

“A child is a child is a child...”

I am not sure how the state decides how much a child is worth. I just know that it is unjust and unfair. ”

– Kim Desotell
President, Green Bay Area
Catholic Education
(GRACE) System



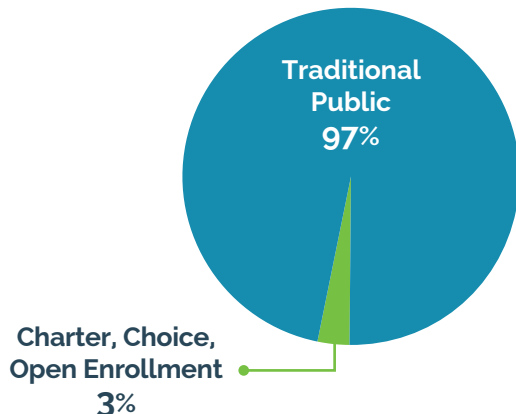
Parents Seek More Educational Options

The quest by Wisconsin families for educational options is remaking the state's K-12 landscape.

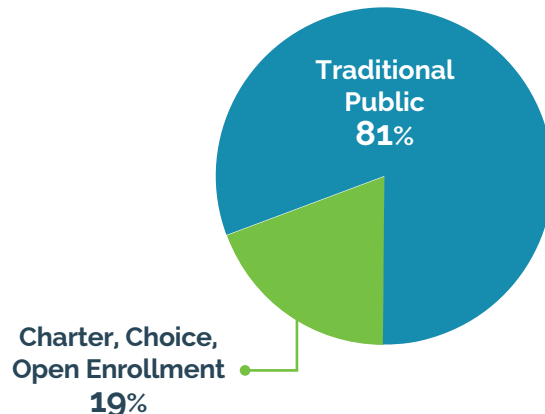
But the state values children differently based on the type of school their parents choose. That must change. Without relief, current programs will decline, not expand.

Two decades ago, almost all families — 97% — used local public schools if their children received a tax-supported education. Today, in stark contrast, nearly one in five families choose either a public school in a neighboring district, or a charter school, or a school in one of the state's private parental choice programs.

