



WISCONSIN  
**PUBLIC**  
EDUCATION  
**NETWORK**

# 11th ANNUAL SUMMER SUMMIT

**BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH  
ADVOCACY AND ACTION**

**JULY 23-24, 2025**  
**PREBLE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**GREEN BAY**



**[WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit](https://WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit)**



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**WIFI: GBAPS-WPEN**

**Password: GoHornets25!**

**#GoPublic #SummerSummit #VotePublic**



# 2025 Summer Summit Agenda

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- 8:00-9:00      **Registration/Light breakfast** (Commons)  
*Breakfast brought to you by the College of Education and Professional Studies at UW-Whitewater.*  
**Partner Tabling, Auction, & Drawings** close at 2:10
- 9:00-10:45      **MORNING MEETING** (Auditorium)  
Green Bay Welcome  
Welcome from the Department of Public Instruction  
***Breaking the cycle and building community***  
WHY WE'RE HERE AND WHERE WE ARE NOW:  
STATE OF CHANGEMAKING ADDRESS:  
Wisconsin Public Education Network partners and special guest panelists  
Overview of sessions and objectives for the day  
Roles and Goals: Sharing Leadership to Win for Wisconsin Kids
- 10:45-11:00      NETWORKING BREAK
- 11:00-12:00      **BREAKOUT SESSION 1** (various locations)
- 12:00-1:00      **NETWORKING LUNCH & SILENT AUCTION** (Commons)  
*sponsored by Green Bay Education Association & Renning, Lewis & Lacy S.C.*  
*catered by GBAPS Food Service Department*
- 1:00-2:00      **BREAKOUT SESSION 2** (various locations)
- 2:00-2:15      NETWORKING BREAK
- 2:15-3:15      **BREAKOUT SESSION 3**
- 3:15-3:30      NETWORKING BREAK
- 3:30-4:00      **CLOSING ADDRESS and CALL TO ACTION:**  
***we are the leaders we've been waiting for***  
**Celebration of Leadership and Local Action**  
Appreciations, Drawings and Door Prizes, + Closing

4:00-6:00

**RECEPTION:** Titledown Brewing Co.

All are welcome! JOIN US to toast to the day and plan forward!

**Snacks and refreshments** in the Commons during breaks and throughout the day sponsored by **AFT-Wisconsin** - please help yourself!

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## **COMMUNITY CARE AND RE/CHARGING STATIONS**

***Need a private place to chill?*** Seek out **Room 133**, a private space in the library/LMC. This room is available all day for your personal, physical, and mental health needs. Please knock before entering, and feel free to use this space for lactation, solitude, prayer, or down time.

***Look for the care-and-charge station in the Commons for everything from first aid to fidgets!*** Help yourself to whatever you need at this station (near registration) stocked essentials like ibuprofen, antacid, hydration packets, a multi-port charging station, and more. And please do let us know if you need anything else. We're here for you!


***Need to take a meeting or make a call?*** Room 119 has wifi access and should be unoccupied all day. Room 118 is free after noon.

***Gender neutral restrooms*** are located just outside the auditorium.

**CHILD CARE** is provided today thanks to Preble staff and students. Follow the signage through the Commons!



## 2025 Summer Summit BREAKOUTS at-a-glance

	<b>SESSION 1</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>SESSION 2</b> 1:00 - 2:00 pm	<b>SESSION 3</b> 2:15 - 3:15 pm
A  LIBRARY/ LMC	School Finance 101: Key concepts to help you communicate the mechanics and impacts of school finance in Wisconsin	FEATURED WELLNESS WORKSHOP for Organizers: Sharing Leadership, Building Resilience	Organizing Basics: Local Action, Statewide Impact.
B  Auditorium	Community Engagement for Public Schools through Referendum Efforts	It's the Same Face: Referendums, Vouchers, and the Erosion of Public Education	"It's just not fair:" Unpacking "Fairness" From Special Education to Funding-by-Referendum to Privatization
C  Room 105/106	Allies for Social Change: Navigating Conversations and Interventions for LGBTQ2+ Inclusion	Bridging Education and Workforce: The Power of Youth Apprenticeships	Supporting Public Schools in the Age of Disinformation
D  Room 107/107A	Transformational Community Schools: Success for All	Why Your School District Needs a Key Communicator Network	Getting Ready to Run
E  Room 114/115	Supporting New Teachers		Building Stronger Schools Together: Advancing the Community Schools Model in Wisconsin
F  Room 118	Abolitionist Teaching (and Organizing!): Survive to Thrive		

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## Message from the Organizers

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**Welcome to our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Summit!** We are joined today by parents and caregivers, active and retired educators, administrators and board members, school leaders, support staff, community advocates, and business partners from around the state. Whatever our roles and our local goals, we share one basic value: ***every child in every public school in Wisconsin deserves an excellent public education.*** Our annual Summit is a unique opportunity to connect and plan as equal partners in the work of ensuring that all of Wisconsin's children have the freedom to thrive in every single public school.

We enter this space today energized by the company of so many amazing friends, colleagues, and champions. But also: exhausted from a year of local organizing and meeting kids' needs where we live, major elections, record numbers of school referenda, and an absolutely grueling budget process that ended with a shockingly inadequate compromise that sold our public schools seriously short.

This work takes a toll, and we are here today to take that reality seriously as we strategize to take care of ourselves and each other as we continue to demand and deliver better for our kids.

So thank you for taking time to connect, learn, and plan with us. We need you in this work, and we are deeply grateful to the organizers, educators, participants, and presenters here today to share their experiences and expertise. We urge you to make the most of our time together by participating actively, making new connections, and resolving to stay connected. Attend the sessions you most want to actively engage in today, split up from your friends to share & compare notes later, and access the Summit Archive at [www.WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit](http://www.WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit) for video and resources from today's sessions.

