

3500.1000 EXPERIMENTAL AND FLEXIBLE SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS.

Subpart 1. **Request.** A district may request approval from the commissioner of education for an experimental program of study, a four-day school week, or a flexible school year program. They shall be designed to accomplish at least one of the following:

- A. improve instructional quality;
- B. increase cost-effectiveness;
- C. make better use of community resources or available technology; or
- D. establish an alternative eligibility criteria intended to identify pupils in need of special education services.

Subp. 2. **Exemption from state rules.** If the proposed program is approved, the commissioner of education shall provide an exemption to state rules that otherwise would apply.

Subp. 3. **Contents of proposal.** The proposal shall include: specific state rules from which the district requests exemption, the goals and objectives of the program, the activities to be used to accomplish the objectives, a definite time limit which may not exceed three years, and the evaluation procedures to be used.

Subp. 4. **Participation and approval.** The district shall provide evidence that the district staff, pupils, and parents who would be affected, participated in the development and will participate in the annual review of the proposal, and that the proposal has the approval of the district school board.

Parents whose children will be involved shall be fully informed at the IEP meeting and shall have the opportunity to approve or disapprove placement in the experimental program.

Subp. 5. **Criteria for continuation.** If the commissioner of education finds that the program has met the proposed goals and objectives, the commissioner shall authorize continuation of the program and specify the state rules from which the program is exempt and the period of time the program will be continued.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.05; 121.11; L 1994 c 647 art 3 s 23*

History: *19 SR 2432; L 1998 c 397 art 11 s 3; L 1998 c 398 art 5 s 55; L 2003 c 130 s 12*

Published Electronically: *August 8, 2013*