All Taxed Supported Options
2000-01



All Taxed Supported Options
2020-21

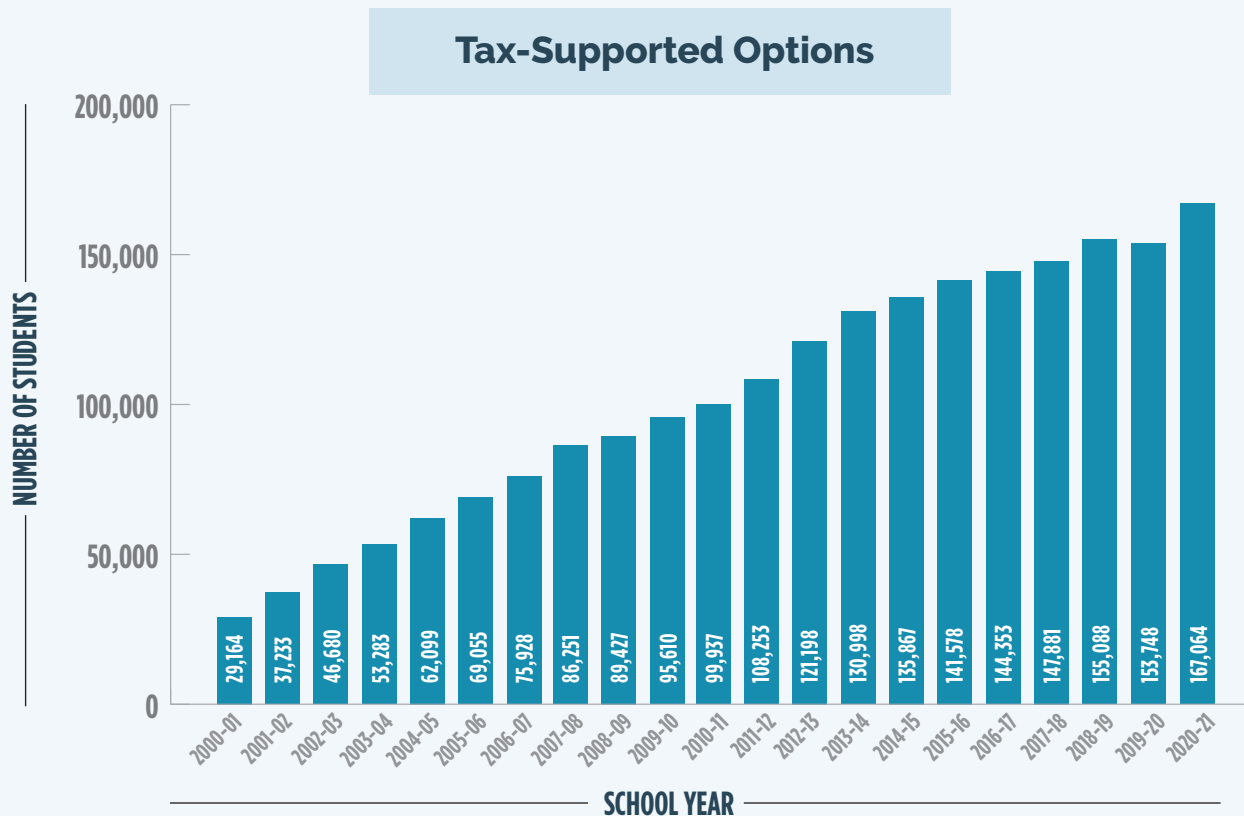




“As a single mom of three children, the only thing that got into my head and my heart was to give my children the best... It all guided to this school, St. Thomas More.”

– Nancy Nieto
Parent

Parental demand for more options has led to nearly a six-fold increase in the number of students using options enacted during the 1990s.



Positive Results

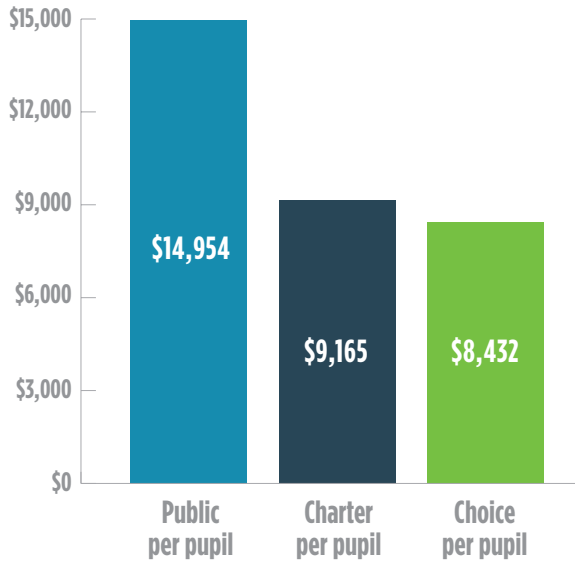
The Department of Public Instruction gives high grades to students in charter and private parental choice programs.

- Choice students **outscore public school students** on the college-readiness ACT test.
- Choice and charter students generally **score higher** on the state's academic proficiency exams.
- Choice and charter schools **rank high on DPI Report Cards**.
- **Milwaukee school choice students are more likely to be successful in life.** A scholarly study examined “the effects of Milwaukee’s school voucher program on adult criminal activity and paternity suits ... We find that exposure to the program ... is associated with a reduction of around 53 percent in drug convictions, 86 percent in property damage convictions, and 38 percent in paternity suits.”

The Funding Gap

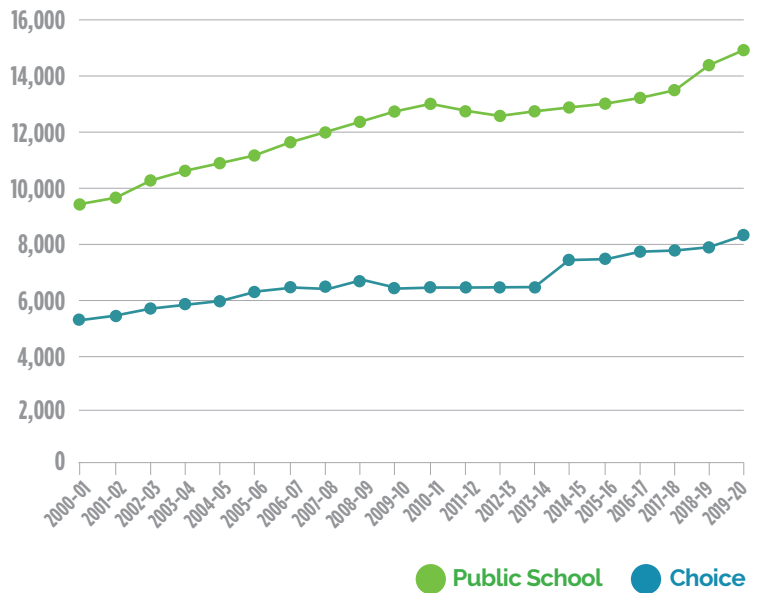
These positive results come despite a major disparity in funding. Measured in dollars, the state places a much higher value on students at traditional public schools.