Our theme today is ***building community through thriving public schools*** because we know that our public schools are the beating hearts of our communities, and we know that it's going to take a statewide community of committed champions to ensure they have what they need to thrive.

It's going to take all of us to demand and deliver a better budget in 2027, and we are excited to use the rare break in our organizing calendar this fall to focus on building capacity, sharing leadership, and strengthening our statewide Network - and we can't do it without you.

From all of us at Team Public, THANK YOU for joining us today, and please join us in thanking each and every member of the **2025 Summer Summit Planning Team**:

Lori Blakeslee, Amy Jaeckel, Courtney Kuehn, Brent Bergstrom, Lynette Kiehnau, Luanne O'Leary, Andrew Blank, Ingrid Knutson, Sandy Whisler, Heather DuBois Bourenane, Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Jenni Hofschulte, Bryn Horton, Tessa Maglio, Camden Hargrove, Julie Underwood, Kris Andrews

*Forward!*



## JOIN and SUSTAIN our NETWORK

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**JOIN WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK** today as a **SUSTAINING** (monthly contribution of \$10 or more) or **BLUE RIBBON PARTNER** (one-time donation of \$100 or more) and get an entry into a **SPECIAL DRAWING** for the **Blue Ribbon Partner Prize Basket** - winner announced in the closing session! Scan the QR code or join at registration!



<https://wp.en.wisconsinnetwork.org/summit25donate>



# MAKING THE MOST OF THE SUMMIT

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## A GUIDE TO OUR MOST POPULAR FEATURES

### AUCTIONS & DRAWINGS

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Check out the fantastic offerings in the Commons donated by local teams, local businesses, and individuals. **Drawing entry tickets may be purchased with cash, check, or card. Winners will be drawn in the closing session in the auditorium. Must be present to win. The silent auction and drawing entries close at 2:10 pm.**

Thanks to all who donated, and to all who support this fundraiser. ***All proceeds support year-round local action with statewide impact.***

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNITE US GEAR

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Stop by our merch table and grab the gear you & your team back home need to represent #TeamPublic year-round! We've got shirts, stickers, buttons, totes, and - *we heard you!* - a limited edition run of hoodies!



***Learn more about our gorgeous Public Schools Unite Us graphic!***

[Rae Senarighi](#) is a Madison-based artist who received GSAFE's 2021 Judi Devereux Community Activist award and designed our beautiful PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNITE US graphic. Read more about Rae and our ongoing Public Schools Unite us project at

[www.wisconsinnetwork.org/news/a-conversation-with-artist-rae-senarighi](http://www.wisconsinnetwork.org/news/a-conversation-with-artist-rae-senarighi)

MUCH MORE MERCH AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Purchase a variety of Public Schools Unite Us merchandise online at the Transpainter Etsy store:

<https://wp.en.wisconsinnetwork.org/psuumerch>





## TELL YOUR STORY TODAY!

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Use hashtags #SummerSummit and #VotePublic or #GoPublic to share your Summit photos, thoughts, and calls to action! Tag us @WiscEdNetwork!

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We are joined today by members of the media eager to learn more about the amazing things happening in your local public schools, as well as the specific local challenges you face.



**Special thanks to Wisconsin Eye** for their coverage of our many events in 2024-2025, and the year-round coverage of Capitol issues that makes our advocacy possible!



Special thanks to **Baylor Spears** and **Ruth Conniff** of **Wisconsin Examiner** for their stellar reporting of education issues and raising the bar for Capitol news coverage. Thanks too to **Todd Albaugh** and our friends at **Civic Radio**, especially **Pat Kreitlow**. Pat dives into issues facing our students and their public schools in his *Homeroom* segment featuring Wisconsin Public Education Network partners every Wednesday morning from 7:30-8:00! Don't miss it!



## SUMMER SUMMIT HQ

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***Looking for resources or a digital version of this program?***

Presentation resources (handouts, powerpoints, etc), videos from the sessions you missed, and a digital version of this program will be archived online at <https://www.WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit>.





## DPI's ASK US ANYTHING BOOTH

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*BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!*

**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE ANSWERS YOU NEED TO TAKE ACTION, AND SHARE THE INPUT THEY NEED TO LEAD!**

**Tom McCarthy**, Deputy State Superintendent, **Sara Knueve**, Assistant Deputy State Superintendent, and **Tacara Lovings**, Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives, will be in the Commons today to answer any and all of your questions!



Share your ideas directly with DPI - and let them know what concerns and priorities are most pressing in your district. Don't miss this chance to get into the weeds, better understand the strategic mission of the Department, and share your thoughts. They're here to chat, listen, and learn all day - whether you need them to explain [SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REPORT CARDS? TERTIARY AID?] or hear your masterplan for [INSERT YOUR BOLD IDEAS HERE]!



## GET THE FACTS! SCHOOL FINANCE + VOUCHER TRANSPARENCY STATION

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Swing by our table to learn more about resources, tools, and outreach opportunities to help educate your community on the state of school finance and what they can do about it!



## CONNECT WITH OUR PARTNERS!

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*Stop by our partners' and supporters' tables in the Commons to learn more about the great work being done around the state to support students, educators, and our public schools.*

AFT-Wisconsin

CESA 7

Civic Media

Forward Together Wisconsin

Green Bay Area Public Schools

Green Bay Education

Association/GBEA Retired

League of Women Voters of WI  
and Greater Green Bay

Lincoln Democracy Institute

Nexus Solutions

School District of Superior (host of  
the 2026 Summer Summit!)

Wisconsin Building Trades Council

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Wisconsin Department of Public  
Instruction

Wisconsin Progress

Wisconsin State PTA

Wisconsin Public Education Action

Wisconsin Public Education  
Network



## WELCOME ADDRESS

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### **Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly**

Dr. Jill Underly was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2021, and reelected for a second term in 2025. Dr. Underly has a deep background in public education. Since 1999, she has worked in all facets of public education: at the college level, but also at both the state and district levels as a teacher and administrator.



