



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 271
[2009 Senate Bill 121]

Career Conversations Program

2009 Wisconsin Act 271 (the Act) requires the Center on Education and Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (center) to establish a program for students enrolled in grades 7 to 12 to engage in webcam conversations about careers with individuals in this state who have careers in math, science, agricultural education, technology education, or information technology. The Act further requires the center to develop criteria for choosing the classrooms that may participate in the program during a pilot period ending on May 15, 2011.

The program must do the following:

1. Select individuals for conversations who have careers that are in the greatest demand in this state;
2. Use student discussion guides to facilitate the conversations; and
3. Allow for recording the conversations for future viewing.

The program must also include requirements for the following:

1. Promoting participation in the conversations among students, parents, and the business community;
2. Measuring student participation in the conversations;
3. Notifying parents and the business community after conversations take place; and
4. Tracking the study plans of students who participate in the conversations.

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/>.

The Act directs the center to evaluate the effectiveness of the program during the pilot period in promoting careers in math, science, agricultural education, technology education, and information technology. If the center determines that the program has been effective in promoting such careers, the Act permits the center to continue the program after the pilot period, and to increase participation. Finally, the center must submit a report on the disposition of the program to the Legislature, the Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Workforce Development, and the Department of Commerce.

Effective date: May 25, 2010

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May 21, 2010

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