

Moen, Lisa

From: Barabara Noll [nollb@deerfield.k12.wi.us]

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2000 2:18 PM

To: lisa.moen@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: AB 394

Dear Lisa,
Please share the following with the Senate Education Committee.

This note is in regard to AB 394--Changing Eligibility Ages for children identified under IDEA. Restoring the eligibility age back to 21 will result in a cost saving for our school district. More importantly, however, students at this age need to move into the adult system where more appropriate services are available. I become frustrated when students appear ready for the next step but are encouraged to stay in the K-12 system because parents believe services are more readily available.

I also believe the state of Wisconsin should have policies consistent with the federal law.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Barbara Noll
Assistant Superintendent
Deerfield Schools

01/18/2000

Moen, Lisa

From: Marlene Gross-Ackeret [grosmar@sdmf.k12.wi.us]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2000 11:52 AM
To: Lisa.Moen@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: AB-394

Please share my comments regarding AB-394 with the Senate Education Committee.

I urge you to work for passage of this bill as soon as possible. When students with disabilities finish school during the term they turn 21 years of age, there is ample time to help students and families transition into adult services. "Graduating" in June, rather than as the student turns 22, is a more "normal" experience since most school graduations take place in May/June. This allows families a natural time to end public school placements and helps students adjust to the adult world.

Thank you,

Marlene Gross-Ackeret
Director of Pupil Services
School District of Menomonee Falls

Moen, Lisa

From: eknuth@neenah.k12.wi.us
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2000 11:45 AM
To: Lisa Moen @legis.state.wi.us
Subject: AB394

Dear Representative Moen,

The purpose of this e-mail is to recommend the passage of Assembly Bill 394, bringing the original maximum age (through age 21) for Special Education. By changing the age back to 21, adult service agencies will be able to assist the students in community-based funding.

Your vote in favor of changing the maximum age to 21 will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Knuth
741 Maple Street
Neenah, WI 54956
(920)-725-0290

Moen, Lisa

From: PHench41@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2000 4:24 PM
To: Lisa.Moen@legis.state.wi.us; Sen.Grobshmidt@legis.state.wi.us;
Sen.Jauch@legis.state.wi.us; Sen.Shibilski@legis.state.wi.us;
Sen.Roessler@legis.state.wi.us; Sen.Huelsman@legis.state.wi.us;
Sen.Lazich@legis.state.wi.us; Sen.Farrow@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Assembly Bill 394

I am writing this note to recommend the passage of Assembly Bill 394. I encourage you to pass this bill prior to the next school year (2000-2001). The change to the original maximum age (through 21) would return the student's back to their original graduation date of June 2000. I am frustrated because the public school system has spent the past 21 years preparing these students for graduation. Three of our students were to graduate in June of 2000 but with this bill we are to keep them yet another year. However, the adult service agencies are unable to provide the necessary community-based funding if the school remains the agency of financial responsibility. By changing the law to its original age limit(21), the students will be allowed to meet their graduation goal of June 2000 and the adult services agencies will again be able to provide the necessary funds for community-based programming.

Please consider this and send a response as soon as possible.

Patti Henschel
438 Maple Lane
Neenah, Wi, 54956

Rep. Joan Wade Spillner
Testimony on AB 394
January 26, 2000

Thank you, Chairman Grobschmidt and committee members for having a hearing on AB 394 today. The idea for this legislation came to me at the request of the Special Education Director in my CESA district and several school districts – people that are strong supporters of special education.

Prior to May, 1998, Wisconsin state law required school districts to give a free public education to children with disabilities until they turn 21 years old. The Department of Public Instruction requested a change in state law in 1998 to change that age to 22. The DPI made that request because they thought it was needed to conform state law with the federal IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) law.

The United States Department of Education has clarified that states must education students through age 21. This bill brings our state law back into line with federal law. This bill allows students to remain in school to the end of the year of their 21st birthday. By allowing students to finish out the school year after they turn 21, AB 394 provides continuity and a smooth transition to adult services for special education students.

We all hear from the schools back home the stories of how difficult it is for them to make ends meet. Stories about the high cost of special education and how that cost is competing with regular education programs. This is one small step that we can take to elevate some of that conflict.

This statute is new enough that now is the time to return it back to the original language which is to provide a free education through age 21.