
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Senate Bill 595

**Senate
Amendment 1**

2019 SENATE BILL 595

Senate Bill 595 creates a three-year online early learning pilot program for low-income children. Under the bill, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) must award a contract using a competitive request-for-proposals process to a service provider to administer the program in three urban school districts and three rural school districts selected by DPI. Among other requirements, the program must be designed to improve a child's transition to kindergarten, contain content in reading, math, and science, and provide access to a computer and internet service, at no cost, to participating families that do not currently have it.

Senate Bill 595 appropriates \$500,000 annually for the program, but also requires the service provider to provide a total of \$500,000 in matching funds during the three-year contract period. The bill also requires the service provider to submit an annual report to DPI containing specified information, including the number of eligible children who applied, the number selected to participate, the number of low-income families that requested a computer or home internet service, the number that were provided a computer or internet service, and how participating children performed on prekindergarten and kindergarten readiness assessments.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 provides more specific criteria for determining the six school districts in which the early online learning program will be administered. The amendment requires the program to be provided within a first class city school district (Milwaukee Public Schools), the two urban school districts with the largest reading achievement gaps, and three rural school districts selected by DPI that have reading achievement gaps. Under the amendment, an "urban school district" is one with at least 18,000 students and a "rural school district" is one with no more than 745 students.

The amendment also requires the service provider to report to DPI the name of each child participating in the early online learning program, whether the child completed the program, and other information necessary to identify the child in the student information system. DPI must ensure, to the extent possible, that the student information system includes information indicating that a child participated in the program, and indicating whether or not that child completed the program.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Darling introduced Senate Bill 595 on November 27, 2019, and offered Senate Amendment 1 on January 23, 2020. On February 7, 2020, by paper ballot, the Senate Committee on Education recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 1.

RES:jal