



BRILLION

Public School District

NEWSLETTER

Innovatively Educating...Every Child

March/April 2026

BPS Operational Referendum

APRIL 2026

Brillion Public Schools (BPS) is committed to providing the best education for every student and maintaining safe, welcoming schools for our community. Like many districts across Wisconsin, we are facing structural funding challenges that impact day-to-day operations and our ability to maintain programs, services, and staffing levels our students rely on. In December 2025, BPS mailed an independent survey to better understand community priorities and funding tolerance; more than 600 respondents participated, and the Board of Education used the results to guide their next steps.

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVED REFERENDUM QUESTION FOR APRIL 7, 2026 BALLOT

At its regular meeting on Monday, January 19, 2026, the School Board of the Brillion Public School District approved a resolution to place a non-recurring operational referendum question on the April 7, 2026, ballot. Based on feedback from the community survey conducted this winter, the Board authorized a resolution asking voters to allow the district to exceed the state revenue limit by \$2,275,000 per year for three years, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year.

REFERENDUM QUESTION

"Shall the Brillion Public School District, Calumet, Manitowoc and Brown Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,275,000 per year for three years, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, for nonrecurring purposes consisting of expenses to maintain educational programs and services, to maintain student mental health programs and services, to pay staff compensation, to update technology and to update the elementary school playground?"



WHAT IS DRIVING THE NEED?

State Revenue Limits and Inflation. Wisconsin's school funding system caps how much districts can receive from state aid plus local property taxes. After a 2009 inflation freeze, buying power has not kept pace with rising costs, creating a gap in many districts, including BPS.

Expiring Operational Support. BPS voters approved a non-recurring operational referendum for up to \$2 million in the third year back in April 2023; that authority expires after the 2025-26 budget.

Increasing Student Needs and Rising Costs. Recent examples include Valders (\$1.75M per year for 4 years) and Omro (\$1.9M per year for 5 years), which passed an operational referendum in November 2024. Seymour also approved a three-year, \$15M operations package in April 2024.

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Statewide trend data from DPI and media analyses show dozens to more than 100 school referendum questions per cycle, many of them operational and many passing—evidence of a broad, statewide response to revenue-limit pressures.

Referendum information continued on pages 3-5

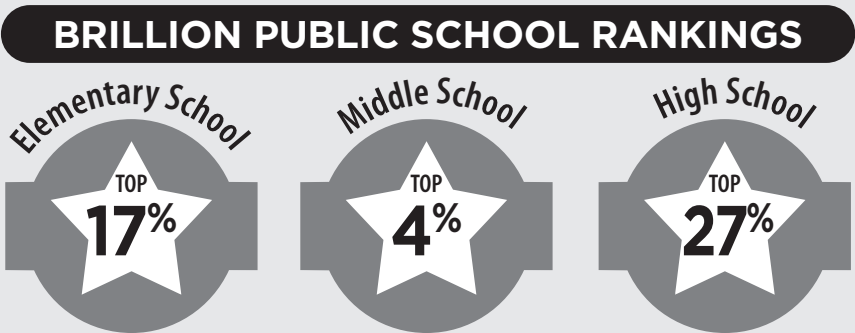


Brillion Public School District Earns NATIONAL RECOGNITION Across All Schools

The Brillion Public School District is celebrating an outstanding accomplishment, as its elementary, middle, and high schools have all once again been recognized in the U.S. News & World Report rankings. These rankings evaluate more than 105,000 schools nationwide, making this achievement especially noteworthy.

This recognition highlights the district's strong commitment to academic excellence and reflects the dedication of its students, staff, and supportive community. From early learning in elementary school to college and career preparation in high school, Brillion schools continue to demonstrate high-quality education at every level.

According to the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings within Wisconsin



Building Strong Foundations: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Brillion Elementary School plays a vital role in shaping students' academic journeys. Its national recognition underscores a commitment to creating a supportive and engaging environment where young learners can grow both academically and socially.

Supporting Growth: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brillion Middle School stands out for helping students successfully transition to the next stage of their education. Its high ranking reflects a focus on academic progress, meaningful relationships, and opportunities that keep students actively engaged in learning.