With over twenty-five years of public education experience, Dr. Underly has been committed to ensuring that every child, every day, has the opportunity for a first-class public education in the State of Wisconsin. Dr. Underly received bachelor's degrees in history and sociology from Indiana University-Bloomington, master's degrees from both IUPUI and UW-Madison, and her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the parent of two children, both in high school, and she lives with her family in southwestern Wisconsin.



## SPECIAL MESSAGE

### U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin

Senator Tammy Baldwin has dedicated her life to public service and fighting for Wisconsin working families. Throughout her time in the Senate, Senator Baldwin has worked with Democrats and Republicans to strengthen economic security for working families, investing in education and workforce readiness. Senator Baldwin is working hard to hold Secretary McMahon accountable to her "under oath" promises during the confirmation hearings. At that time, Linda McMahon promised to release all funds to public schools that had already been approved and were in the budget. Senator Baldwin is working hard for Wisconsin's kids. We thank her for sending this special message:



TAMMY BALDWIN  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

July 2025

Dear Friends at the Wisconsin Public Education Network  
Summer Summit,

I am overjoyed to extend my best wishes as you gather for the  
2025 Wisconsin Public Education Network Summer Summit!

It is so important that our young people learn in robust  
academic environments that foster their imagination and  
encourage them to become the best version of themselves. This  
event is a wonderful opportunity for parents, educators,  
administrators, school board members, community leaders, and  
other education advocates to guarantee that all students have  
the support they need.

Thank you for your tireless work to ensure that the best days of  
public education are yet to come. I am confident that the 2025  
Wisconsin Public Education Network Summer Summit will be  
a remarkable success and will continue to drive positive change  
in public schools across our state.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator





## Featured Wellness Workshop for Public School Champions

**Sharing Leadership, Building Resilience** with  
**Future Cain**, CEO & Founder of Future of SEL

*1:00-2:00 pm, Library/LMC*

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Our goal at every Summer Summit is to create a friendly and productive space for the hard, honest conversations about demanding accountability and achieving the change we seek for Wisconsin's public schools. And we know the status quo is never going to change itself. We need to create an inclusive, intentional, strategic coalition of student-centered advocates to make a difference.

*We were prepared for 2025 but that doesn't mean we're doing well.*

This year, we've invited **Future Cain**, CEO & Founder of Future of SEL, to join us in the Summit - and beyond - to support some of the work we need to do to make sure we are taking care of ourselves and each other as we do the heavy work of advocating for public schools at a time when our children and communities are under constant attack.

**Session Description:** In times of social unrest, systemic inequity, and growing burnout, cultivating a culture of care is not a luxury, it's a necessity. This breakout session invites policy changemakers, educators, and civic leaders to reimagine leadership through the lens of emotional intelligence and community wellness. We begin by focusing inward, exploring how tending to our own mental, emotional, and physical well-being is the first radical act of leadership. Participants will engage in reflective exercises and dialogue to identify what self-care truly looks like in high-stakes environments. From there, we'll expand outward to build actionable strategies that foster belonging, safety, and shared accountability within our teams and communities.

By the end of this session, you will:

- Leave with practical tools to stay grounded and resilient.
- Craft a personal action plan to create a culture of care in your workspaces and spheres of influence.
- Connect with others who are committed to mutual support and collective healing as vehicles for sustainable change.

Come ready to root down, rise up, and leave renewed, not just with vision, but with a community to lean on



**FUTURE CAIN**, is a social emotional leadership and workplace wellness expert who is the CEO and Founder of Future of SEL. She is an international speaker who has been featured in Forbes, Harvard Business Review and the New York Times. Future is a certified culture facilitator, is one of LinkedIn's Top Black Voices to follow, and a trusted consultant for a variety of organizations.

Prior to birthing the Future of SEL, Future sat at the state level as the Statewide Project Coordinator supporting school districts with implementing trauma informed social emotional learning and comprehensive school based mental health. With over twenty-five years of leadership experience, Future has partnered with organizations including Wisconsin Department of Education, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Public Schools, Reebok, Forever 21, Mental Health America, Kimpton Hotels, NANOG, LinkedIn, the CDC to optimize human potential through a systemic, holistic approach to improve leaders' social emotional intelligence, employee wellness, and organizational performance. She is committed and speaks often of her purpose to help organizations see that their greatest assets are the people.

**Linkedin:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/futurecain>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/future.cain/>

**Tik Tok:** <https://www.tiktok.com/@futurecain>

**Website:** <https://www.futureofsel.com/>



## **Spotlight on our host partners: GREEN BAY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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The Green Bay Area Public School District is located in Northeast Wisconsin and with more than 18,000 students is the fourth largest public school district in the state. With 39 schools and many wonderful pathways, the Green Bay Area Public School District has a school or program that is a great fit for every child.



**Green Bay Area  
Public School District**

Founded in 1856 with the first city-built school known as the Sale School, the Green Bay Area Public School District is more than 150 years old. Our District is rich in traditions from the 100 year-old East and West high schools' football rivalry to the home of City Stadium (the original football field of the Green Bay Packers).

The Green Bay Area Public School District is incredibly fortunate to have a community that is very invested in the success of its students and staff. It is also a great place to live.

The Green Bay Area Public School District and the Green Bay Packers have a long-standing connection, starting back in 1919 when East High School alumnus Earl 'Curly' Lambeau founded the team.

Green Bay Packers Historian and East High School graduate Cliff Christl attributes the start and success of the Green Bay Packers franchise to the East and West High School football rivalry, which dates back to the 1800s and made many football fans in the Green Bay community. The early rosters of the Green Bay Packers were filled with Green Bay East and West High alumni, including Curly Lambeau, Arnie Herber and more.

Many alumni of Green Bay Area Public Schools have gone on to play or work for the NFL, with the Green Bay Packers and several other franchises.



