AN ACT to create 20.255 (2) (bt) and 115.434 of the statutes; relating to: a shared services aid program for school districts, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a categorical aid for a school district that enters into an agreement to share administrative personnel services with other school districts or a local unit of government. To be eligible for the aid, the school district must pass a resolution approving participation in the shared services aid program. The amount of aid a school district receives under the shared services aid program is based on the administrative positions that are shared under the agreement.

Under the bill, during the first three school years of an agreement, each school district receives the following amount for each of the following administrative positions that is shared under the agreement:

1. For a school district administrator, $40,000.
2. For a human resources director, information technology director, or business manager, $22,500.
3. For any other administrative position other than principals and assistant principals, $17,500.

In the fourth and fifth school years of an agreement, school districts receive half of the amounts described above. If, in any school year, the amount appropriated for this aid is insufficient to pay these amounts to all entitled school districts, the Department of Public Instruction must prorate the aid amounts.
Finally, under the bill, there is no limit to the number of positions that may be shared under an agreement.

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. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

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<th>2019-20</th>
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<td>20.255 Public instruction, department of</td>
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<td>(2) AID FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING</td>
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<td>(bt) Shared services aid program GPR A</td>
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SECTION 2. 20.255 (2) (bt) of the statutes is created to read:

20.255 (2) (bt) Shared services aid program. The amounts in the schedule for aid to school districts participating in an agreement under s. 115.434.

SECTION 3. 115.434 of the statutes is created to read:

115.434 Shared services aid program. (1) In this section:

(a) “Local unit of government” means the governing body of a city, village, or town or the board of control of a cooperative educational service agency.

(b) “Shared services agreement” means an agreement between two or more school boards to share administrative personnel services.

(2) (a) A school board is eligible for aid under this section if all of the following occur:

1. The school board enters into a shared services agreement.
2. The school board passes a resolution to participate in the shared services aid program under this section.

3. All of the school boards participating in the shared services agreement agree to jointly apply for aid under this section.

(b) To apply for aid under this section, school boards eligible under par. (a) shall jointly submit a shared services agreement to the department that includes at least all of the following:

1. The position or positions the school districts intend to share.

2. The position or positions that will be eliminated in each school district.

3. The salary and fringe benefit costs of the positions described under subds. 1. and 2.

4. Information demonstrating that the shared services agreement will result in a net reduction in filled administrative positions between the participating school districts.

(3) (a) A school board is eligible for aid under this section if all of the following occur:

1. The school board enters into an agreement with a local unit of government to share any administrative positions described in sub. (5) (a) 1. to 3.

2. The school board passes a resolution to participate in the shared services aid program under this section.

(b) To apply for aid under this section, a school board eligible under par. (a) shall submit the agreement under par. (a) to the department and any information required by the department, by rule, to demonstrate that the agreement will result in a net savings to the participating school district.
(4) The department shall review applications submitted under subs. (2) (b) and (3) (b) and approve those applications that comply with this section and rules promulgated by the department.

(5) If an application is approved under sub. (4), from the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (bt) and subject to sub. (6), the department shall pay to each school board included in the application amounts determined as follows:

(a) In each of the first 3 school years of a shared services agreement or agreement under sub. (3) (a):

1. For a shared district administrator position, $40,000.

2. For a shared human resources director, information technology coordinator, or business manager position, $22,500.

3. For any shared nonfaculty administrative position other than a position identified in subd. 1. or 2. and other than a principal or assistant principal, $17,500.

(b) In the 4th and 5th school years of a shared services agreement or agreement under sub. (3) (a), 50 percent of the amounts paid under par. (a).

(6) If the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (bt) in any fiscal year is insufficient to pay the full amount of aid under under sub. (5), the state superintendent shall prorate the payments among the school boards entitled to aid under sub. (5).

(7) Notwithstanding sub. (5), if an individual holds more than one position for which aid may be paid under sub. (5) (a), the department shall pay a school board for only one position held by the individual. If the individual holds positions for which different amounts may be paid under sub. (5) (a), the department shall pay a school board for the position for which the highest amount may be paid under sub. (5) (a).

(8) There is no limit on the number of positions that a school board may share under this section.
(9) The department may promulgate rules to implement and administer this section.