



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #615

Advanced Placement and Gifted and Talented Grants (DPI -- Categorical Aids)

[LFB 2005-07 Budget Summary: Page 406, #16 & 17]

CURRENT LAW

School districts are required under current law to provide access to appropriate programs for gifted and talented pupils. Access may be provided in a number of forms, including an opportunity to study through school district course offerings, independent study, cooperative educational service agencies (CESAs), or cooperative agreements between school district boards. In addition, students may be offered opportunities to study through postsecondary education institutions. Under current law, gifted and talented pupils are defined as those pupils demonstrating evidence of high performance capability in intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership or specific academic areas and who need services or activities not ordinarily provided in a regular school program in order to fully develop such capabilities. No categorical aid program is provided.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$100,000 GPR annually and create an appropriation for grants to school districts to partially reimburse the costs related to offering advanced placement (AP) courses in high schools that are not offering such courses. A grant could not exceed an amount equal to \$300 multiplied by the number of pupils in the high school's AP courses in the fall or spring session in which the grant would be awarded.

Provide \$91,000 GPR annually and create an appropriation for a grant program to provide advanced curriculum and assessments for gifted and talented middle school pupils. Require DPI to award grants to cooperative educational service agencies and Milwaukee Public Schools.

In addition, provide \$66,300 GPR and 1.0 GPR position in 2005-06 and \$86,700 GPR in 2006-07 to administer the advanced placement grant program, and to support the gifted and talented program.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Gifted and Talented

1. The state of Wisconsin has not recently provided a separate GPR-funded categorical aid program for the purpose of gifted and talented education programming. DPI employed 1.0 position gifted and talented education consultant prior to the 1995-97 state budget. The position was eliminated in that budget as part of agency-wide reductions in funding and staffing.

2. Chapter PI 8, Wisconsin Administrative Code, requires that each school district board establish a plan and designate a person to coordinate a gifted and talented program. The school district must provide access without charge for tuition to appropriate programs for pupils identified as gifted or talented. This identification must include multiple criteria, including intelligence, achievement, leadership, creativity, product evaluations, and nominations. A pupil may be identified as gifted or talented in one or more of the categories defined in statute. An appropriate program means a systematic and continuous set of instructional activities or learning experiences that expand the development of the pupils identified as gifted or talented. The school district also must provide an opportunity for parental participation in the planning of the proposed program.

3. Federal funding is available for gifted and talented education under Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program began in 1996 and awards competitive grants to eligible applicants including state education agencies, school districts, institutions of higher education, and other public or private agencies and institutions. However, Wisconsin has never received a Javits grant.

Advanced Placement

4. Advanced placement (AP) is a program of the College Board that offers students college-level course work in a variety of subjects while in high school. The College Board administers AP subject exams at the end of each academic year. Students who perform well on these exams can receive college credit at many postsecondary institutions. In 2003-04, a total of 17,768 students took 27,984 AP exams, with 68.6% earning passing scores, making them eligible to receive college credit at most colleges and universities. Nationally, 59.7% of public school students passed their AP exams. According to DPI, 25% of public high schools in the state did not offer AP courses in 2003-04.

5. The state received federal funds to provide an AP program from January, 2000, through October, 2004. Authorized under Title I, Part G, of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the program provided competitive grants to state education agencies to increase the participation of low-income students in advanced placement courses, but allowed all pupils to be

served. The program was administered by CESA 12, which made online AP courses available to all 426 school districts and all students in the state. However, these federal funds ended in October, 2004, and while federal funds will be available for 2005-06, only schools enrolling at least 40% low-income pupils will be eligible.

6. In 2004-05, online AP courses are being provided through CESA 9 and the Wisconsin Virtual School. Any school district can offer these online courses to their pupils, at a cost of \$319 per pupil per semester. In addition, the University of Wisconsin-Madison receives a federal grant to offer a statewide AP consortium, which provides distance-learning opportunities to pupils all over the state at a cost of \$250 per student per semester. The federal grant is scheduled to end in August, 2005. If approved, the AP grants program would partially reimburse the costs to school districts to offer AP courses.

ALTERNATIVES

A. Gifted and Talented

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$91,000 annually and create an appropriation for a grant program to provide advanced curriculum and assessments for gifted and talented middle school pupils.
2. Delete the provision.

<u>Alternative A2</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2005-07 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$182,000

B. Advanced Placement

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$100,000 annually and create an appropriation for grants to school districts to partially reimburse the costs related to offering advanced placement courses in high schools that are not offering such courses, and to provide \$66,300 and 1.0 position in 2005-06 and \$86,700 in 2006-07 for a consultant position to administer the advanced placement grant program, and to support the gifted and talented program.
2. Delete the provision.

<u>Alternative B2</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2005-07 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$353,000
2006-07 POSITIONS (Change to Bill)	- 1.00

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