Preparing for the Future: HIGH SCHOOL

Brillion High School's recognition demonstrates its success in preparing students for life beyond graduation. With offerings such as Advanced Placement courses, dual credit opportunities, and career-focused programs in areas like STEM, agriculture, and business, students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for a wide range of future paths.



A Community Effort

A key factor behind the district's success is the strong support from the Brillion community. Parent involvement and partnerships with local businesses play an important role in enhancing student opportunities and outcomes.

Looking Ahead

This recognition from *U.S. News & World Report* reinforces the importance of investing in education at every level. Brillion Public School District continues to set a strong example of how schools can support students academically, socially, and emotionally—preparing them to succeed in an ever-changing world.



What an operational referendum would do for BPS

An operational referendum is a voter-approved measure that allows a district to exceed the state revenue limit for a defined period (non-recurring) or on a continuing basis (recurring). If approved by voters, funds would be used to maintain current operations and strategically strengthen services aligned to community priorities identified in our survey results. Based on results from the December 2025 community survey, the district elected to seek a three-year non-recurring referendum.

Community survey findings indicated weighted support in the area of \$2.5M per year for a three-year replacement operational

referendum, which would address the forecasted structural deficit and preserve core programs, class sizes, and student supports. Staying true to the “only levy for what we need” approach utilized during the 2023 referendum, the Board of Education chose to ask for the lesser amount of \$2.275M.

Important: An operational referendum pays for people and programs (staffing, curriculum, student services, transportation, utilities, technology licensing), not major construction. Capital projects are addressed separately through a facilities (capital) plan.

What is the projected tax impact if it passes?

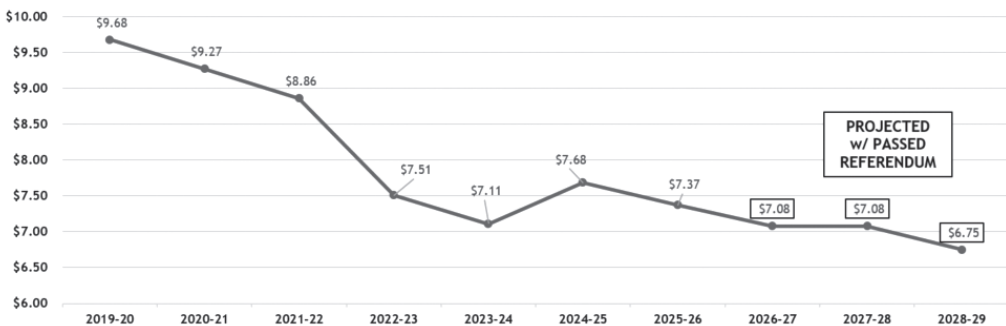
Potential Tax Implications of an Approved Referendum

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Amount requested (Not to exceed)		\$2.275 million	\$2.275 million	\$2.275 million
Projected tax mill rate	\$7.37	\$7.08	\$7.08	\$6.75
Tax DECREASE per \$100,000 of property value over prior year		-\$29.00	\$0.00	-\$33.00
TOTAL Tax DECREASE per \$100,000 of property value over 2025-26		-\$29.00	-\$29.00	-\$62.00

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Amount requested (Not to exceed)		\$2.275 million	\$2.275 million	\$2.275 million
Projected tax mill rate	\$7.37	\$7.08	\$7.08	\$6.75
Tax DECREASE per \$200,000 of property value over prior year		-\$58.00	\$0.00	-\$66.00
TOTAL Tax DECREASE per \$200,000 of property value over 2025-26		-\$58.00	-\$58.00	-\$124.00

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Amount requested (Not to exceed)		\$2.275 million	\$2.275 million	\$2.275 million
Projected tax mill rate	\$7.37	\$7.08	\$7.08	\$6.75
Tax DECREASE per \$300,000 of property value over prior year		-\$87.00	\$0.00	-\$99.00
TOTAL Tax DECREASE per \$300,000 of property value over 2025-26		-\$87.00	-\$87.00	-\$186.00

BPS Mill Rate Over Time w/Projections



Going back to the year 2000, the projected mill rates with a PASSED REFERENDUM would be the LOWEST the district has ever seen.



