



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.

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 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 to consortia of 2 or more school boards to fund feasibility studies of school district consolidation or whole grade sharing agreements. Grant moneys must be used for a professional financial analysis, which may include a population study, of the effects of consolidation or whole grade sharing on the school districts. In order to be eligible for a grant for a consolidation feasibility study, each school board in a consortium must demonstrate that it has adopted a resolution to consider consolidation.

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.

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
20.255 Public instruction, department of				
(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.