2020-21 Dollars per Pupil for Taxed Supported Options



Choice vs. Public School Funding Gap*

Excludes varying amounts of limited federal aid to private schools.



Private schools receive only about 60 percent of funds provided to traditional public schools. Charters receive only slightly more than private schools.

Closing the gap is essential if current programs are to survive and thrive. Private high schools in the Milwaukee and Racine programs, for example, substantially outperform public high schools in those cities. Yet those high schools are on a fiscal brink. One has closed. Others can't compete with public schools for teachers.

“We have a very firm belief that parents are the best decision makers for their children.”

– Jamie Froh Tyrrell
Principal, St. Thomas Moore Catholic School



Some families in Green Bay use Wisconsin's parental choice program to send their children to St. Thomas More, a school that helps them exercise the religious liberty they gained by coming to America. "It is a great opportunity that has been given to us," as one mother said.

So, why are these children worth less to Wisconsin?

Scan the QR code to view the video *A child is a child is a child*, courtesy of Badger Institute.



Americans for Prosperity Wisconsin | *Eric Bott, Megan Novak, Alyssa Pollow*

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) advances long-term solutions to the country's biggest problems. It combines a strategy of engagement in the home districts of elected officials and a well-regarded Capitol presence for a strong record of legislative accomplishments. AFP's ability to get real-time reactions at doors and on phones greatly enhances coalition capability to create winning and effective message campaigns.



Badger Institute | *Mike Nichols, Michael Jahr, Jim Bender*

The Badger Institute, formerly the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute, is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit institute established in 1987 working to engage and energize Wisconsinites and others in discussions and timely action on public policy issues critical to the state's future, growth, and prosperity. It is guided by a belief that competitive free markets, limited government, private initiative, and personal responsibility are essential to our democratic way of life.



K12/Stride | *Bill McCoshen*

K12/Stride is leading-edge virtual education company that has taken a national model and customized it to work in Wisconsin's regulatory landscape. K12/Stride operates three virtual schools in Wisconsin and will have more than 80 schools operating nationally by fall 2023. Its schools provide an online option for a high-quality, personalized learning experience. With innovative technology, inspiring teachers, and a dynamic, interactive curriculum, students can thrive, find their passion, and learn at the pace that's right for them.



School Choice Wisconsin/ School Choice Wisconsin Action | *Susan Mitchell,* Nic Kelly, Amy Loudenbeck*

School Choice Wisconsin is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. With its 501(c)(4) partner, School Choice Wisconsin Action, it works to empower parents by developing, supporting, and promoting public policies that strengthen and expand K-12 options. Created in 2004, SCW/SCWA and their predecessors have played a leading role in advancing educational choice for Wisconsin families.



Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty | *Libby Sobic,* Cory Brewer, Will Flanders*

WILL is a public interest law and policy center that litigates, educates, and participates in public discourse. Its case categories include education reform, free speech, workers' freedom, open government, good government, and other individual rights. It has prevailed in more than 75% of cases undertaken. WILL also produces rigorous policy research on important educational issues in Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce | *Scott Manley,* Rachel Ver Velde*

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) is the largest and most influential business association in the state. It functions as the state chamber of commerce, state manufacturers' association, and state safety council. With a diverse membership, WMC is involved in a wide array of activities in and out of the Capitol. With significant lobbying stature, WMC has a record of getting results. Its legislative presence and issue advocacy consistently lead to electoral and legislative impact in Wisconsin.

** Coalition co-chairs: Susan Mitchell, Scott Manley, and Libby Sobic*

Coalition Capabilities

Coalition partners have an array of legal entities under their umbrella organizations. Together, we have the capabilities to engage in all the ways necessary to achieve results. Collectively, we bring a reputation for effectiveness based on decades of experience and millions of dollars of expenditures.

With these capabilities inside a single coalition, our ability to successfully plan and execute is unmatched.

Wisconsin Coalition for Education Freedom
Working to Save Parent Choice

Prepared by
School Choice
WISCONSIN