“How can my school taxes go down with a passed referendum?”

In 2023, the District prepaid debt by completing what is called a defeasance. By doing so, the district saved taxpayers over \$100K in interest payments and also helped lower the overall levy for the next three school years that would be covered by the replacement referendum.

The District is also closing in on completely paying off its debt from the 2018 capital referendum that allowed BPS to complete some important renovations. That debt will be completely paid off during the 2029-2030 school year.

“What would happen if the referendum DOES NOT pass?”

✓ Additional Staffing Cuts

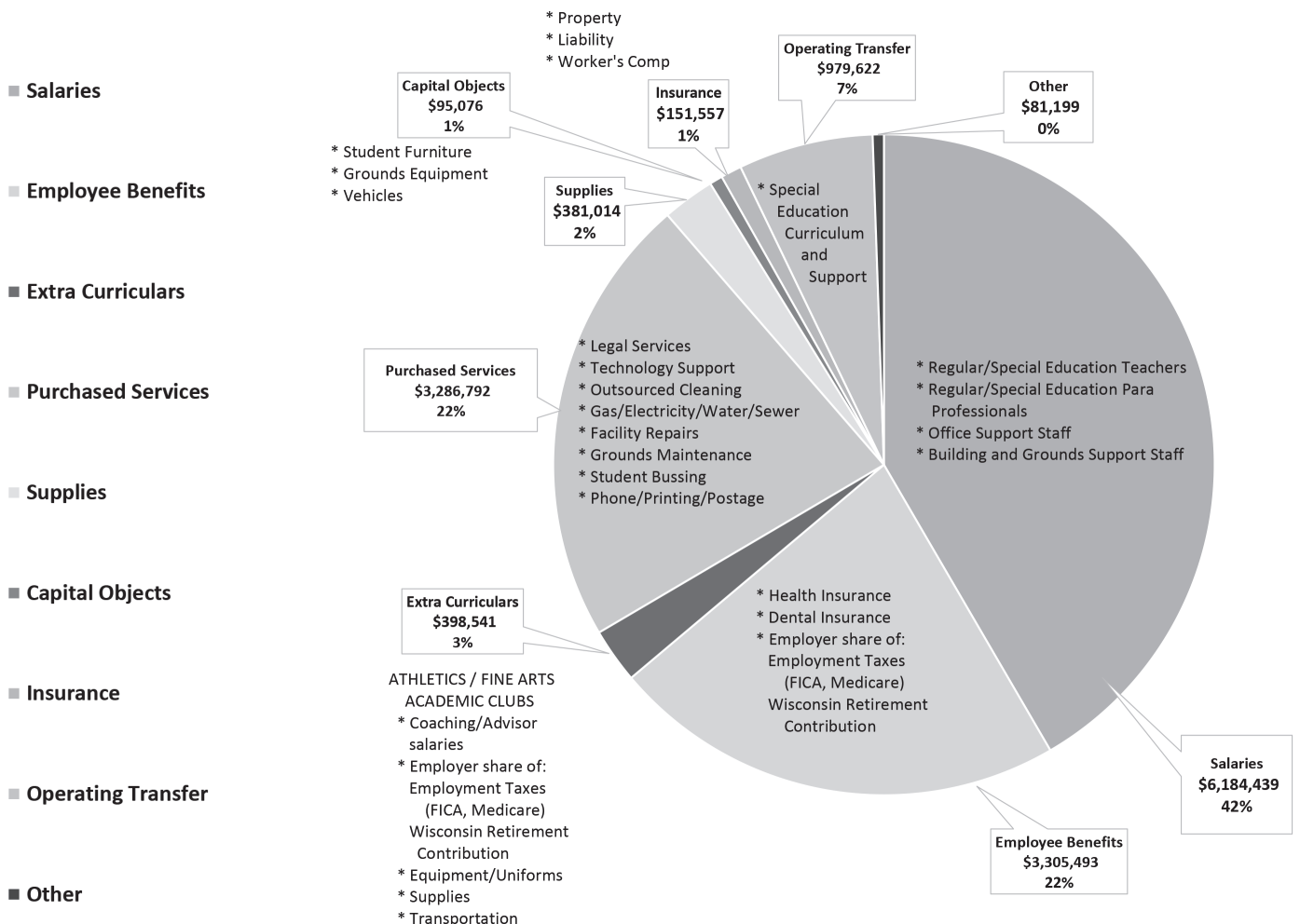
- Increased class sizes
- Decreased student support services
- Reduced course offerings
- Fewer extracurricular activities