## Meet Superintendent VICKI BAYER

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### **Superintendent, Green Bay Area Public School District**

Superintendent Vicki Bayer joined the Green Bay Area Public School District in 2013 as an Associate Principal at Lombardi Middle School. Since that time, she has served as the first principal of Dr. Rosa Minoka-Hill, as the Director of Student Services, Associate Superintendent of PK-16 Programming, and as Deputy Superintendent. She has 30+ years in public education, serving most of those years as classroom teacher, department chair, and program coordinator working in both rural and suburban, and urban school districts.



In her previous roles, Ms. Bayer has been awarded the National At-Risk Education Network Anthony Dallmann Jones Award for Child Advocacy, Outagamie County Exemplary Service Award, Neenah Police Department "Friend in Education" award, and Teacher of the Year.



## BREAKOUTS BREAKDOWN

*Views of presenters are their own and we encourage you to bring your own experience and ideas for action to each conversation!*

### **Breakout 1: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**



- A. School Finance 101: Key concepts to help you communicate the mechanics and impacts of school finance in Wisconsin** *(Library/LMC)*
- B. Community Engagement for Public Schools through Referendum Efforts** *(Auditorium)*
- C. Allies for Social Change: Navigating Conversations and Interventions for LGBTQ2+ Inclusion** *(Room 105/106)*
- D. Transformational Community Schools: Success for All** *(Room 107/107A)*
- E. Supporting New Teachers** *(Room 114/115)*
- F. Abolitionist Teaching (and Organizing!): Survive to Thrive** *(Room 118)*

### **Breakout 2: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

- A. FEATURED WELLNESS WORKSHOP for Organizers: Sharing Leadership, Building Resilience** *(Library/LMC)*
- B. It's the Same Face: Referendums, Vouchers, and the Erosion of Public Education** *(Auditorium)*
- C. Bridging Education and Workforce: The Power of Youth Apprenticeships** *(Room 105/106)*
- D. Why Your School District Needs a Key Communicator Network** *(Room 107/107A)*

### **Breakout 3: 2:15 - 3:15 pm**



- A. Organizing Basics: Local Action, Statewide Impact** *(Library/LMC)*
- B. "It's just not fair:" Unpacking "Fairness" From Special Education to Funding-by-Referendum to Privatization** *(Auditorium)*

- C. **Supporting Public Schools in the Age of Disinformation**  
(Room 105/106)
- D. **Getting Ready to Run** (Room 107/107A)
- E. **Building Stronger Schools Together: Advancing the Community Schools Model in Wisconsin** (Room 118)



## BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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### WORKSHOPS, PANELS, and BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

action-focused sessions led by experts, advocates, school leaders, educators, and local organizers with a deep and wide range of experience and perspectives!

We invite participants to split up from their companions and attend sessions that are most relevant and meaningful to you and the work that needs to be done in your community. We hope all sessions will engage the expertise and experience in the audience and provide opportunities for learning and connection.

### **Breakout 1 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

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#### **1A: School Finance 101: Key concepts to help you communicate the mechanics and impacts of school finance in Wisconsin**

(Library/LMC)

**Anne Chapman**, Research Director, WASBO



*Why do people say Wisconsin's school funding formula is "broken" - and how do we fix it?* Join us for an engaging discussion of the key factors driving the current state of school finance in Wisconsin; what is behind the record number of referendums across the state; and what the recently passed state budget really means for Wisconsin's public school districts.

#### **1B: Community Engagement for Public Schools through Referendum Efforts** (Auditorium)

Moderated by **Denise Gaumer Hutchison** and featuring: **Ingrid Knutson**, NEXUS Solutions, Lori Blakeslee Director of Communications, GBAPS, **Colleen Nowak**, Unified School District of DePere School Board member and "Yes DePere" member,

**Emily Pritzkow**, Wisconsin Building Trades Council Executive Director, **Todd Timm**, Superintendent Hortonville School District

Come and learn about the components of building a community "yes" team to engage the community in advocating for the referendum efforts.

**1C: Allies for Social Change: Navigating Conversations and Interventions for LGBTQ2+ Inclusion** (Room 105/106)

**Brian Juchems**, Senior Director of Education and Policy, GSAFE, **Mindy Frank**, LGBTQ2+ Equity and Inclusion Facilitator, CESA 7, and **Brent Bergstrom**, Green Bay Education Association President

In thriving public schools, every student, including LGBTQ2+ students, deserves to feel safe, valued, and affirmed. Yet many educators and community members encounter moments where they overhear or participate in discussions that call for intervention—whether addressing microaggressions, navigating misconceptions, or fostering an inclusive environment. Often, people are unaware a problem exists, while others feel uncertain about how to respond effectively.

This interactive session will equip participants with the skills, language, and confidence to be stronger allies. Through engaging role-play scenarios and guided discussions, attendees will practice real-world strategies for intervening at various levels, fostering affirming school environments, and building bridges of understanding. Together, we will explore actionable steps to create a more inclusive community within our schools and ensure all students thrive.

Join us for a dynamic, hands-on experience that will leave you feeling empowered to take meaningful action in your school and beyond!

**1D: Transformational Community Schools: Success for All** (Room 107/107A)

**Angelia Ebner**, Senior Policy Analyst/Program Specialist, Community Schools, NEA

This dynamic panel and its moderators will work together to help conference participants more deeply understand how the Community School model can be successfully put into action, why deep engagement is pivotal in lifting deeply held assets and determining the changes necessary to best support interest holders, and how Community Schools across the United States

are achieving great success and sharing that success in ways that create possibilities for systemic change. The panel will share learning and experiences and ask participants to engage in an exploration of what could be as we think about the large-scale changes that create more equitable opportunities for more students, families, and communities across our country. The presentation will also include clips and learning from Community Schools across the country that are successfully working toward transformation.

