

Chapter PI 25

**CHILDREN AT RISK PLAN AND PROGRAM
REQUIREMENTS**

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Note: This chapter was created as an emergency rule effective March 12, 1986.

PI 25.01 Applicability and purpose. (1) Under s. 118.153 (3) (a) Stats., beginning in the 1986-87 school year, every board shall make available programs to serve children at risk. The purpose of the legislation is to serve the needs of children at risk through expanded or newly developed programming and the integration of school, parent and community programs and resources. This chapter defines children at risk, establishes approval criteria and requirements for children at risk plans and programs and sets forth the requirements for receipt of additional state aid in those school districts experiencing high dropout rates.

(2) The requirements under ss. PI 25.03, 25.04 and 25.06 apply to all school districts in the state; s. PI 25.05 contains additional requirements which apply only to school districts operating under ch. 119, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1986, No. 367, eff. 8-1-86.

PI 25.02 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Adjudicated delinquent" means delinquent as defined under s. 48.02 (3m), Stats.

(2) "Alternative programs" means board approved instructional programs offered in place of regularly scheduled curriculum programs.

(3) "Board" means the school board in charge of the public schools of the district.

(4) "Ceased to attend" means that a pupil has been absent without acceptable excuse under ss. 118.15 (1) (b) to (d) or (3), and 118.16 (4), Stats., for 20 consecutive school days and has not formally withdrawn from school.

(5) "Children at risk" means children who are one or more years behind their age or grade level in mathematics or reading skill levels or the number of credits attained and who are or have ever been any of the following:

(a) Dropouts.

(b) Pupils who have been absent from school for all or part of 20 school days or more during the previous 175 school days without acceptable excuses under ss. 118.15 (1) (b) to (d) or (3), and 118.16 (4), Stats.

(c) Pupils who are parents.

- (d) Pupils who have been adjudicated delinquent.
- (6) "Contract" means a written agreement between a board operating under ch. 119, Stats., and a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian agency for the purpose of providing services to children at risk.
- (7) "Curriculum modifications" means adaptations or changes in the district's kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum scope and sequence.
- (8) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of public instruction.
- (9) "Dropout" means a pupil who has ceased to attend school; continues to reside in the school district; does not attend a public, private or vocational, technical and adult education district school or home-based private educational program under s. 118.15 (4), Stats., on a full-time basis; has not graduated from high school and does not have an acceptable excuse under ss. 118.15 (1) (b) to (d) or (3), and 118.16 (4), Stats.
- (10) "Parent" means mother, father, or legal guardian.
- (11) "Pupils who are parents" means school age parents as defined under s. 115.91 (1), Stats.
- (12) "Pupil retention" means the pupil remained enrolled through completion of the school year or graduated from high school.
- (13) "Standardized achievement test" means a test which is normed to allow valid and reliable interpretation of grade level achievement, or an objective referenced test approved by the department.
- (14) "State superintendent" means the state superintendent of public instruction.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1986, No. 367, eff. 8-1-86.

PI 25.03 Identification of children at risk and children at risk plan. (1) Under s. 118.153 (2) (a), Stats., by August 15, 1986, and annually thereafter, every board shall identify children at risk in the school district and develop a written plan for meeting their needs. The plan shall meet the following requirements:

(a) It shall describe how the children at risk who are enrolled in the school district will be identified annually.

(b) It shall describe how the needs of children at risk will be met through each of the following:

1. Curriculum modifications and alternative programs suited to the pupils' learning needs and which enable elementary school pupils to advance in grade level and enable high school pupils to earn academic credit leading to a high school diploma under s. 118.33, Stats. This shall include a description of any curriculum modifications and alternative programs provided under s. 118.15 (1) (b) and (d), Stats., and, for districts operating under ch. 119, Stats., those curriculum modifications and alternative programs provided under s. 118.153 (3) (c), Stats.

2. Remedial instruction provided to pupils in reading and mathematics skills areas in which it is determined that the pupils are one or more years behind their peers.

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3. Parental involvement, including participation in program planning and training for parents to assist them in fostering the school attendance and school achievement of their children.

4. Pupil support services, including school counseling, school social work, school nursing, and school psychological services.

5. Identification and use of community support service providers, including:

a. Community programs and services provided by educational, social, health, business, industry and other public, private and volunteer organizations.

b. State, county and local government agencies.

6. Programs and instruction which will contribute to the preparation of pupils for work, including career exploration and planning, employability skills and attitudes, and development of specific occupational skills.

7. Other approaches and services which have demonstrated success in meeting the needs of children at risk, provided that programs for pupils in grades 9 through 12 are designed to allow pupils to meet the high school graduation requirements under s. 118.33, Stats., and ch. PI 18.

(c) It shall provide for coordination between existing programs, resources and services in the school district and community with any new programs, resources and services designed to serve needs of children at risk.

(d) It shall provide for evaluation of each program or service provided to children at risk to determine the effectiveness of the program or service in meeting the needs of children at risk. School districts which are required to submit their plans to the department for approval under sub. (2), shall provide for evaluation at least annually. Other school districts shall provide for evaluation at least once every five years on a schedule which corresponds with the department audit for compliance with the school district standards under s. 121.02 (2), Stats.

(2) If, in the previous school year, a school district had 50 or more dropouts or a dropout rate exceeding 5% of its total high school enrollment, the board shall submit the plan developed under sub. (1) to the state superintendent for approval.

Note: PI 1204, Report of Pupils Leaving School, will be used as the basis for determining the number and percentages of dropouts. Copies of the form may be obtained at no charge from the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Management and Budget, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707.

Note: Form PI 2376, Children At Risk Program Plan, may be obtained at no charge from the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Management and Budget, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1986, No. 367, eff. 8-1-86.

