

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rules hearing set for March 1 on innovative instructional methods

MADISON — The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will conduct a hearing in March to accept public testimony on proposed permanent rules related to school district instructional design and programs.

The March 1 hearing will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the DPI's headquarters, GEF 3, Room P41, 125 South Webster Street, Madison. For those who cannot attend the hearing, written comments sent to the department will be given the same consideration as public testimony.

Under current law, public school boards are to schedule a minimum number of hours of direct pupil instruction each school year: 437 hours in kindergarten, 1,050 hours in grades one through and six, and 1,137 hours in grades seven through 12. Over time, school districts have developed methods to teach students that do not involve face-to-face instruction. The revisions to Chapter PI 8 would bring administrative rules into alignment with current practices and update how school districts calculate hours of instruction when using innovative instructional methods. The proposed rules define innovative instructional design to include an instructional program aligned to the school district's standards and used to improve student academic achievement through instruction offered outside the normal school day, virtually, or in an alternative setting.

The hearing site is fully accessible to people with disabilities. Those who cannot attend the public hearing may provide written comments. Send comments on the proposed rules via U.S. mail or e-mail to the addresses below no later than March 11.

A copy of the proposed permanent rules as well as the fiscal estimate are available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget/administrative-rules>. Copies of these materials can be requested and written comments submitted by sending an e-mail to Carl.Bryan@dpi.wi.gov or by writing to Carl Bryan, budget and policy analyst and administrative rules coordinator, DPI, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841.

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