March 25, 2019 – Introduced by Representatives Ott, Katsma, Snyder, Duchow, Edming, Horlacher, Hutton, Knodl, Kulp, Murphy, Mursau and Tusler, cosponsored by Senators Kooymenga, Feyen and Kapenga. Referred to Committee on Education.

AN ACT to renumber and amend 121.02 (1) (f); and to create 121.02 (1) (f) 2. of the statutes; relating to: an emergency exception for high performing school districts to the number of hours of direct pupil instruction requirement.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction to count hours of direct pupil instruction that are canceled because school is closed due to an emergency or inclement weather if the school district was in one of the top two performance categories on the most recent school and school district accountability report (commonly known as the state report card). In other words, under the bill, a school district that was in one of the top two categories on the state report card is not required to make up hours of direct pupil instruction that were missed because schools were closed due to an emergency or inclement weather.

For further information see the 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. 121.02 (1) (f) of the statutes is renumbered 121.02 (1) (f) 1. and amended to read:
121.02 (1) (f) 1. Annually, except as provided in subd. 2., annually, 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. Scheduled hours under this paragraph include recess and time for pupils to transfer between classes but do not include the lunch period. Scheduled hours under this paragraph do not include hours of direct pupil instruction offered during an interim session. Scheduled hours under this paragraph may include hours on Saturdays. A school board operating a 4-year-old kindergarten program may use up to 87.5 of the scheduled hours for outreach activities.

**SECTION 2.** 121.02 (1) (f) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

121.02 (1) (f) 2. If a school district was placed in the “significantly exceeds expectations” or “exceeds expectation” category on the most recent accountability report published for the school under s. 115.385 (1), the department shall count towards the requirement under subd. 1. any hours of direct pupil instruction that are canceled on a day school is closed by order of the school district administrator because of an emergency or inclement weather.

(END)