PI 25.04 General requirements for school board programs for children at risk. Each board operating a program for children at risk shall:

(1) Designate a staff person to coordinate the program for children at risk.

(2) Provide that all work experience and other similar programs and activities taking place outside the school for which pupils receive academic credit are supervised by departmentally licensed teachers or other licensed school personnel.

(3) Ensure that in grades 9 through 12 curriculum modifications and alternative programs provided for children at risk are designed to allow the pupils to meet the high school graduation requirements under s. 118.33, Stats., and ch. PI 18.

(4) Identify children at risk enrolled in the school district and determine those programs and services which will meet the needs of such pupils, utilizing the procedures set forth in the board's plan under s. PI 25.03 (1).

(5) Notify each pupil and his or her parents in writing that the pupil has been identified as a child at risk and is eligible to be enrolled in the board's program for children at risk.

(6) Enroll the pupil in the program for children at risk upon request of the pupil or the pupil's parent. The request shall be in writing or by signature on a district provided form.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1986, No. 367, eff. 8-1-86.

PI 25.05 Special provisions applicable to first class city school system. (1) The board of a school district operating under ch. 119, Stats., may contract with private, nonprofit, nonsectarian agencies to provide programs for children at risk for up to 30% of the children at risk enrolled in the school district if the board determines that the agencies can adequately serve such children. A board contracting under this section shall:

(a) Determine and list in writing appropriate private, nonprofit, nonsectarian agencies located in the school district.

(b) Ensure that all instruction and pupil support services provided in contracted programs for children at risk are provided by one of the following:

1. Departmentally licensed teachers or other licensed school staff personnel.

2. Persons otherwise licensed to provide the instruction or services they will provide.

3. Persons who are supervised by licensed teachers or other licensed school staff personnel.

(c) Pay each contracting agency, for each full time equivalent child at risk served under the contract, an amount equal to at least 80% of the school district's average per pupil cost, and include in the annual report the amount paid to each contracting agency for each child at risk served.

(d) Establish procedures with each contracting agency for the agency to:

1. Describe staff qualifications.

2. Describe curriculum modifications and alternative programs to be provided.

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3. Evaluate pupil performance including grading criteria, procedures for granting academic credit, and testing for progress in reading and mathematics skills areas.

4. Record and report pupil attendance and retention rates.

(e) Develop a procedure for communication and cooperation with the contracting agencies in meeting the needs of children at risk served under this section.

(2) The board shall assure the department in writing that each program for children at risk provided by a contracting agency meets all of the requirements of this section.

(3) In addition to the annual report on the children at risk program required under s. PI 25.06 (1), the board shall report annually to the department the information required under s. PI 25.06 (1) (a) for each contracting agency serving children at risk.

(4) Beginning September 1, 1988, pupils served under this section who receive high school diplomas may not be counted in meeting the conditions under s. PI 25.06 (2) unless the pupil met the high school graduation requirements under s. 118.33, Stats., or completed a program under s. 118.33 (2) (m), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1986, No. 367, eff. 8-1-86.

PI 25.06 Annual reports, state financial aid and district use of additional funds. (1) ANNUAL REPORTS. (a) Under s. 118.153 (4) (a), Stats., beginning in August, 1986, and annually thereafter, boards required to have their program for children at risk plans approved by the state superintendent as specified under s. PI 25.03 (2), shall submit an annual report to the state superintendent. The annual report on the program for children at risk shall include the following information concerning pupils served in the program:

1. The number of pupils, by grade level and gender, who were identified as children at risk, who requested enrollment in the program for children at risk, and who were enrolled in the program for children at risk.

2. Pupil attendance rates.

3. Pupil retention rates.

4. High school graduation rates.

5. The percentage of pupils receiving academic credit sufficient for them to advance to the next grade level or to graduate from high school.

6. The average months of gain in comparison to the months of instruction in reading and mathematics as measured by locally determined standardized achievement tests.

(b) Information provided to the department under par. (a) shall be aggregated by district and school.

(c) Results of the evaluations under s. PI 25.03 (1) (d) shall be submitted to the department with the annual report.

(d) The district shall maintain records which will substantiate the information reported in the annual report as may be required by the department.

(2) **STATE FINANCIAL AID.** School districts shall receive additional state aid under s. 118.153 (4) (b) 1, Stats., if the state superintendent determines from the report required under sub. (1) that any three of the following conditions have been met:

(a) The average daily attendance rate for pupils enrolled in the program for children at risk was at least 70%.

(b) At least 70% of the pupils enrolled in the program for children at risk completed the school year or graduated from high school during the school year.

(c) At least 70% of the pupils who were high school seniors and enrolled in the program for children at risk received a high school diploma.

(d) At least 70% of the pupils enrolled in the program for children at risk received academic credit sufficient for them to advance to the next grade level or to graduate from high school.

(e) Pupils enrolled in the program for children at risk showed as a group an average of at least one month gain in reading and mathematics for each month of instruction as measured by locally determined standardized achievement tests.

Note: Form PI 2376, Annual Report for Children At Risk Program, may be obtained at no charge from the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Management and Budget, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707.

(3) **DISTRICT USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS.** The board of a school district receiving additional funds to provide programs and services to meet the needs of children at risk shall use the additional funds to fund board operated or contracted curriculum modifications, alternative programs, remedial instruction, parental involvement, pupil support services and program evaluation, and contracted services as specified under s. PI 25.05 (1). This subsection does not provide authorization for boards to contract for programs or services beyond statutory authority. Annually, the board shall submit a report to the department that the funds were used as required.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1986, No. 367, eff. 8-1-86.