**1E: Supporting New Teachers** (Room 114/115)

**Rachael Poppe**, Special Education Academic Program Support Teacher, GBEA

This session will provide strategies to use when working with new teachers. We will focus on the retention of educators and the power of belonging.

**1F: Abolitionist Teaching (and Organizing!): Survive to Thrive** (Room 118)

**Angela Harris**, Milwaukee Public Schools educator

This session explores the principles and practices of abolitionist teaching, a transformative approach that seeks to dismantle systemic inequalities in education and build a more just and equitable learning environment for all students.

**Breakout 2 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

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**2A: FEATURED WELLNESS WORKSHOP for Organizers: Sharing Leadership, Building Resilience** (Library/LMC)

**Future Cain**, CEO & Founder of Future of SEL

*[See page 13 for session description]*

**2B: It's the Same Face: Referendums, Vouchers, and the Erosion of Public Education** (Auditorium)

**Dr. Derek Gottlieb**, Senior Research Director, School Perceptions

This session connects the dots between the state funding formula, voucher carve-outs, and the marked uptick in educational inequality and precarity around Wisconsin.

**2C: Bridging Education and Workforce: The Power of Youth Apprenticeships** (Room 105/106)



**David Gordon**, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, Northeast WI Youth Apprenticeship, CESA 7; and **Mindy Frank**, LGBTQ2+ Equity and Inclusion Facilitator, CESA 7 and Youth Apprenticeship Coach for NEWYA (Northeast Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship)

Through interactive discussions and real-world examples, attendees will learn how youth apprenticeships close the gap between education and employment, equip students with technical and soft skills, and create a strong pipeline of future talent. We'll also discuss how partnerships between schools, businesses, and local organizations help students gain valuable work experience, earn competitive wages, and develop professional networks—all while setting them up for postsecondary success.

Join us to explore how we can work together to expand these opportunities, empower students, and build thriving public schools that prepare every learner for a bright future. Whether you're an educator, administrator, employer, or community member, this session will provide actionable strategies to strengthen workforce readiness and student achievement.

## **2D: Why Your School District Needs a Key Communicator Network** (Room 107/107A)

**Lori Blakeslee**, Director of Communications and Public Relations, GBAPS; and **Kimberly Uelmen**, Executive Director of Communications, HSSD

The Howard Suamico School District and the Green Bay Area Public School District are leveraging key communicator networks to improve outcomes for students. This session will provide an overview of each school district's experience creating a key communicator network, the positive outcomes, and resources to assist participants in bringing the program to their school district.

## **Breakout 3 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm**

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### **3A: Organizing Basics: Local Action, Statewide Impact** (Library/LMC)



**Chris Bauer**, YES to Tosa Kids!; **Carol Lenz** and **Jackie Nider**, Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education; **Tiffany Schanno** and **Melissa Custer**, Learn in My Shoes

How to build community to support thriving public schools where you live - a conversation with organizers from around the state.

There are so many ways to take local action with statewide impact whether you're organizing year round, for a referendum, or around an issue. This session provides concrete strategies and lessons on organizing basics. *Spoiler alert: it's all about relationships!*

### **3B: "It's just not fair:" Unpacking "Fairness" From Special Education to Funding-by-Referendum to Privatization** (Auditorium)

**Dr. Julie Mead**, Professor Emerita, Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, University of Wisconsin-Madison

This presentation will explore aspects of the current school funding system with particular attention to the ways in which private voucher schools are privileged and public schools are disadvantaged. Whether it's equalization funding, revenue caps, or special education funding, current statutes have a disequalizing and unfair effect on public schools - support for which is guaranteed by the Wisconsin Constitution.

### **3C: Supporting Public Schools in the Age of Disinformation** (Room 105/106)

**Christina Brey**, Public Affairs Manager, WEAC

Find out how disinformation affects public schools. Learn the history behind this age-old propaganda technique and the current landscape of disinformation in Wisconsin. Discover what public education advocates can do to proactively support public schools and push back on attacks.

### **3D: Getting Ready to Run** (Room 107/107A)

**Kristina Sandherr**, Executive Director; and **Becky Rasmussen**, Training Director, WI Progress

Our popular, entry-level training will tell potential candidates everything they need to know about the basics of running for office. We will cover the electoral landscape, candidate expectations, and rules of the road. Participants will do a self-evaluation, learn basic campaign skills, and understand first steps if / when they decide to run for office.

### **3E: Building Stronger Schools Together: Advancing the Community Schools Model in Wisconsin** (Room 114/115)

**Sarita Foster**, Community Schools Manager, and **Cindy Diaz**, Community Schools Resource Coordinator, Madison Metropolitan School District

Join us for an engaging session focused on the growing Community Schools movement across Wisconsin. Discover how Community Schools serve as a powerful strategy to improve student success and equity by bringing schools, families, and communities together.

We will explore the Wisconsin Community Schools Coalition—who they are, how individuals and organizations can get involved, and the practical steps to support and advocate for this model statewide. The session will also address the critical question of funding: how Community Schools are financed through braided public and private resources, sustainable partnerships, and policy alignment.

The presentation will take a closer look at Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), a leading example of the Community Schools model in action. Learn how MMSD has implemented this model to address student needs, elevate family voice, and leverage community partnerships to ensure every child thrives.

Whether you're an educator, policymaker, community organization, or parent, this session will equip you with the knowledge and tools to help transform Wisconsin schools into hubs of opportunity and support.



## THOUGHTS, NOTES & CONTACTS

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Use this space to solve all the problems and make all the plans.



## TAKE ACTION

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*Get organized! Resources, events, and action opportunities*

### GET THE FACTS:

#### WISCONSIN EDUCATION BASICS

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Learn more about needs and concerns facing our students and their public schools at [WisconsinNetwork.org/funding](https://www.WisconsinNetwork.org/funding), and download our helpful two-pager **Wisconsin Education Basics** at <https://wp.en.wisconsinnetwork.org/wisedbasics25> or at the QR code to the right.



