AN ACT relating to: creating a pilot program under which certain school districts are not required to provide a minimum number of hours of direct pupil instruction.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a pilot program for the 2018–19 and 2019–20 school years under which the school board of a school district located in the Cooperative Educational Service Agency 6 region that received a rating of significantly exceeds expectations or exceeds expectations on the most recent school and school district accountability report may opt out of the requirement to provide a minimum number of hours of direct pupil instruction at schools in the school district that received a rating of significantly exceeds expectations or exceeds expectations on the most recent school and school district accountability report. To participate in the pilot program, the school board of an eligible school district must adopt an annual resolution that indicates its intent to participate in the pilot program during that school year and identifies the schools in the school district at which the school board will not be required to schedule the minimum number of hours of direct pupil instruction under the pilot program.

Current law requires each school board to schedule at least 437 hours of direct pupil instruction in kindergarten, at least 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1 to 6, and at least 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7 to 12.
ASSEMBLY BILL 221

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) No minimum number of hours of direct pupil instruction; pilot program.

(a) Eligible school districts. A school district is eligible to participate in the pilot program under this subsection if all of the following apply:

1. On the effective date of this subdivision, the school district is located within the geographic region of cooperative educational service agency number 6.

2. The school district was assigned to one of the top 2 performance categories in the most recent school and school district accountability report published under section 115.385 of the statutes.

(b) Resolution to participate. To participate in the pilot program under this subsection, the school board of an eligible school district shall adopt an annual resolution to participate in the pilot program during the 2018–19 school year or the 2019–20 school year. The school board shall include in the resolution the schools at which the school board will not be required to schedule a minimum number of hours of instruction under paragraph (c).

(c) Pilot program. Notwithstanding section 121.02 (1) (f) of the statutes, a school board that adopts a resolution under paragraph (b) is not required to schedule a minimum number of hours of direct pupil instruction at schools in the school district that were assigned to one of the top 2 performance categories on the most recent school and school district accountability report published under section 115.385 of the statutes. This paragraph applies only to the school year for which the
resolution adopted under paragraph (b) is made. During the school year for which a resolution adopted under paragraph (b) is made, all of the following apply:

1. For purposes of section 121.004 (7) (cm) of the statutes, the school board is considered to have scheduled the required number of hours of direct pupil instruction under section 121.02 (1) (f) of the statutes at the schools identified in the resolution.

2. Section 121.006 (2) (a) of the statutes does not apply to the school district.

(d) Notice. A school board that adopts a resolution under paragraph (b) shall notify the department of public instruction of the school board's participation in the pilot program under this subsection by October 1, 2018, for the 2018–19 school year, and by October 1, 2019, for the 2019–20 school year.

(e) Sunset. This subsection does not apply after June 30, 2020.