



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0560/P2  
FFK:cjs

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

1     **AN ACT** *to create* 20.255 (2) (bt) and 115.448 of the statutes; **relating to:** grants  
2             for feasibility studies of school district consolidation or whole grade sharing and  
3             making an appropriation.

---

***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

---

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This draft was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Study Committee on Shared School District Services.

Current law does not provide state assistance to fund feasibility studies for school districts considering consolidation or whole grade sharing agreements.

The bill requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to award grants of up to \$25,000 each to consortia of 2 or more school districts to fund feasibility studies of consolidation or whole grade sharing. School districts must use the grant moneys for a professional financial analysis, which may include a population study, of the impacts of consolidation or whole grade sharing on the districts. In order to be eligible for a grant, each school district in the consortium must demonstrate that it has adopted a resolution to consider consolidation and intends to vote on a resolution ordering consolidation no later than 18 months after the date the grant application is submitted to DPI.

The bill provides a continuing appropriation of \$200,000 in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The bill takes effect on the day after publication, or the 2nd day after publication of the 2023 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert  
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

		<b>2023-24</b>		<b>2024-25</b>
<b>20.255 Public instruction, department of</b>				
(2) AID FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING				
(bt) Grants for feasibility studies of consolidation or whole grade sharing	GPR	C	200,000	-0-

8           **SECTION 2.** 20.255 (2) (bt) of the statutes is created to read:  
9           20.255 (2) (bt) *Grants for feasibility studies of consolidation or whole grade*  
10 *sharing.* As a continuing appropriation, the amounts in the schedule for the grant  
11 program under s. 115.448.

12           **SECTION 3.** 115.448 of the statutes is created to read:  
13           **115.448 Grants for feasibility studies of consolidation or whole grade**  
14 **sharing.** (1) In this section, “eligible applicant” means an applicant for a grant  
15 under this section that is a consortium of 2 or more school boards.

16           (2) (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (bt) and subject to sub. (3),  
17 the department shall award grants to eligible applicants to fund feasibility studies  
18 of school district consolidation or whole grade sharing agreements under s. 118.50.  
19 The department may not award a grant to an eligible applicant in an amount  
20 exceeding \$25,000.

1 (b) An eligible applicant receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant  
2 moneys for a professional financial analysis, which may include a population study,  
3 of how school district consolidation or a whole grade sharing agreement under s.  
4 118.50 would affect the school districts governed by the eligible applicant.

5 (3) To receive a grant under this section to fund a feasibility study of school  
6 district consolidation, an eligible applicant shall demonstrate to the department that  
7 each school board member of the consortium has adopted a resolution under s. 117.08  
8 (1) or 117.09 (1) and intends to vote on a resolution ordering consolidation under s.  
9 117.08 (2) or 117.09 (2) by no later than 18 months after the date on which an  
10 application for a grant under this section is submitted to the department.

\*\*\*NOTE: Both section 117.08 (2) and 117.09 (2), state that the underlying school  
districts may adopt the resolution ordering consolidation “[I]n the first July beginning  
after the adoption of resolutions” under sub. (1) of the respective sections. Failure to  
adopt the resolution by Aug 1 is a denial. Okay?

11 **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

12 (1) This act takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after  
13 publication of the 2023 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

14 (END)