Stop by our info table for a printed copy of our most requested document!

### ACCOUNTABILITY in ACTION

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Tools and resources for holding ourselves, our districts, and our leaders accountable for making sure Wisconsin students have what they need to shine and thrive.

See more at <https://www.WisconsinNetwork.org/toolkits>.

#### VOUCHER TAXPAYER TRANSPARENCY

Voucher and independent charter schools have a direct negative impact on public school students, but these costs are often obscured by red tape, a lack of transparency, and a powerful privatization lobby determined to hide the trust costs of voucher scams. This data is not readily available through any state agency or required reporting.

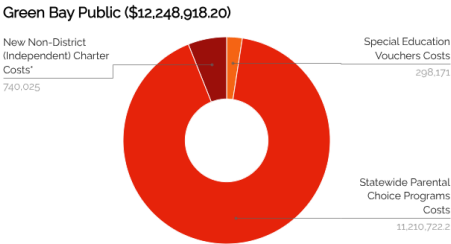
By putting voucher and independent charter costs on our local property tax bills, Wisconsin communities - like Green Bay - have the transparency they deserve to see how much of their tax dollars are being diverted to private and privately run schools.

Learn more about our campaign to demand accountability at <https://www.WisconsinNetwork.org/privatization>.

# ACCOUNTABILITY RESOURCES

Learn more about budget impacts and how state funding disparities impact local students - and check out our voucher accountability toolkit - at [WisconsinNetwork.org/privatization](https://WisconsinNetwork.org/privatization). Use our Voucher & Independent Charter Impacts tool to see how much privatization costs local students in your district and share to educate your community. Here's a sample for this year's costs for Green Bay:

## WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK



Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Impacts Data 2024-2025

School District

School District	Special Education Vouchers Costs	Statewide Parental Choice Programs Costs	New Non-District (Independent) Charter Costs*	Total Cost
	(Special Needs Scholarship Program)	(Wisconsin & Racine Parental Choice Program)	(New Independent Charter Schools Aid) <small>*Does not include non-district "legacy" charters</small>	
Green Bay Public	298171	11210722.2	740025	12248918.20

# EDUCATION LEGISLATION & VOTE TRACKER



Can't keep track of all the education bills? Want to know how your lawmakers are voting on education issues?

Follow the legislation - and *your* lawmakers' votes - on Network's Education Vote Tracker at [WisconsinNetwork.org/tracker](https://WisconsinNetwork.org/tracker).



# EXEMPLARY ADVOCACY SHOUT OUTS!

## Budget Action Highlights

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Wisconsin Public Education Network partners statewide raised their collective voice statewide to demand fair, predictable, equitable, and adequate state aid and end funding discrimination for students with disabilities in the 2025-2027 budget cycle.

We applaud the efforts of **Tiffany Schanno, Melissa Custer**, and many other parents of students with disabilities for their remarkable work with the **Learn in My Shoes** campaign. By highlighting personal stories, showing up to advocate at the Capitol, and lifting up the voices of students and families, they made an impact and helped ensure an increase to special education in the 2025-2027 budget.

**Corrine Hendrickson, Brooke Legler**, and the entire force of **W.E.C.A.N. (Wisconsin Early Childhood Action Needed)** has set a higher bar for budget advocacy in their relentless fight to support Wisconsin's earliest learners at high-quality child care centers. Their ability to unite allies, connect the dots across issues, and speak out in large numbers moved many at the Capitol to prioritize an issue often ignored in budget negotiations.

Kudos to the **Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education** team for their advocacy for a just budget and in exposing the costs of privatization scams with a fabulous new set of graphics. Their year-round work to educate members of the community as well as lawmakers, as they build support for local public schools is an inspiration!

Finally, we recognize the countless hours that went into school referenda work in 2024-2025 and are deeply grateful to the countless **referendum team leaders, volunteers, and school and district leaders** who used the learning through their referenda campaigns to educate lawmakers on the need for a better budget for 2025-2027. Your stories, stellar testimony, letters to the editor, and direct contact with lawmakers made a huge difference, and helped all of us build critical capacity throughout this budget cycle to demand and deliver better in 2027-2029.

***THANK YOU to every champion for public school students who took budget action this year. Without your efforts, the final budget would have been significantly worse for public schools.***



## JOIN US and TAKE ACTION

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We're taking advantage of the lull in our election calendar over the next six months to focus on the real work of getting organized where we live to support local students.

Our fall and winter calendar includes numerous opportunities for trainings, workshops, and networking events to support and sustain local action with statewide impact.

We invite you to be an active part of our efforts and renew your commitment to local advocacy by sharing leadership of this critical work.

To learn more and get involved, visit <https://www.WisconsinNetwork.org/champion> and bookmark the event calendar below!



## ACTION & EVENT CALENDAR

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**JOIN US YEAR ROUND** for regular meetings of Network partners, special events, organizing workshops, policy briefings, and much much more!

We host events to help YOU support local public schools where every student in every public school deserves the freedom to thrive.



Learn more and register for upcoming trainings and events at: <https://www.wisconsinnetwork.org/events>





## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



WISCONSIN  
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EDUCATION  
ACTION

### YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO **WISCONSIN'S PUBLIC EDUCATION DEFENSE FUND**

- SUPPORT ALL STUDENTS
- GET POLITICS OUT OF POLICY
- HALT HARMFUL PRIVATIZATION
- DEMAND FAIR FUNDING
- STOP ATTACKS ON THE FREEDOM TO TEACH THE TRUTH
- PROTECT STUDENTS FROM HATE

A PROJECT OF WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTION,  
A NONPARTISAN, NONPROFIT 501(C)(4) ORGANIZATION  
SUPPORTING WISCONSIN STUDENTS' FREEDOM TO LEARN  
IN THRIVING PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

**Wisconsin's Public Education Defense Fund** protects Wisconsin public school students against attacks on the freedom to teach and learn in safe, welcoming, joyful, inclusive environments that allow all students to thrive. Building a strong Public Education Defense Fund is key to fighting back against dangerous political agendas that threaten our students' right to shine and succeed in excellent public schools.