✓ Delayed Technology Upgrades

✓ \$1,970,000 Total Deficit

- Would be the equivalent of approximately 17 positions (teachers, support staff, and administrators)
- 5-7 extracurricular activities
- Salary freeze for all remaining employees
- Remodeling budget cut = further delayed maintenance
- Delayed technology replacement cycle for students and staff

Brillion Public Schools 2025-2026 Budget Allocations





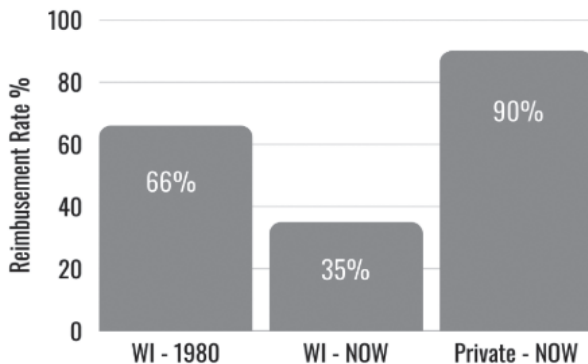
Private & Parochial Voucher Costs

- WI state law requires **PUBLIC** school districts to levy for the cost of students who are participating in the state voucher program.
- That mandated practice added **over \$705,000** (roughly **\$0.93/per \$1,000** of value) to the overall levy in 2025-2026.
- **\$300,000 home = \$279.00** that goes to private and parochial voucher schools
- BPS does not get to use those funds on public school students, and cannot limit/control those costs or the year-by-year increases we have been experiencing.
- 2023-24: \$405,922 (**+58.81%**)
- 2024-25: \$514,338 (**+26.71%**)
- 2025-26: \$705,203 (**+37.11%**)

Special Education Funding

- In 1980, Wisconsin funded 66% of special education costs in public schools. Funding has now dropped to around 35%. (State biennial budget “promised” 42% in 2025-26 and 45% in 2026-27)
- Meanwhile, special needs vouchers for private schools are funded at 90%.
- **Approximately \$980,000 is transferred from our General Fund (all students and programs) to offset the non-reimbursed costs of the mandated services.**

Special Education Funding in WI



2026 Brillion Junior Theatre Musical

Brillion Theatre presents

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical
Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Neil Benjamin
 Book by Heather Hach
 Based on the novel by Amanda Brown
 and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

April 24 at 6pm
 April 25 at 2pm
 April 25 at 6pm

Scan Here!

Online Tickets: \$8
 Door Tickets: \$10

Original Production by Hal Luftig, Fox Theatricals, Dorl Berenstein, James L. Nederlander, Independent Presenters Network, Roy Furman, Amanda Lipitz, Broadway Asia, Barbara Whitman, FWPM Group, Hensel/Wiesenthal, Goldberg/Bender, Stern/Meyer, Lange/Comley, Bartner-Jenkins/Noellello and Warren Trapp. Produced in association with MGM Onstage, Darcie Dapkins and Dean Stolter.



