



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 300
[2017 Assembly Bill 477]

**Supplemental Aid for School
Districts With a Large Area**

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) administers a supplemental aid grant program for eligible school districts. Under prior statute, a school district was eligible to apply for a grant if it satisfied all of the following conditions:

- Enrollment in the previous school year was fewer than 500 pupils.
- The school district's area was at least 200 square miles.
- At least 80% of the real property in the school district was: (1) tax-exempt under s. 70.11, Stats.; (2) taxed as forest cropland; (3) owned by or held in trust for a federally recognized American Indian tribe; or (4) owned by the federal government.

Under prior administrative rule, promulgated as required by statute, DPI required the clerks of the municipalities in which a school district was located to verify the school district's area and the property tax or ownership status of the real property within the school district.

2017 Wisconsin Act 300 repeals the requirement that DPI promulgate rules to administer the grant program and repeals ch. PI 10, Wis. Adm. Code, regarding the program. The Act incorporates the rule provisions regarding municipal clerk verification into the statutes and retains the prior program eligibility and administrative requirements, modified follows:

- Requires that a school district's **membership**, rather than enrollment, in the previous school year be **no more than**, rather than fewer than, 500 pupils.
- Bases the calculation of supplemental aid on a school district's **membership**, in the previous school year, rather than on enrollment.

Effective date: April 18, 2018

Prepared by: Rachel E. Snyder, Staff Attorney

April 19, 2018

RES:mcm;ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.