



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rules hearing scheduled on special education aid

MADISON— The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will conduct a hearing from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 14, in Room 041 of the GEF 3 Building, 125 South Webster Street, Madison, to take public testimony on emergency and proposed permanent rules related to state special education aid for certain pupil services personnel.

The proposed rules establish specific percentages for salary reimbursement for pupil services staff members who work with students with disabilities as part of their regular employment. The percentages will replace record-keeping and full time equivalency calculations that school districts and other providers report to receive special education categorical aid reimbursement for salaries for these eligible personnel. The percentages are based on data the department collected from the annual Fall Staffing Report and Special Education Aid claims.

The proposed rules establish the following percentages for salaries that may be certified as costs eligible for special education aid reimbursement: school counselors (10 percent), school nurses (29 percent), school psychologists (84 percent), and school social workers (59 percent). The percentages will be effective for the 2008-09 school year. Currently the state's aid appropriation for special education claims is prorated at 28 percent and, without a substantial increase in special education categorical aid, prorating will continue.

The hearing site is fully accessible to people with disabilities. A copy of the administrative rules and fiscal estimate are available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pb/rulespg.html>. Copies of these materials also are available by sending an e-mail request to lori.slauson@dpi.wi.gov or by writing to Lori Slauson, administrative rules and federal grants coordinator, DPI, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841. Written comments on the proposed rules may be submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail to the addresses above no later than July 17 and will receive the same consideration as testimony presented at the hearing.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_104.pdf.