2026 Spring Sports Schedules

Boys Varsity Baseball

03/31	10:00AM	Hampshire at USA Stadium, Millington, TN
04/01	1:00PM	Plano at USA Stadium, Millington, TN
04/02	1:00PM	Marian at USA Stadium, Millington, TN
04/07	4:30PM	at Valders
04/09	4:30PM	Valders
04/10	4:30PM	at Hilbert
04/13	4:30PM	Sheboygan Falls
04/14	4:30PM	Manitowoc Lutheran
04/16	4:30PM	at Sheboygan Falls
04/17	4:30PM	Kewaunee High School
04/21	4:30PM	Two Rivers
04/23	4:30PM	at Two Rivers
04/27	4:30PM	at Chilton High School
04/28	4:30PM	at Bonduel
04/30	4:30PM	Chilton High School
05/01	4:30PM	Oostburg
05/05	4:30PM	Roncalli
05/07	4:30PM	at Roncalli
05/09	10:00AM	Doubleheader at Mishicot
05/11	4:30PM	at New Holstein
05/14	4:30PM	New Holstein
05/15	4:30PM	Reedsville
05/19	4:30PM	Kiel
05/21	4:30PM	at Kiel
05/28	TBA	WIAA Regionals at TBA
06/02	TBA	WIAA Regionals at TBA
06/03	TBA	WIAA Regionals at TBA
06/09	TBA	WIAA Sectionals at Crivitz HS
06/15	TBA	WIAA State at Fox Cities Stadium

Girls Varsity Softball

04/07	4:30PM	Chilton
04/09	4:30PM	at Kiel
4/10/26	TBA	at Wisconsin Dells
4/11/26	TBA	at Wisconsin Dells
4/11/26	TBA	TBA
04/13	4:30PM	at Hilbert
04/14	4:30PM	Two Rivers
04/16	4:30PM	at Valders
04/20	4:30PM	at Sheboygan Falls
04/22	12:00PM	at New Holstein
04/22	2:00PM	at Roncalli
04/24	4:30PM	Wrightstown
04/28	4:30PM	at Chilton
04/30	4:30PM	Kiel
05/01	4:30PM	Manitowoc Lutheran
05/04	4:30PM	at Two Rivers
05/07	4:30PM	Valders
05/11	4:30PM	at Reedsville
05/12	4:30PM	Sheboygan Falls
05/14	4:30PM	at New Holstein
05/15	4:30PM	at Elkhart Lake/Glenbeulah
05/18	4:30PM	Roncalli
05/19	4:30PM	Algoma
05/21	TBA	WIAA Regionals at TBA
05/26	TBA	WIAA Regionals at TBA
05/28	TBA	WIAA Regionals at TBA
06/02	TBA	WIAA Sectionals at Wrightstown HS
06/10	TBA	WIAA State at Goodman Diamond, Madison

Golf

04/07	2:00PM	EWC Mini Tour – Two Rivers	at Par 5 Resort GC	05/26	TBA	WIAA Regionals	at Autumn Ridge
04/13	3:30PM	EWC Mini Tour – Brillion	at Wander Springs GC	06/02	TBA	WIAA Sectionals	at Crystal Springs
04/17	10:00AM	Luxemburg Casco Invite	at Northbrook GC	06/08	TBA	WIAA State	at University Ridge, Madison
04/20	12:00PM	EWC Mini Tour – Roncalli	at Autumn Ridge GC				
04/24	9:00AM	Valders Invite	at Seven Lakes GC				
04/27	3:00PM	EWC Mini Tour – Chilton	at Hickory Hills GC				
05/04	12:00PM	EWC Mini Tour – Valders	at Autumn Ridge GC				
05/04	3:00PM	EWC Mini Tour – New Holstein	at Autumn Ridge GC				
05/07	10:00AM	Manitowoc Lincoln Invite	at Wander Springs GC				
05/12	12:00PM	EWC Mini Tour – Sheboygan Falls	at Town and Country GC				
05/16	11:00AM	Appleton West Invite	at Chaska GC				
05/20	10:00AM	EWC Conference Meet	at Quit Qui Oc GC				



2026 Spring Sports Schedules

Boys JV Baseball

4/7	4:30PM	Chilton
4/9	6:30PM	at Kiel
4/14	4:30PM	Two Rivers
4/16	4:30PM	at Valders
4/24	4:30PM	Wrightstown
4/28	4:30PM	at Chilton
4/30	4:30PM	Kiel
5/1	4:30PM	Manitowoc Lutheran
5/4	4:30PM	at Two Rivers
5/7	4:30PM	Valders
5/12	4:30PM	Sheboygan Falls
5/14	4:30PM	at New Holstein
5/18	4:30PM	Roncalli

