

DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-1358/P4dn

TKK:cjs:jm

July 16, 2013

Sarah Archibald:

1. Private schools that “reenter” a parental choice program. I’m still not entirely clear about the language related to a private school that seeks to “reenter” the program under s. 118.60 or 119.23. This terminology appears in three subdivisions created in the bill: s. 118.60 (2) (a) 7. c. and s. 119.23 (2) (a) 7. bm. and br. All three of these subdivisions relate to preaccreditation and accreditation requirements.

When we spoke on June 20th, you mentioned that a school that seeks to reenter the program should be required to satisfy the requirements applicable to “new schools”; these requirements are found in s. 118.60 (2) (ag), and enforced under s. 118.60 (2) (ar). If that is your intent, I think I should remove the language about reentering schools from the accreditation sections, where the term is not defined and appears without any explanation or context, and instead include such schools as a separate kind of “new school.”

That said, what are the parameters for identifying such schools? How long must a school have been out of the program before it is considered to be “reentering” the program? Are there any prohibitions applicable to schools that want to reenter the program? For example, if a school was barred from participating in the program under ss. 118.60 (10) (a) 8. or (b) or 119.23 (10) (a) 8. or (b), may it nevertheless reenter the program? And, more generally, if a school is not participating in one of the programs, but has participated in the past (two or more years ago, for example) and is accredited, must the school still satisfy the requirements applicable to new schools?

Let me know how you’d like to proceed on this topic.

2. Accreditation of private schools that seek to offer additional grades. In response to my questions on p. 11 of LRB-1358/P3, you indicated that a private school that offers elementary grades must obtain a separate accreditation in order to offer high school grades; similarly, a private school that offers high school grades must obtain a separate accreditation in order to offer elementary grades. I have added language to this effect under ss. 118.60 (7) (ad) and 119.23 (7) (ad), both of which are created in 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 (the budget bill). Please review the language carefully to ensure that it accurately captures the standards and conventions for accreditation.

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