

Senate Committee on Education
January 30, 2014

Department of Public Instruction
Testimony on 2013 Senate Bill 468

I want to thank Chairman Olsen and members of the committee for the opportunity to talk to you today about 2013 Senate Bill 468, which modifies and repeals various rules promulgated by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). My name is Jennifer Kammerud and I am the Legislative Liaison at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

On behalf of the Department, I am testifying today in support of these technical changes as they update the Department's rules to align with statutory changes that have previously been enacted.

I have attached a complete description of the reason for each rule change. To summarize briefly, the two modifications update the Department's rules to reflect statutory language that has been changed as a result of enacted legislation. The four repeals eliminate rules that govern grant programs that no longer have any statutory authority or funding.

If you have any questions about any of the modifications or repeals, I would be happy to go into more detail about why the Department supports these administrative rule changes.

PI 25 Children at Risk Program and Plan

Under statute, every school board must identify the children at risk of not graduating from high school and annually develop a plan. If, in the previous school year, a school district had 30 or more dropouts or a dropout rate exceeding 5% of its total high school enrollment, the school board may apply to the state superintendent for aid. The PI 25 rule chapter defines children at risk, establishes criteria for school boards to consider when developing children at risk plans, and sets forth funding requirements.

2011 Wisconsin Act 32 modified the children at risk program so that a school board can contract with agencies to serve all children at risk enrolled in the school district if the school board determines that agencies can adequately serve such children. The rule currently states that agencies could only contract for up to 30% of the children at risk. The rule needs to be updated to reflect the statute.

PI 29 Grants for Preschool through Grade 5 Programs

PI 29 is the administrative rules chapter that describes the details of the grants awarded to Preschool through Grade 5 programs. The grants were designed to improve academic performance for 4 year old pupils through pupils in fifth grade. Programs already in existence and programs established in school districts with a high number of dropouts and low-income pupils were given priority.

2011 Wisconsin Act 32 deleted the statutory authority and funding authority for the program.

PI 31 Grants for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Programs

PI 33 sets forth criteria and procedures for awarding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics program grants to school districts.

2011 Wisconsin Act 32 deleted the statutory authority and funding authority for the program.

PI 33 Grants for Nursing Services

PI 33 sets forth criteria and procedures for awarding grants to eligible school districts to employ additional school nurses or contract for additional nursing services.

2011 Wisconsin Act 32 deleted the statutory authority and funding authority for the program.

PI 34 Teacher Education Program Approval and Licenses (Changing Definition of Immoral Conduct)

PI 34 is the Department's teacher licensing and program approval administrative rule. This rule change is concerned with the license revocation and denial process.

2011 Wisconsin Act 84 changed the statutory definition of immoral conduct. As a result, the definition in PI 34 needs to be updated to reflect the statutory definition.

PI 42 School Breakfast Program

Beginning in the 1994- 95 school year, a school food authority could apply to the State Superintendent for a start-up grant to assist in establishing a school breakfast program. This rule describes the grant application process and provides for the review of application proposals and the awarding of grants.

The statute governing the school breakfast program was repealed and recreated so that each school board received a set amount of money for each breakfast served rather than having to apply for money through the school breakfast grant program. As a result, this rule is no longer needed.