Your [donation](#) to **Wisconsin's Public Education Defense Fund** supports nonpartisan work to:

- *Support all students and protect them from hateful attacks*
- *Stop harmful and divisive private voucher programs*
- *End unfair funding by holding the state accountable for meeting its constitutional obligation to our public schools*
- *Protect the freedom to teach the truth, support districts against attacks on equity, racial justice initiatives and policies that protect LGBTQ+ students*
- *Recruit, elect and support public education champions*
- *Educate voters on all ballot questions that impact our students*
- *Organize communities to take action at the state and local levels and fund grassroots community engagement efforts*

**Make a secure contribution to Wisconsin's Public Education Defense Fund today online at** or mail to:

Wisconsin Public Education Action, 1502 W. Broadway,  
Suite 102, Madison, WI 53713.





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We show up. We vote.**



## **THANKS to our Summit Sponsors**

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Our Summer Summit depends on the generous support of many partners, businesses, and individuals to ensure our event is accessible and affordable to all, and these partnerships make that possible. Please join us in extending deep appreciation for their leadership and support.

### **HOST SPONSORS**

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Green Bay Education Association

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Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC)

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Progressive Magazine  
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign



## THANKS and APPRECIATION

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We are so thankful for the help and support of so many people whose time, ideas, support and commitment allowed us to put together a fantastic agenda and unite so many remarkable people today.

Our deepest gratitude to our **presenters**  
for sharing their time, experience and expertise.

To all of our **sponsors** and **partners** who donated so generously to support our event, including the auction and drawing, and all who donated today to support our work.

We are especially appreciative of the dozens of **volunteers** who pitched in to help make this Summit run smoothly. Thank you!

**Jill Underly, Tom McCarthy** and the Department of Public Instruction

**Senator Tammy Baldwin** and staff

**Green Bay Mayor Eric Genrich**

Representative **Amaad Rivera-Wagner**

**Ingrid Knutson, Kevin Hickman**, and the team at **Nexus Solutions**

Thanks to our long-time partners and first-time Summit hosts at the  
**Green Bay Area Public School District**  
including Superintendent **Vicki Bayer**  
and board members

**James Lyerly**, President

**Lynn Gerlach**, Vice President

**Andrew Becker**, Treasurer

**Jeanette Knill**, School District Clerk

**Laura McCoy**, Trustee

**Alex Mineau**, Trustee

**Samantha Meister**, Trustee

**Lori Blakeslee** for her leadership, support of the Summer Summit planning team. and longstanding partnership with Wisconsin Public Education Network

**Courtney Kuehn**, Principal of Preble High School,  
**Amy Jaeckel, Kent Theel, Dalton Stritzel, Efren Zurita**, and  
**Eric Froberg** for their technical support  
**Lynette Kiehnau** and the food service team  
and the administration and staff of GBAPSD for their help and support  
in planning this event.

**Brent Bergstrom** and our friends at **Green Bay Education Association**

**Diana Delbecchi, Sarita Foster**, and our friends at the **Coalition for Wisconsin Community Schools** for cohosting our Welcome Reception and coordinating their conference to connect our partners in support of community schools!

**Peggy Wirtz-Olsen, Bob Baxter**, and **Christina Brey** of **WEAC**

**Jon Shelton** of **American Federation of Teachers AFT-Wisconsin**

**Joe Donovan** and the **Donovan Group** for their continuing support and their work on our Annual Report

**Todd Allbaugh** and the staff of **Civic Media Radio**  
**Pat Kreitlow** and **UpNorthNews**  
**Baylor Spears** and **Ruth Conniff** of **Wisconsin Examiner**  
**Norm Stockwell** and **The Progressive Magazine**

**Sandy Whisler**, presenter liaison and WAES Board President  
**Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Kris Andrews**, and **Julie Underwood** for their fundraising efforts

The staff of our conference hotel, **The Hyatt Regency Green Bay** and our conference reception venues, **Lambeau Field** and **Titletown Brewing Co.**

All of the members of the **Green Bay Local Planning Team**:  
**Lori Blakeslee, Amy Jaeckel, Courtney Kuehn, Brent Bergstrom, Lynette Kiehnau, Luanne O'Leary, Andrew Blank**, and **Ingrid Knutson**, and special thanks to all the **Preble staff**!

**And all who joined actively in today's critical conversations!**  
**Thank you for uniting for Wisconsin's children!**



# THANKS to our Network Partners

## Blue Ribbon Partners 2025 Summer Summit

Thank you to those who pre-registered as Blue Ribbon Partners:

**Lauri Asbury  
Chris Bauer  
Jim Bowman  
Natalie Bowman  
Sachin Chheda  
Patti Clark-Stojke  
Jill Gaskell  
Chris Hambuch-Boyle**

**Bryn Horton  
Andi Krizan-Burns  
Carol Lenz  
Ronald Martin  
Megan Miller  
Amy Nasr  
Gina Pagel  
Cathy Pagel**

**Jane Parish Yang  
Claudia Pogreba  
James Shaw  
Julie Underwood  
Nicole Vander  
Meulen  
Christy Welch  
Sandy Whisler**

*Want to join this list? Visit the registration or merch tables! Blue Ribbon donors receive a bonus entry to the grand prize basket drawing!!*

## 2016-2025 District Partners

Contributing partner districts in recent years include:

Altoona  
Amery  
Appleton Area  
Ashwaubenon  
Baraboo  
Barron Area  
Bellefonte  
Beloit  
Black Hawk  
Brown Deer  
Cambridge  
Clintonville Public  
Columbus  
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De Pere  
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Manitowoc  
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McFarland  
Mequon Thiensville  
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Niagara  
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Oregon  
Oshkosh  
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Pecatonica Area  
Pepin Area

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South Milwaukee  
Stoughton  
Sun Prairie Area  
Superior  
Verona  
Tomahawk  
Wauwatosa  
West Allis-West Milwaukee  
West De Pere  
White Lake  
Whitewater Unified  
Williams Bay  
Winneconne Community  
Wisconsin Heights  
Wisconsin Rapids  
Wrightstown Community



## Join the Network!

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It's time for Wisconsin to come together to be as strong a collective voice as possible for the students attending our public schools statewide!

