

Summary of 2017 Wisconsin Act 36 As it relates to the Special Needs Scholarship Program

2017 Wisconsin Act 36 was signed into law by Governor Walker on July 19, 2017. Act 36 makes changes to the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), the Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP), the Wisconsin or statewide Parental Choice Program (WPCP), collectively the Choice programs, and the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP).

This document provides a summary of the changes to the SNSP under 2017 Wisconsin Act 36. Information regarding the Choice Programs is available on the [Choice Programs Statutes and Rules Webpage](#). Please contact the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) at snsp@dpi.wi.gov or 1-888-245-2732 ext. 3 if you have questions.

Annual Financial Audit Requirements [Sections 12, 104]:

Beginning with the financial audits for the 2017-18 school year, SNSP schools that received less than \$100,000 annually in MPCP, RPCP, WPCP, and SNSP payments in all previous school years and the school year that is being audited may submit a modified financial audit to DPI.

Application Process [Sections 5, 7, 8, 9, 10]:

Modified the Individualized Education Program (IEP)/services plan verification as follows:

- The SNSP administrator or designee, not DPI, will send the IEP verification requests during the 21 day verification period.
- All verification requests will only be sent to the Local Education Agency (LEA) that developed the IEP or services plan.
- The SNSP administrator or designee, not DPI, will send the resident school districts the notifications that a SNSP scholarship will be granted pending the IEP/services plan verification.
- The amount of time that the LEA has to respond to the verification request increased from 3 days to 5 business days. Within the 5 business days, the LEA must verify if an IEP or services plan was in effect at the time the student applied to the SNSP.
 - If an IEP or services plan was in effect, the LEA must send a copy of the IEP or services plan directly to the private school.
 - If an IEP or services plan was not in effect, the LEA must notify the private school that the student does not have an IEP or services plan that meets the requirements.

IEP Reevaluations [Section 6]:

Specified that if the student is attending an SNSP school in a nonresident school district, and the parent/guardian provides written consent, an IEP team appointed for the child by the nonresident school district may conduct the reevaluation.

Assessments [Sections 11, 13]:

Clarified that an SNSP school must administer the state assessments to SNSP pupils upon the request of the parent if the school administers the assessment to other students.

Misrepresentation of Required Information [Section 14]:

DPI may terminate a school's participation in the SNSP if the school intentionally or negligently misrepresents required information.

SNSP Payments [Sections 101, 102, 103]:

Modified the funding for SNPS pupils to be similar to how incoming pupils participating in the RPCP and WPCP are funded. Under the Act, resident school districts will receive a revenue limit exemption identical to the amount of the state general aid reduction for pupils participating in the SNSP rather than counting the resident SNSP pupils in their membership counts for revenue limit purposes.

Clean Up Language [Section 4]:

References to Wisconsin North Central Association were updated with AdvancED due to a name change.