



2013 ASSEMBLY BILL 326

August 23, 2013 - Introduced by Representatives WACHS, OHNSTAD, KOLSTE, ZAMARRIPA, MASON, SINICKI, BERCEAU, RICHARDS, WRIGHT, POPE, HESSELBEIN, C. TAYLOR, JORGENSEN, BARNES, HEBL and MILROY. Referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 118.016 (1) and 118.016 (1g), (1r) and (2); and **to create** 118.60
2 (10) (a) 9. and 119.23 (10) (a) 9. of the statutes; **relating to:** assessing pupils
3 in private schools participating in a parental choice program for reading
4 readiness.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, in the 2013-14 school year, each school board and the governing body of each independent charter school must assess each pupil enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten to first grade for reading readiness. Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, each school board and charter school governing board must annually assess each pupil enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten to second grade for reading readiness.

This bill extends these requirements to private schools participating in a parental choice program. The requirements apply only to those pupils attending the private school under the program. The bill also authorizes the state superintendent of public instruction to issue an order barring a private school from participating in a parental choice program if it violates the requirement described above.

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

ASSEMBLY BILL 326**SECTION 1**

1 **SECTION 1.** 118.016 (1) of the statutes, as affected by 2013 Wisconsin Act 20,
2 is amended to read:

3 118.016 (1) In the 2013-14 school year, each school board and the governing
4 body of each charter school established under s. 118.40 (2r) and of each private school
5 participating in a parental choice program under s. 118.60 or 119.23 shall, using the
6 appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals selected by the
7 department, annually assess each pupil enrolled in 4-year-old kindergarten to first
8 grade in the school district or in the charter school for reading readiness. Beginning
9 in the 2014-15 school year, each school board and the governing body of each charter
10 school established under s. 118.40 (2r) and of each private school participating in a
11 parental choice program under s. 118.60 or 119.23 shall, using the appropriate, valid,
12 and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals selected by the department,
13 annually assess each pupil enrolled in 4-year-old kindergarten to second grade in
14 the school district or in the charter school for reading readiness. For a private school,
15 this subsection applies only to pupils attending the school under s. 118.60 or 119.23.
16 The department shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil
17 possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge.

18 **SECTION 2.** 118.016 (1g), (1r) and (2) of the statutes are amended to read:

19 118.016 (1g) If a pupil is enrolled in a special education program under subch.
20 V of ch. 115, the school board or operator of the charter school under s. 118.40 (2r)
21 or private school under s. 118.60 or 119.23 shall comply with s. 115.77 (1m) (bg).

22 (1r) The school board or governing body of the charter or private school shall
23 report the results of a pupil's assessment under sub. (1) to the pupil's parent or
24 guardian.

