

# EDUCATION



**Wisconsin Council of the  
Blind & Visually Impaired**

Support educational opportunities for the 1,500 Wisconsin students who are blind or visually impaired.

## BUDGET ITEMS

- Provide adequate funding for special education to help close the funding gap faced by Wisconsin schools. Increase funding by \$500 million in each year of the biennial budget. This would result in an approximately 60% reimbursement rate.
- Provide funding to support the statewide outreach efforts of the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- Provide \$104,000 in the first year of the budget and \$203,000 in the second year to maintain BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind levels of service.

## LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

- Promote loan and loan forgiveness programs, facilitated by the Higher Education Aids Board, for all vision services professionals, including teachers of the visually impaired, vision rehabilitation therapists, low vision therapists, orientation and mobility specialists, etc.
- Currently, opportunities in Wisconsin to receive training to become a teacher of the visually impaired are extremely limited. This has led to a severe shortage of vision professionals in Wisconsin schools. Students with visual disabilities are not receiving the supports they need to be successful, such as orientation and mobility training, access technology, braille instruction and adaptive techniques.

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