



State of Wisconsin  
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4529/1  
CMH:cjs

## 2019 SENATE BILL 495

1     **AN ACT to amend** 115.7915 (2) (c), 118.60 (1) (ab), 118.60 (3) (ar) 1., 118.60 (3)  
2             (ar) 2., 118.60 (3) (ar) 6. b., 118.60 (7) (em) 1., 119.23 (1) (ab) 1. and 119.23 (7)  
3             (em) 1. of the statutes; **relating to:** application and reporting deadlines for the  
4             statewide parental choice program and evidence of accreditation for a private  
5             school participating in a parental choice program.

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*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

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

6             **SECTION 1.** 115.7915 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:  
7             115.7915 (2) (c) The eligible school has been approved as a private school by the  
8             state superintendent under s. 118.165 (2) or is accredited by AdvaneED Cognia, Inc.,  
9             Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation, the Independent  
10            Schools Association of the Central States, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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1 School Accreditation, Wisconsin Association of Christian Schools, National  
2 Lutheran School Accreditation, Christian Schools International, Association of  
3 Christian Schools International, the diocese or archdiocese within which the eligible  
4 school is located, or any other organization recognized by the National Council for  
5 Private School Accreditation, as of the August 1 preceding the school term for which  
6 the scholarship is awarded.

7 **SECTION 2.** 118.60 (1) (ab) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 118.60 (1) (ab) "Accrediting entity" means ~~Advanced~~ Cognia, Inc., Wisconsin  
9 Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation, Independent Schools Association  
10 of the Central States, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation,  
11 National Lutheran School Accreditation, Wisconsin Association of Christian  
12 Schools, Christian Schools International, Association of Christian Schools  
13 International, the diocese or archdiocese within which a private school is located, and  
14 any other organization recognized by the National Council for Private School  
15 Accreditation.

16 **SECTION 3.** 118.60 (3) (ar) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

17 118.60 (3) (ar) 1. A private school that has submitted a notice of intent to  
18 participate under sub. (2) (a) 3. a. may accept applications for the following school  
19 year between the first weekday in February ~~1~~ and the 3rd Thursday in April ~~20~~ from  
20 pupils who reside in a school district, other than an eligible school district or a 1st  
21 class city school district.

22 **SECTION 4.** 118.60 (3) (ar) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

23 118.60 (3) (ar) 2. By the first weekday in May ~~1~~ immediately following the  
24 application period under subd. 1., each private school that received applications  
25 under subd. 1. shall report to the department the number of pupils who have applied

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1 under subd. 1. to attend the private school under this section and the names of those  
2 applicants ~~that~~ who have siblings who have also applied under subd. 1. to attend the  
3 private school under this section.

4 **SECTION 5.** 118.60 (3) (ar) 6. b. of the statutes is amended to read:

5 118.60 (3) (ar) 6. b. The pupil's residence changed ~~between April 21~~ after the  
6 end of the application period under subd. 1. and on or before the 3rd Friday in August  
7 and the pupil continues to reside in a school district other than an eligible school  
8 district or a 1st class city school district.

9 **SECTION 6.** 118.60 (7) (em) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

10 118.60 (7) (em) 1. The governing body of each private school participating in  
11 the program under this section shall, subject to subd. 2., annually, by August 1,  
12 provide the department with evidence demonstrating that the private school  
13 remains accredited for the current school year as required under par. (ad), ~~except~~  
14 ~~that in the 2017-18 school year the governing body shall submit the evidence by~~  
15 ~~January 15, 2018.~~ The governing body shall include as evidence of accreditation a  
16 ~~letter~~ notice prepared by an accrediting entity that confirms that the private school  
17 is accredited by that entity as of the date of the ~~letter~~ notice.

18 **SECTION 7.** 119.23 (1) (ab) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

19 119.23 (1) (ab) 1. ~~AdvancED~~ Cognia, Inc., Wisconsin Religious and  
20 Independent Schools Accreditation, Independent Schools Association of the Central  
21 States, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation, National  
22 Lutheran School Accreditation, Wisconsin Association of Christian Schools,  
23 Christian Schools International, Association of Christian Schools International, the  
24 diocese or archdiocese within which a private school is located, and any other  
25 organization recognized by the National Council for Private School Accreditation.

