



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 301
[2009 Assembly Bill 808]

**Student Achievement Guarantee in
Education Contracts**

Current law allows an eligible school board that has entered into a five-year renewable student achievement guarantee (SAGE) contract with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to reduce class size to 15 pupils in grades Kindergarten to three in schools with specified low-income enrollment to receive \$2,250 for each low-income pupil enrolled in grades eligible for SAGE funding. DPI has not been authorized to enter into new SAGE contracts after June 30, 2001, but DPI has entered into five-year renewal contracts if certain conditions are met. DPI has been permitted to waive requirements of the SAGE program under these contracts.

2009 Wisconsin Act 301 permits the school board of an eligible school district to enter into a five-year SAGE contract with DPI in the 2010-11 school year on behalf of one or more schools if all of the following apply:

- In the previous school year, each school had an enrollment that was at least 30% low income.
- The school board is not receiving a grant under the Preschool to Grade 5 Program on behalf of any of the schools.
- None of the schools is a beneficiary of a SAGE contract.

Under the Act, for contracts that begin in the 2010 school year, the contract must require the school board to reduce class size to 18 in each participating school in the following manner:

- In the 2010-11 school year, in at least grades Kindergarten and one.
- In the 2011-12 school year, in at least grades Kindergarten to two.
- In the 2012-13 to 2014-15 school years, in at least grades Kindergarten to three.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

Under the Act, in the 2010-11 school year and any subsequent school year, DPI must pay to each school district that has entered into a SAGE contract \$2,250 multiplied by the number of low-income pupils enrolled in grades eligible for funding in each school in the school district that is covered by a contract entered into in the 2010-11 school year and by renewals of SAGE contracts.

The Act also provides that, beginning in the 2010-11 school year, a school board operating under any SAGE contract on the effective date of the Act may satisfy the class size limitation by reducing each class size in each school covered by the contract to no more than 18 or may combine two classes subject to the class size limitation in any school covered by the contract having at least two regular classroom teachers when the classes are combined if the combined class size is not greater than 30.

Under the Act, DPI may not waive any requirement of the SAGE program in any SAGE contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of the Act.

Effective date: Act 301 takes effect on May 27, 2010.

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