



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0569/P2
EAW:amn

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.255 (2) (bt) and 115.434 of the statutes; **relating to:** a shared
2 services aid program for school districts, granting rule-making authority, 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.

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

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

Current law does not specifically provide state aid to school districts sharing personnel under a shared services agreement. Under s. 66.0301, Stats., school districts may enter into intergovernmental cooperation agreements with other school districts or local units of government. These agreements may be used to contract for the receipt or furnishing of services or the joint exercise of any power or duty required or authorized by law, including sharing personnel.

The bill creates a categorical aid program for school districts that enter into an agreement under s. 66.0301, Stats., with another district or a local unit of government (city, village, town, or cooperative educational services agency) to share specified

categories of personnel. A school board requesting aid or 2 or more school boards jointly requesting aid must apply to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). In order to be eligible for this aid, applicants must enter into a shared services agreement that includes the positions to be shared between the school districts or between the school district and the local unit of government, the positions that will be eliminated in each district, and if the shared services agreement includes more than one school district, how the aid will be distributed among the districts. Additionally, each eligible school district must pass a resolution to participate in the shared services program established by the bill. The bill requires DPI to review and approve applications that comply with these requirements and rules promulgated to administer and implement this program.

Under the bill, the amount of aid is based on the statewide median salary of the following categories of shared personnel: administrators, instructional staff, student services staff, and clerical staff. Specifically, under the bill, DPI must pay eligible applicants an amount equal to 35 percent of the statewide median salary of the appropriate category for each shared position. If an individual holds more than one position for which aid may be paid, DPI must pay an applicant for only one position held by the individual. If the individual holds positions for which different amounts may be paid, DPI must pay an applicant for the position for which the highest amount may be paid.

The bill provides an annual appropriation of \$2,500,000 in the 2024-2025 fiscal year for the aid program. Aid would be prorated if total eligibility exceeds the appropriated amount. The bill takes effect on the day after publication, or the 2nd day after publication of the 2023 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

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

			2023-24	2024-25
3 20.255 Public instruction, department of				
4 (2) AID FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING				
5 (bt) Shared services aid program	GPR	A	-0-	2,500,000

6 **SECTION 2.** 20.255 (2) (bt) of the statutes is created to read:
7 20.255 (2) (bt) *Shared services aid program.* The amounts in the schedule for
8 aid to school districts participating in an agreement under s. 115.434.

9 **SECTION 3.** 115.434 of the statutes is created to read:
10 **115.434 Shared services aid program. (1)** In this section:
11 (a) “Applicant” means a school board that is requesting aid under this section
12 or 2 or more school boards that are jointly requesting aid under this section.

1 (b) “Local unit of government” means the governing body of a city, village, or
2 town or the board of control of a cooperative educational service agency.

3 (c) “Shared services agreement” means an agreement entered into under s.
4 66.0301 between 2 or more school boards or between a school board and a local unit
5 of government to share personnel.

6 **(2)** (a) Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, an applicant is eligible for aid
7 under this section if all of the following occur:

8 1. The applicant enters into a shared services agreement.

9 2. The applicant passes a resolution to participate in the shared services aid
10 program under this section.

11 (b) To apply for aid under this section, an applicant shall submit a shared
12 services agreement to the department that includes at least all of the following:

13 1. The positions that will be shared between the school districts or between the
14 school district and the local unit of government.

15 2. The positions that will be eliminated in each school district.

16 3. If the shared services agreement includes more than one school district, how
17 the aid will be distributed among the school districts.

18 (c) If the shared services agreement is between 2 or more school boards, the
19 application shall be submitted jointly by all participating school boards.

20 **(3)** The department shall review applications submitted under sub. (2) (b) and
21 approve those applications that comply with this section and rules promulgated by
22 the department.

23 **(4)** The department shall determine the statewide median salary for each of
24 the following categories of shared personnel:

25 (a) Administrators.

1 (b) Instructional staff.

2 (c) Student services staff.

3 (d) Clerical staff.

****NOTE: These categories are placeholders. They may need further definition or refinement to give the department some guidance on which positions fit into which categories.

4 **(5)** If an application is approved under sub. (3), from the appropriation under
5 s. 20.255 (2) (bt) and subject to sub. (6), the department shall pay to the applicants
6 an amount equal to 35 percent of the statewide median salary of the appropriate
7 category, as determined under sub. (4), for each shared position.

8 **(6)** If the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (bt) in any fiscal year is insufficient
9 to pay the full amount of aid under sub. (5), the state superintendent shall prorate
10 the payments among the applicants entitled to aid under sub. (5).

11 **(7)** Notwithstanding sub. (5), if an individual holds more than one position for
12 which aid may be paid under sub. (5), the department shall pay an applicant for only
13 one position held by the individual. If the individual holds positions for which
14 different amounts may be paid under sub. (5), the department shall pay an applicant
15 for the position for which the highest amount may be paid.

16 **(8)** The department may promulgate rules to implement and administer this
17 section.

18 **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

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

****NOTE: This effective date is required for any bill that contains an appropriation that is introduced before the budget passes. If this bill is not introduced before the budget passes, we can remove this effective date provision when the draft goes to a /1.

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(END)