



## 2025 BILL

### 1 **AN ACT relating to:** requiring a school district consolidation study.

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#### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction to award a contract to an entity to conduct a study of school districts in this state that covers topics such as school district boundaries, potential school district consolidations, existing school district facilities, staffing levels and salary scales, the population of school-age children in each school district, and revenue limits and current overall spending. Under the bill, the entity that conducts the study must submit a report to DPI on its findings that includes 1) recommendations for changes to school district boundaries; 2) the conditions of existing school district facilities in each school district in this state; 3) the current population of school-age children in each school district and a 10-year projection of the same; and 4) recommendations for school district consolidations that promote efficiency and are geographically feasible and economically viable. Additionally, for each school district consolidation recommended in the report, the entity must include various information, including the estimated enrollment of the school district, the cities, village, and towns located within the school district, and the location of and grade levels served by each existing school building located in the school district. DPI must submit the report to the legislature. Finally, the bill requires DPI to submit a request to JCF for supplemental funding to accomplish the duties described above.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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**BILL****SECTION 1**

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

**SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.**

(1) SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION STUDY.

(a) In this subsection, “department” means the department of public instruction.

(b) By the 1st day of the 4th month beginning after the effective date of this paragraph, the department shall award a contract, using a competitive request for proposal process, to an entity to study all of the following related to school districts in this state:

1. School district and municipal boundaries.

2. Geographic barriers to consolidation.

3. The location, capacity, and condition of existing school facilities.

4. Population distribution across the state, including the population of school-age children residing in each school district.

5. Staffing levels and salary scales.

6. Debts, liabilities, and assets of school districts.

7. Pupil demographics.

8. Revenue limits and current overall spending.

9. Property tax levy and mill rates.

10. Pupil transportation.

(c) The department shall require the entity awarded the contract under par.

(b) to submit, by the first day of the 10th month beginning after the effective date of

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1 this paragraph, a report to the department that includes at least all of the  
2 following:

- 3 1. Recommendations for improvements to school district boundaries.
- 4 2. The conditions of school district facilities in each school district in this  
5 state.
- 6 3. The population of school-age children in each school district in the current  
7 school year and a projection of the population of school-age children in each school  
8 district in 10 years.
- 9 4. Recommendations for school district consolidations that promote efficiency  
10 and are geographically feasible and economically viable and, for each recommended  
11 school district consolidation, all of the following:
  - 12 a. The estimated pupil enrollment of the consolidated school district.
  - 13 b. The cities, villages, or towns that are located in whole or in part within the  
14 consolidated school district boundaries.
  - 15 c. The location of and grade levels served by each existing public school  
16 building located in the consolidated school district.
  - 17 d. The property values in the consolidated school district.
- 18 (d) The department shall submit the report it receives under par. (c) to the  
19 joint committee on finance and to the appropriate standing committees of the  
20 legislature in the manner provided under s. 13.172 (3).

21 (2) FUNDING REQUEST. By no later than July 1, 2026, the department of public  
22 instruction shall submit a request to the joint committee on finance to supplement  
23 the department's appropriation under s. 20.255 (1) (a) from the joint finance

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1 committee supplemental appropriation under s. 20.865 (4) (a) with an amount  
2 necessary for the department to accomplish the duties under sub. (1).

3 (END)