

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 4/20/2005

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| LRB Number | 05-0614/1 | Introduction Number | AB-308 | Estimate Type | Original |
| Subject | | | | | |
| Clearinghouse for information about special education transition services | | | | | |

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to cooperate with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) in the establishment of a clearinghouse for information about the special education transition services and vocational opportunities that are available in each county. Each of the three departments must post information about the clearinghouse on its Internet site.

Such a clearinghouse has already been established. The Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative (WSTI) is a DPI project that offers a comprehensive approach to providing transition services. The project director, the DPI transition consultant and 12 transition coordinators located in regional Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) offices provide transition support services, information dissemination, and staff development. The WSTI project coordinates the efforts of state agencies, county agencies, community and social service agencies, school districts, CESAs, businesses and others to make information about transition services available. Coordination is accomplished through state transition services (CESAs), county Transition Advisory Councils (TACs) and school district Transition Action Teams (TATs). The WSTI is working toward providing a link to every county's available services through a point of entry manual (POEM). Currently, 63 of 72 Wisconsin counties are participating in the project, and 53 counties have developed POEMs. Full participation is a goal of the project, and it is anticipated that all 72 counties will be participating by the end of the 2005-06 school year. In addition, the department is working with the participating counties to redesign their POEMs to be consistent with the design of the statewide clearinghouse. The DPI website includes a link to the WSTI website (www.wsti.org).

DPI, DWD and DHFS work cooperatively in making transition services available, and interagency agreements exist between DPI and DWD (Division for Vocational Rehabilitation) and between DPI and DHFS (Division of Supportive Living). These agreements are posted on the respective agency websites.

It is assumed that the department would meet the requirements of this bill by continuing the interagency agreements with DWD and DHFS and by encouraging participation in the WSTI statewide clearinghouse by the remaining nine counties. The bill would have no fiscal effect on the Department of Public Instruction.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications