NORMAL SCHOOL FUND

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS 1848

Investing in Communities and Public Education Throughout Wisconsin

608.266.1370
bcpl.wisconsin.gov

Douglas La Follette, *Secretary of State*
Kurt Schuller, *State Treasurer*
J.B. Van Hollen, *Attorney General*

Managing Wisconsin's Trust Assets for Public Education

Revenue

Added to the Principal of

- Timber sales

Normal School Fund

Invested in

Wisconsin received title to approximately 3.5 million acres of land pursuant to the federal Swamp Land Act of 1850. These acres were to be sold and the proceeds used for the purpose of drainage and reclamation of "swamp and overflowed lands," to the extent necessary. Wisconsin chose to set aside the proceeds from the sale of 1.75 million acres of these "Swamp Lands" to create the principal for the Normal School Fund.

The Normal Schools were two-year teacher colleges that became an integral part of the University of Wisconsin system. The first state Normal School was established in 1866 in Platteville.

Today, assets of the Normal School Fund include approximately $24 million in financial assets and over 70,000 acres of land that is managed for timber production and public recreation. Timber sale revenues are added to the principal of the Normal School Fund.

Loans and Bonds

Income distributed to

Normal School Fund monies are invested in State and Municipal Bonds and also loaned directly to Wisconsin communities as part of the BCPL State Trust Fund Loan Program. These loans are used for:

- Economic development
- School repairs and improvements
- Local infrastructure and utilities
- Capital equipment and vehicles

Borrower: Village of Kewaskum

Borrower: Ripon Area School District

Beneficiaries

Provides funding for:

- University of Wisconsin System

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM