

Wisconsin Legislative Council



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Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Shared School District Services

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Introduction

- ▶ Role of Legislative Council committee staff.
- ▶ Scope of the study committee's work.
- ▶ Description of distributed materials.



Why do school districts share administrative services?

- ▶ To save time and money.
- ▶ To remediate and mitigate staffing and labor shortages.
- ▶ To provide students in the district with higher quality educational programming.



School District Funding

- ▶ This is an overview of aspects of school funding that are most directly relevant to the committee's charge.
- ▶ School boards may levy taxes on property located within the school district in order to operate schools, maintain school district buildings, and maintain transportation vehicles.
- ▶ Additionally, school districts receive state aid, which falls into three categories: equalization aid, categorical aid, and grants.

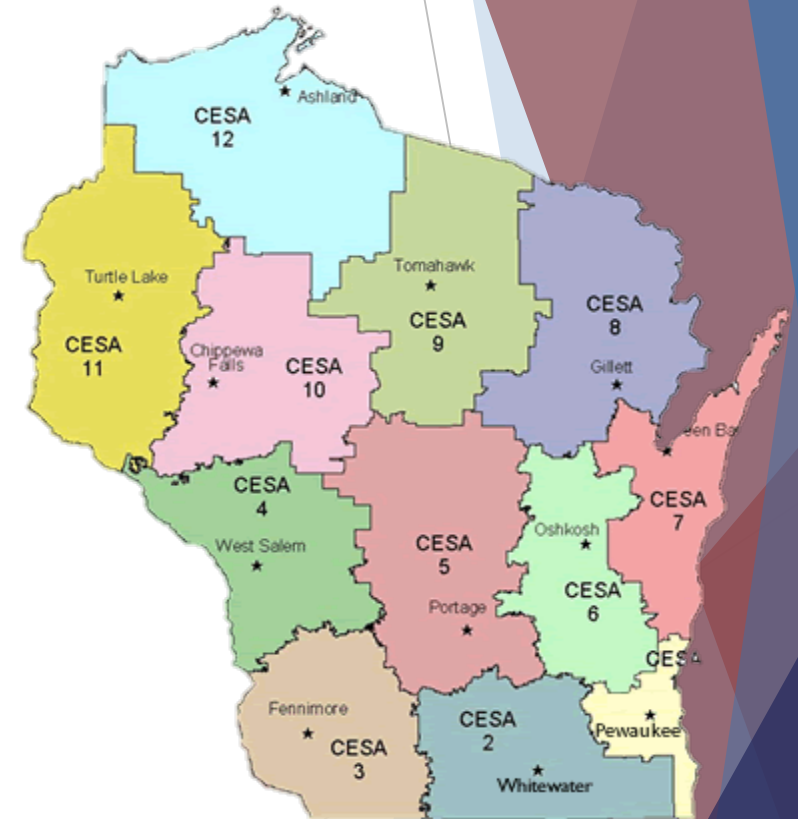


Current Law Relating to Shared Services

- ▶ State law grants school boards the power to do “all things reasonable to promote the cause of education”.
- ▶ School boards have the authority to contract with other municipalities.
- ▶ School boards may participate in whole grade sharing, which is an agreement between two or more school boards where all or at least 20 percent of the students in a grade (or grades) will attend school in another school district for all or at least 20 percent of the school day.

Cooperative Educational Service Agencies

- ▶ CESAs serve as a link between school districts and other entities that offer educational and administrative services like information technology, staffing, accounting, and professional development.





Recent Legislative Action

- ▶ The Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding was established by Speaker Vos and Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald in 2017; the commission made recommendations for legislation regarding incentives for whole grade sharing and shared services.
- ▶ The 2017-19 Biennial Budget Bill contained an categorical aid program that would provide funding to districts sharing administrative positions.
- ▶ 2019 Senate Bill 412/Assembly Bill 442 created a new categorical aid for school boards that enter into whole grade sharing agreements.
- ▶ 2019 Senate Bill 413/Assembly Bill 441 created a new categorical aid for school districts sharing administrative personnel/services with another school district or a local governmental unit.
- ▶ 2019 Senate Bill 409. Assembly Bill 456 created a new grant program for school districts considering whole grade sharing agreements or consolidation.



Thank you

- ▶ This was a basic overview; school district and CESA administrators will be presenting today and at future meetings to provide additional expertise.
- ▶ Please let us know how we can assist you as the committee proceeds with its task.
- ▶ We look forward to working with you!