

DATE: August 24, 2020

TO: Independent Charter School Administrators

FROM: Alexander Burke Roberson
Parental Education Options Team

RE: Payment of 2020-21 Independent Charter School Aids

Wisconsin statute s. 118.40 (2r or 2x) specifies the manner in which state aid will be paid to independent charter schools. Independent charter schools receive four state charter schools aid payments in increments of 25% each. The total amount of aid paid to each independent charter school is determined by multiplying the eligible full time equivalent (FTE) membership of the school by the per pupil state aid amount. The 2020-21 estimated per pupil state aid amount for independent charter schools authorized by the College of Menominee Nation and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College is \$8,719. The 2020-21 per pupil state aid amount for independent charter schools authorized by other independent authorizers is \$9,165.

To be eligible for state charter school aid payments, the Independent Charter Pupil Count Report (form MC-1567) must be completed and submitted to the department for each of the three count dates listed below. The electronic Independent Charter Pupil Count Reports will be available on the department's website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/current/2r-membership>. The Independent Charter Pupil Count Reports must be completed and submitted according to the instructions on the form or the reports may not be accepted by the department.

Independent charter schools that provided eligible summer school instruction will receive a separate summer school payment in December. Schools that provided eligible summer school instruction must complete the electronic summer school report by September 15, 2020. This report will be available on the department's website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/current/2r-membership>.

To ensure your school's aid is appropriately calculated and paid according to the scheduled pay dates, the department must receive the completed Independent Charter Pupil Count Reports on or before the due dates listed and highlighted below. Late or incomplete submission of an Independent Charter Pupil Count Report may result in a delay in the state charter school aid payments. All payments will be made via electronic funds transfer.

(1) September 1, 2020, or first day of school in September

Preliminary September Pupil Count Day

Although actual membership data and annual payment distribution is determined based upon the third Friday in September and the second Friday in January pupil counts, the Preliminary September Count report is used to determine the September payment. **The Independent Charter Pupil Count Report for the Preliminary September Pupil Count must be completed and submitted to the department on or before September 4, 2020.**

(2) September 15, 2020

Summer school report is due for schools that provided eligible summer school instruction during the summer of 2020. The electronic summer school report will be available on the department's website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/current/2r-membership>.

(3) September 18, 2020

3rd Friday in September Pupil Count Day

The Independent Charter Pupil Count Report for the 3rd Friday in September count date must be completed and submitted to the department on or before September 25, 2020

(4) September 21, 2020

The first state aid payment will be made, not to exceed 25% of the 2020-21 anticipated annual distribution. As of this payment, the 2020-21 anticipated annual distribution is based only on the Preliminary September Pupil Count multiplied by the per pupil aid amount. **Due to the 2019-2020 audit deadline being extended, this payment amount will reflect any adjustments due to your school in the June 2020 cycle that were not made.**

(5) December 7, 2020

The second state aid payment will be made, not to exceed 50% of the 2020-21 annual distribution, less the amount paid in September which was based on the Preliminary September Pupil Count. As of this payment, the 2020-21 annual distribution is based on the 3rd Friday in September Pupil Count Report.

Schools that provided eligible summer school instruction and submitted the summer school payment report by September 15 will receive a separate summer school payment on this date.

(6) January 8, 2021

2nd Friday in January Pupil Count Day

The Independent Charter Pupil Count Report for the 2nd Friday in January count date must be completed and submitted to the department on or before January 22, 2021.

(7) February 16, 2021

The third state aid payment will be made, not to exceed 75% of the 2020-21 annual distribution, less the amounts paid in September and December. As of this payment, the 2020-21 annual distribution is based on the average FTE membership of the 3rd Friday in September and the 2nd Friday in January Pupil Count Reports.

(8) April 30, 2021

The membership audits of the 3rd Friday in September 2020 and the 2nd Friday in January 2021 pupil counts for schools receiving payments during the 2020-21 school year are due April 30, 2021. Each school must engage a certified public accounting firm to provide a membership audit of the 2020-21 pupil counts. The final aid payment may be withheld if the audit is not submitted timely.

For questions regarding the audit, schools may direct auditors to the Independent Charter School Membership Audit Program posted at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/current/2r-audit-info> or contact Kendra Neuman at Kendra.Neuman@dpi.wi.gov or 608-266-2819.

(9) June 7, 2021

The fourth state aid payment will be made, which will be 100% of the 2020-21 annual distribution, less the amounts paid in September, December and February. As of this payment, the 2020-21 annual distribution is based on the average FTE membership of the 3rd Friday in September and 2nd Friday in January Pupil Count Reports. This payment will also be adjusted for findings included in the membership audits.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of count reports, please contact Alexander B. Roberson at Alexander.Roberson@dpi.wi.gov or 608-266-0452.