Girls JV Softball

3/31	1:00PM	Hampshire at USA Stadium Complex
4/2	4:00PM	DeSoto Central at USA Stadium Complex
4/7	4:30PM	Valders
4/9	4:30PM	at Valders
4/10	4:30PM	Hilbert
4/13	4:30PM	at Sheboygan Falls
4/14	4:30PM	at Manitowoc Lutheran
4/16	4:30PM	Sheboygan Falls
4/17	4:30PM	at Kewaunee
4/23	4:30PM	Two Rivers
4/27	4:30PM	Chilton
4/28	4:30PM	Bonduel
4/30	4:30PM	at Chilton
5/5	4:30PM	at Roncalli
5/7	4:30PM	Roncalli
5/11	4:30PM	New Holstein
5/14	4:30PM	at New Holstein
5/19	4:30PM	at Kiel
5/21	4:30PM	Kiel

HS Track & Field

03/31	4:45PM	UW Oshkosh Girls Invite	Kolf Center UW-Oshkosh
04/01	4:45PM	UW Oshkosh Boys Invite	Kolf Center UW-Oshkosh
04/14	4:00PM	EWC Quad	at Chilton HS
04/17	4:00PM	Winneconne Invite	at Winneconne HS
04/21	4:00PM	EWC Quad	Brillion HS
04/28	3:00PM	EWC Relays	at Two Rivers HS
05/01	4:00PM	Brillion Invite	Brillion Middle School
05/05	4:00PM	EWC Quad	at Two Rivers
05/08	4:00PM	Lourdes Academy Invite	at UW-Oshkosh, Titan Stadium
05/12	4:00PM	EWC Quad	at Sheboygan Falls HS
05/18	3:30PM	EWC Conf. Meet	at New Holstein HS
05/21	4:00PM	EWC JV Conf. Meet	at Sheboygan Falls HS
05/26	3:30PM	WIAA Regionals	at Kiel HS
05/29	3:00PM	WIAA Sectionals	at Chilton HS
06/05	TBA	WIAA State	at UW-La Crosse

MS Track & Field

4/20	4:00PM	MS Conf. Quad	at Kiel HS
4/27	4:00PM	Multi-team Meet	at New Holstein HS
5/4	4:00PM	MS Conf. Quad	at Chilton HS
5/9	9:00AM	Hilbert Invite	at Hilbert HS
5/16	4:00PM	Brillion Invite	Brillion Middle School

Brillion Public Schools

315 South Main Street

Brillion, WI 54110

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark on Your Calendar



Brillion Public Schools
NOW ENROLLING
4K THROUGH 12th

Elementary/Middle School

920-756-3624

HS

920-756-9238

Call
today!

PHONE NUMBERS

Elementary/Middle School 920-756-3624

HS 920-756-9238

District Office. 920-756-2368

The school's website contains information such as:

School Calendar of Events

Sport Schedules • Free & Reduced Lunch Forms

Lunch Menus • Employment Information

Open Enrollment Information & Forms

Staff Contact Information

Board of Education Information

Board of Education Policies

www.brillionsd.org

APRIL

1-3 No School-- Spring Break

13-16 BHS Parent Conferences

24 MS Musical, *Legally Blonde Jr.* 6:00 PM

25 MS Musical, *Legally Blonde Jr.* 2:00 PM & 6:00 PM

MAY

13 6-12 Band Concerts 6:00 PM: 6th Grade

7:00 PM: 7th-12th Grade

20 6-12 Choir Concerts 6:00 PM: 6th Grade

7:00 PM: 7th-12th Grade

25 No School/Memorial Day

31 BHS Graduation 3:00 PM

JUNE

3 Full Day of School - AM and PM 4K in attendance

3 8th Grade Celebrating Success 5:00-6:30 PM

4 Last Day of School, 11:30 AM Dismissal

JOIN OUR FANTASTIC TEAM AT BPS!

Interested applicants should apply
online through the Wisconsin

Education Career Access Network

website at <https://wecan.waspa.org/>