

Changing the Funding Allocation Model from Enrollment Decline to Course Credits Awarded

The Universities of Wisconsin request a change to statutory language in s. 36.11(13)(a), Wis. Stats., that would allocate the \$15.25 million initially allocated in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget on the basis of declining enrollment to the basis of course credits awarded consistent with the methodology used in s. 36.11(13)(b), Wis. Stats. This funding has proven extremely useful to the universities, but implementation of the statutory language has identified several challenges.

First, fluctuating enrollments are leading to volatility in the universities' annual eligibility for these funds. For example, UW-Superior was eligible for funding in FY26 due to a 10-year enrollment decrease of 13 students and became ineligible in FY27 due to a 10-year enrollment increase of 33 students. UW-La Crosse became ineligible in FY27 due to a 10-year enrollment increase of 52 students, representing 0.5% of its fall 2025 enrollment. Various enrollment projection scenarios through 2030 indicate that several universities may change between being eligible and ineligible from year to year based on similarly minor enrollment changes.

Second, while universities are committed to growing enrollments consistent with their missions, providing funding to universities based on declining enrollment provides a disincentive for universities to innovate in new ways to grow their enrollments. For example, the 10-year increase of 52 students at UW-La Crosse results in a loss of more than \$1.7 million.

Third, changing the way in which these funds are allocated would provide a more stable basis for universities to develop annual budgets and plans. Universities are cautious about using these funds in their base budgets for ongoing expenditures out of concern this could create a budget gap if funds are unavailable in future years. This limits the ability of universities to invest strategically in areas such as faculty salaries, student services, and enrollment growth initiatives.

Transferring Funding for Faculty in High-Demand Fields of Study to General Program Operations Appropriation

The Universities of Wisconsin requests that funding currently provided under s. 20.285(1)(fa), Wis. Stats., related to faculty in high-demand fields of study be transferred to its General Program

Operations appropriation under s. 20.285(1)(a), Wis. Stats. This change would improve operational efficiency for the universities without sacrificing accountability.

In FY27, the majority of this funding is being used to increase the base salaries of faculty. Once so allocated, future allocations from this appropriation will be minimal and only occur if and when a faculty member leaves employment. Further, any such reallocation of these funds to another faculty member in a high demand field will be in accordance with the JCOER-approved plan. Finally, these amounts will continue to be tracked and monitored by university HR staff regardless of whether they are in a separate appropriation. By transferring this funding to the General Program Operations appropriation, university staff, particularly in academic departments, that would no longer be required to separately include salary and fringe benefits costs from this additional funding source in budget, accounting, and payroll systems, reducing an unnecessary administrative burden.

Wisconsin Grant-UW

The Wisconsin Grant-UW program is the state's largest need-based financial aid program for students attending the Universities of Wisconsin. The program is administered by the State's Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB). In even-numbered years, a budget request for the Wisconsin Grant-UW is approved by the Board of Regents and then forwarded to HEAB for inclusion in that agency's biennial budget submission to the Department of Administration (DOA).

Increase to the Wisconsin Grant-UW

\$10.5M Ongoing

The Universities of Wisconsin seek this funding to raise the maximum award amount and further the goal of covering half of the average tuition and fee costs at the comprehensive universities, which will help students access and complete a quality higher education program, producing a more highly skilled and educated workforce. Additional resources for the Wisconsin Grant program will also help address student debt and affordability, two areas of growing concern to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL)

The Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab is governed by its own board but is administratively attached to UW-Madison, therefore its biennial budget request must be approved and submitted by the Board of Regents.

Forensic Veterinary Necropsy Services

\$82.3K Ongoing

This funding will support forensic veterinary necropsy and diagnostic services for Wisconsin law enforcement agencies, animal control officials, veterinarians, and animal owners. It would offset WVDL's current service costs, which are covered by fee-for-services testing, and ensure continued statewide access to critical forensic diagnostic services.

Replacement of Critical Biosafety Autoclaves

\$220.0K One-Time

WVDL requests one-time funding to replace three critical autoclaves that support daily laboratory operations and biosafety requirements. These autoclaves were installed during the original construction of the Madison facility in 2006 and are now over 20 years old. The typical service life of laboratory autoclaves is about 10 years; however, WVDL has extended their useful life through meticulous maintenance and preventive service programs. Despite these efforts, the equipment has reached the end of its operational lifespan, and replacement is now necessary.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH)

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene is governed by its own board but is administratively attached to UW-Madison, therefore its biennial budget request must be approved and submitted by the Board of Regents.