We need to hold ourselves accountable for delivering the level of advocacy and collective action required to make a difference for Wisconsin kids, and that starts by coming together.

We'd love to come to talk to your board, district leaders, or group about the benefits of joining the Network. Contact Julie Underwood at [julie.madison.wisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:julie.madison.wisconsin@gmail.com) or Heather DuBois Bourenane at [hdb@WisconsinNetwork.org](mailto:hdb@WisconsinNetwork.org) to learn more about district partnership.

We can arrange a visit from one of our Network ambassadors to talk about how we can work with your district to ensure year-round support for the schools your students deserve. Individuals, groups, and organizations are invited to become contributing partners of the Wisconsin Public Education Network today!

Visit [www.WisconsinNetwork.org](http://www.WisconsinNetwork.org) for more information, or talk to a member of Team Public or the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES) board - wearing gold name tags - at the Summit today!





# WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK

**Wisconsin Public Education Network** is a statewide, nonpartisan coalition of individuals, organizations and grassroots groups who support thriving students and excellent public schools. Our partners include parents, caregivers, students, educators, board members, districts, administrators, community leaders, grassroots groups, and more.

As a project of the **Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools** (WAES) a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Network connects us to information, resources, and each other to take local action on the issues that matter most to our communities and schools. Our regional organizers support local teams and make statewide connections. Together, we make a difference.



Your contributing partnership - whether a monthly or annual donation - makes this critical work possible. Contributions payable to WAES may be sent to: WAES, 1502 W. Broadway, Suite 102, Madison, WI 53713, or

donate securely online at <https://wp.en.wisconsinnetwork.org/summit25donate>



**Wisconsin Alliance  
for Excellent Schools**

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Peggy Wirtz-Olsen

**THANK YOU for your support of our students and public schools!**  
**Wisconsin Public Education Network organizers:**

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**Organizing & Engagement Coordinator**  
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**Digital and Communications Organizer**  
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**Jenni Hofschulte (SE)**, Jenni@WisconsinNetwork.org

**Denise Gaumer Hutchison (NE)**, Denise@WisconsinNetwork.org

**Legislative Policy Lead: Bryn Horton**, partners@WisconsinNetwork.org



## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 12th ANNUAL SUMMER SUMMIT! JULY 23-24, 2026

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**JOIN US in beautiful Superior next summer for our 12TH ANNUAL SUMMER SUMMIT at Superior High School!**

We are thrilled to announce that we are headed north for our next Summer Summit!

The **School District of Superior** is hosting the 12th Annual Summer Summit **July 23-24, 2026!**

Mark your calendars for fun, family vacation-friendly events, and get ready to learn more about the needs of students and schools often overlooked in our conversations! We hope to provide childcare and destination carpool opportunities to make travel plans easy for all!

Our friends at the School District of Superior and our local partners are working with the Superior tourism team to put together an amazing package for us that includes discounted hotel rates, local perks and promos, and fun swag bags with lots of goodies just for public school champions.. Register TODAY and get some exciting perks! Learn more at [WisconsinNetwork.org/summit](https://WisconsinNetwork.org/summit).

Special thanks to **Superior Superintendent Amy Starzecki, David Coy, Marquise Slay, Christina Kintop, David Mattille** and the team at **Progress North** for their help in kick-starting the 2026 planning!

*If you'd like to host a future Summer Summit, join the planning team, sponsor the event, or share ideas for speakers, features, or sessions, contact Heather at [hdb@WisconsinNetwork.org](mailto:hdb@WisconsinNetwork.org).*

**SAVE THE DATE & REGISTER NOW TO  
LOCK IN AN UP NORTH VACATION DEAL**

**WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK** 

**12th ANNUAL  
SUMMER  
SUMMIT**



**SUPERIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
JULY 23-24**

**[WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit](https://WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit)**



**CUSTOMIZE A SUMMIT VACATION PACKAGE!**



*Before and/or after  
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make the most  
of our host district  
and explore the  
shores, cities, falls,  
and lighthouses of  
Lake Superior!*

You deserve a long weekend of learning, planning, and networking with public school champions from all over the state in beautiful Superior. Bring family & friends, and be in community with like-minded advocates for a meaningful and fun extended stay!

**Register for the Summit TODAY for the \$50 EARLY BIRD rate & unlock perks to build your ideal up north summer adventure:**

- \$30 off per night waterfront-view rooms at Barkers Island Inn on the shore of Lake Superior. *Discounted rate just \$139 W/Th/Sun and \$219 Fri/Sat.* BONUS! Book Barkers Island TODAY (JULY 23-24, 2025) and get 2 free drink tickets! Call (715) 392-7152 and ask for the Summer Summit rate to book! 4-night package also available!
- Summit Registration includes:
  - Thurs. July 23 welcome reception and pre-Summit activities
  - Fri. July 24 Summer Summit (breakfast & lunch provided)
  - Fri. July 24 post-Summit celebration
- Welcome bag, activities, tours, & local perks curated just for us!
- **FIRST 50 REGISTRANTS RECEIVE A DELUXE SUPERIOR SWAG BAG!**

# WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK RK



## 11th ANNUAL SUMMER SUMMIT

JULY 23-24, 2025  
PREBLE HIGH SCHOOL  
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