
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2023 Senate Bill 989

**Senate
Amendment 1**

2023 SENATE BILL 989

2023 Senate Bill 989 combines the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP), and Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) into a single program called the Private School Choice Program (PSCP). The bill makes some substantive changes to this program and the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP), including requirements for virtual instruction. Specifically, if a private school participating in PSCP or SNSP offers virtual instruction, the private school must ensure that a teacher is responsible for the following aspects of the virtual instruction for each student:

- Improving learning by planned instruction.
- Diagnosing learning needs.
- Prescribing content delivery through class activities.
- Assessing learning.
- Reporting outcomes to administrators and parents and guardians.
- Evaluating the effects of instruction.

Under current law, individuals employed as teachers or administrators at a private school participating in MPCP, RPCP, or WPCP must either hold a license to teach issued by the Department of Public Instruction or have a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education. Additionally, under current law, individuals employed as teacher's aides at a private school participating in MPCP, RPCP, or WPCP must have completed high school or its equivalent. The bill retains these requirements for PSCP and extends them to schools that participate in SNSP.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 makes several changes relating to virtual instruction at PSCP and SNSP schools. First, the amendment clarifies that a teacher does not have to comply with the virtual instruction requirements outlined above if the virtual instruction is incidental.

Second, the amendment clarifies that when a student is receiving virtual instruction, the teacher, administrator, and teacher's aide credentialing requirements do not apply to an individual who provides educational services in the student's home (e.g., the student's parent), unless that individual is an employee for whom the private school is required to perform a criminal background investigation.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Stroebel offered Senate Amendment 1 on February 15, 2024. On February 20, 2024, the Senate voted to adopt Senate Amendment 1 on a voice vote and voted to pass Senate Bill 989, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 22; Noes, 10.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

EH:kp;jal