Operating While Intoxicated WI Forensic Toxicology Testing

\$2.0M Ongoing

The Forensic Toxicology Section provides essential services to Wisconsin's law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and coroner/medical examiner (C/ME) facilities, delivering legally defensible data for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) and death investigations. The cost of operating these programs has risen to \$3.6 million annually, and the \$1.6 million allocation from the Driver Improvement Surcharge Fund has remained the same since 2010. This funding gap has resulted in a degradation of service delivery: alcohol testing turnaround times have increased from 3 days to 50 days, and drug testing turnaround times have increased from 48 days to 270 days. This request for \$2 million in ongoing annual funding is necessary to address the current shortfall, replace depleted reserves, and restore testing efficiency to sustainable levels.

Blood Lead Testing Program

\$450.0K Ongoing

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is statutorily required to provide statewide laboratory testing for biological lead specimens. The WSLH fulfills this statutory mandate on behalf of the state; however, no dedicated state appropriation exists to support the laboratory requirements of this service. This program is a vital public health function that primarily serves children and under-resourced populations who are at high risk for lead exposure. Because current fee-for-service revenue recovers only a small fraction of annual operating costs, the WSLH maintains this mandated service at a significant loss. This request for \$450,000 annually will ensure the sustainability of the program and preserve statewide testing capacity for Wisconsin's most vulnerable residents.

Cervical Cancer Screening

\$221.5K Ongoing

The upcoming redirection of grant funds by the Division of Public Health from WSLH to reproductive health and family planning (RHFP) clinics for cytology testing services will create a critical funding gap for the Cytology section. This section provides essential cervical cancer screenings, including Pap tests and HPV testing, for clinics across the state, the prison system, and University Health Services. Beyond its clinical role, the section serves as a vital satellite training site for cytotechnology students at Albany College, helping to mitigate the severe shortage of cytotechnologists in Wisconsin hospitals.

To ensure long-term self-sufficiency, the section is currently developing an HPV self-collect test designed to improve screening access and generate new revenue. This bridge funding is required to retain specialized, credentialed staff during this transition and to maintain the lab's unique role in professional workforce development.

Genomic Testing for Disease Surveillance

\$450.0K Ongoing

Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) and the associated bioinformatics analysis represent the most critical growth area in public health infectious disease surveillance. Since 2019, the WSLH Communicable Disease Division (CDD) has expanded from a single bioinformatician to a team of 6 FTEs to meet the state's needs. This team performs essential strain surveillance and outbreak response for over a dozen pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2, RSV, Tuberculosis, *Candida auris*, *Legionella*, *Cyclospora*, and PulseNet organisms such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Listeria*.

This expansion has been supported by federal ELC supplemental funding, which is scheduled to conclude in July 2027. Without a state appropriation to bridge this gap, the laboratory will lose the capacity for 2 NGS FTEs and 3 Bioinformatics FTEs. These positions are essential for identifying enteric outbreaks, investigating antibiotic-resistant pathogens, and tracking vaccine-preventable diseases to protect the health of all Wisconsinites.

New Autoclave for High Consequence Testing Lab

\$500.0K One-Time

The Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) suite is the state's high-containment facility for testing high-consequence pathogens, including Anthrax, Ebola, and Tuberculosis (processing 6,000 specimens annually). A functional pass-through autoclave is a mandatory safety requirement for the sterilization and disposal of biohazard waste generated in this environment.

The current unit is over 10 years old and recently suffered a catastrophic 1.5-year period of non-functionality—an unacceptably long downtime for such critical infrastructure. This failure created significant operational risk and necessitated expensive workarounds. Replacing this unit is essential to ensure the safety of laboratory personnel and the continued readiness of the BSL3 space for public health emergencies.

Drinking Water Testing

\$220.0K One-Time

Wisconsin is transitioning to more stringent drinking water safety standards to align with federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) and updated Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 809. These regulations lower the lead action threshold from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb by 2027.

To accurately detect lead and other metals at these lower concentrations, the Inorganic Chemistry Unit requires Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS). This high-sensitivity instrumentation is the only reliable method to capture data below the strict 10 ppb limit. This request is for a one-time capital purchase to ensure the WSLH remains the gold standard for drinking water compliance and public health protection.