



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 937

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

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Under *current law*, the student achievement guarantee in education (SAGE) program provides five-year grants to eligible school districts who are then required to lower class sizes to 15 pupils to one teacher in grades kindergarten through three and to satisfy other conditions relating to keeping the school open for extended hours, collaboration with community organizations, curriculum, and staff development and accountability. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) may enter into renewable contracts for additional five-year terms for currently participating SAGE schools.

Beginning in the 1996-97 school year, DPI was required to arrange for an evaluation of the SAGE program and to allocate \$250,000 for this purpose out of the amounts appropriated for the SAGE program. DPI has interpreted this to be a \$250,000 annual allocation. DPI has contracted with the University of Wisconsin-Madison for this evaluation.

2005 Assembly Bill 937 provides that, beginning in the 2006-07 state fiscal year, \$125,000 is allocated annually for the SAGE evaluation. The bill also decreases the SAGE appropriation by \$125,000 for that fiscal year. The bill requires that the evaluation include a longitudinal study and sets forth various requirements for the study. Requirements include the minimum number of SAGE school and non-SAGE school pupils who must be followed and certain data that must be collected, including academic performance in grades 3, 4, 8, and 10 (including the results of the fourth, eighth, and tenth grade Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and third grade reading tests). Data also must continue to be collected on pupils who leave the study. The bill requires the evaluator to report annually to DPI and to the Legislature.

Assembly Amendment 1 to the bill repeals obsolete provisions in the SAGE statute that describe the payment distribution mechanism for school years 1996-97 through 2002-03. It also deletes a definition (used only in the repealed provisions) that refers to allocating \$250,000 for an evaluation.

Legislative History

Assembly Bill 937 was referred to the Assembly Committee on Education which recommended it for passage on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3. The Joint Committee on Finance introduced Assembly Amendment 1 and recommended its adoption on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 4. The Joint Committee on Finance then recommended passage, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 4.

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