

C-11 Move Level 3 High School Students to 35:1 Ratio from 20:1 Ratio

**Johnny Winston, Jr. (jj)**

**Question:** Analyze increase in class size of levels higher than 3 in ESL program.

**Item:** Move DPI English language proficiency level 3 students at the high school level from a 35:1 student : teacher ratio to a 20:1 student : teacher ratio.

**Analysis:** Current allocation formulas for ESL and Bilingual teachers at the high school level are at 35 students : one teacher for ELL students at DPI English language proficiency levels 4 and 5; and are at 20 students : one teacher for students at DPI English language proficiency levels 1, 2, and 3.

A new English language proficiency assessment (ACCESS for ELLs) is now used throughout the State of Wisconsin to determine DPI English language proficiency levels. This assessment is more rigorous than the formerly used assessment and thus, has reflected lower scores resulting in lower English language proficiency levels. Only the high school allocation formula is dependent on DPI English language proficiency levels, which prompted the need to adjust staffing ratios at the high school level. Without this adjustment, the allocation formula recommended an increase of 5.00 FTE ESL/Bilingual teachers for the same number of ELL students. The student : teacher ratio of 35 student : one teacher reflects the current staffing ratios that are used at the elementary and middle school levels. Students at the high school level who are at beginning levels of English language proficiency (1 and 2) are often instructed in sheltered content area classes where the language demands are less. This maintains the ratio of 20 students : one teacher to allow for smaller class sizes for students at beginning levels of English proficiency.