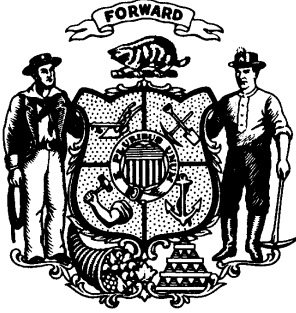


# State of Wisconsin



2025 Senate Bill 210

Date of enactment:  
Date of publication\*:

## 2025 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT *to repeal* 39.41 (1m) (b), 39.41 (1m) (c) 3., 39.41 (1m) (c) 5., 39.41 (1m) (e) and 39.41 (8); *to amend* 39.41 (1) (bm), 39.41 (1m) (a) 1., 39.41 (1m) (c) 4., 39.41 (1m) (d), 39.41 (1m) (g), 39.41 (1m) (h), 39.41 (1m) (j) and 39.41 (1m) (m); *to create* 39.41 (1m) (c) 3m. and 39.41 (9) of the statutes; **relating to:** changes to amount of, and criteria for designating recipients of, academic excellence higher education scholarships.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 39.41 (1) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

39.41 (1) (bm) "Senior" means a pupil enrolled in the 12th grade in a public or private high school, a tribal school, the school operated by the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or the school operated by the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. "Senior" does not include a pupil enrolled in a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g).

**SECTION 2.** 39.41 (1m) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

39.41 (1m) (a) 1. For each high school with an enrollment of at least ~~80 pupils~~ one pupil but less than 500 pupils, designate the senior with the highest grade point average in all subjects as a scholar.

**SECTION 3.** 39.41 (1m) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

**SECTION 4.** 39.41 (1m) (c) 3. of the statutes is repealed.

**SECTION 4m.** 39.41 (1m) (c) 3m. of the statutes is created to read:

39.41 (1m) (c) 3m. Designate the pupils nominated

under sub. (9) (b) that meet the requirements under sub. (9) (b) as scholars.

**SECTION 5.** 39.41 (1m) (c) 4. of the statutes is amended to read:

39.41 (1m) (c) 4. For each public, private, or tribal high school with an enrollment of at least ~~80 pupils~~, one pupil, notify the school board of the school district operating the public high school or the governing body of the private or tribal high school of the number of scholars to be designated under par. (a).

**SECTION 6.** 39.41 (1m) (c) 5. of the statutes is repealed.

**SECTION 7.** 39.41 (1m) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

39.41 (1m) (d) By February 25 of each school year, if 2 or more seniors from the same high school of at least ~~80 pupils~~ one pupil have the same grade point average and, except for the limitation on the number of designated scholars, are otherwise eligible for designation under par. (a), the faculty of the high school shall select the applicable number of seniors for designation under par. (a) as scholars and shall certify, in order of priority, any remaining seniors with the same grade point average as alternates for the scholars or, if there is no remaining senior with the same grade point average, any remaining

\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

seniors with the next highest grade point average, but not less than 3.800 or the equivalent, as alternates for the scholars. If a senior from that high school designated as a scholar under par. (a) does not qualify for a higher education scholarship under sub. (2) (a) or (3) (a), an alternate for the scholar with the same grade point average as any senior from that high school designated as a scholar under par. (a) shall be eligible for a higher education scholarship as a scholar under sub. (2) (a) or (3) (a) until the scholarship may be awarded by the board. If an alternate with the same grade point average as a scholar under par. (a) does not qualify for a higher education scholarship under sub. (2) (a) or (3) (a), an alternate with the next highest grade point average, but not less than 3.800 or the equivalent, shall be eligible for a higher education scholarship as a scholar under sub. (2) (a) or (3) (a) until the scholarship may be awarded by the board.

**SECTION 8.** 39.41 (1m) (e) of the statutes is repealed.

**SECTION 9.** 39.41 (1m) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

39.41 (1m) (g) Notwithstanding par. (a), if a high school of at least ~~80 pupils~~ one pupil closes or merges in the 1991-92 school year or in any school year thereafter, the school board of the school district operating the high school or the governing body of the private or tribal high school shall, subject to par. (d), for each of the 2 school years following the closure or merger, designate the same number of scholars from among the pupils enrolled in the high school at the time of closure or merger as the number of scholars designated for that high school in the school year the high school closed or merged. Any seniors designated under this paragraph shall be eligible for an original scholarship under this section.

**SECTION 10.** 39.41 (1m) (h) of the statutes is amended to read:

39.41 (1m) (h) Notwithstanding par. (a), if a public high school of at least ~~80 pupils~~ one pupil closed following the 1989-90 school year and a pupil from the closed high school was designated a scholar under this section for either of the 2 school years following the closure by the school board of a school district operating a high school that enrolled pupils from the closed high school, such school board shall designate the senior with the next highest grade point average for that school year as a scholar. Any scholar designated under this paragraph shall be eligible for a higher education scholarship under sub. (2) (b) or (3) (b) as determined under par. (a), notwithstanding that the scholar did not receive a higher education scholarship for the academic year immediately

following the school year in which the pupil from the closed high school was designated a scholar under this section.

**SECTION 11.** 39.41 (1m) (j) of the statutes is amended to read:

39.41 (1m) (j) In the event that 2 or more seniors from the same high school of at least ~~80 pupils~~ one pupil have the same grade point average and are otherwise eligible for designation under par. (a), the school board of the school district operating the high school or the governing body of the private or tribal high school shall make the designation of the faculty of the high school for purposes of par. (d) or (i).

**SECTION 12.** 39.41 (1m) (m) of the statutes is amended to read:

39.41 (1m) (m) Notwithstanding pars. ~~(a), (b) (a)~~ and (d), if a high school ranks its seniors on the basis of grades in academic subjects, the school board of the school district operating the high school or the governing body of the private high school ~~or, for purposes of par. (d), the faculty of the high school~~ may request a waiver from the executive secretary in order to fulfill its requirements under par. ~~(a), (b) (a)~~ or (d) on the basis of grade point averages in academic subjects.

**SECTION 13.** 39.41 (8) of the statutes is repealed.

**SECTION 14.** 39.41 (9) of the statutes is created to read:

39.41 (9) (a) In this subsection:

1. "ACT" means the American College Testing exam or its successor exam.

2. "Parent" means a parent or guardian that, for the school year in which a pupil is nominated under par. (b), submitted to the department of public instruction the homeschool enrollment report required by the department of public instruction indicating that the individual's child will be enrolled in a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g).

3. "SAT" means the Scholastic Assessment Test or its successor exam.

(b) By February 25 of each school year, a parent of a pupil who is a senior or the equivalent of a senior may nominate the pupil to be designated as a scholar by the executive secretary under sub. (1m) (c) 3m. if all of the following apply:

1. The pupil is enrolled in a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g).

2. The pupil attained a score of at least 33 on the ACT or a score of at least 1500 on the SAT.

3. The parent provides with the nomination any necessary documentation, as determined by the board, evidencing that the pupil meets the requirements under subds. 1. and 2.