



MONTHLY
FEBRUARY 2025

Opening Doors for Choice

It's been a busy start to the year for us at School Choice Wisconsin. February marks the beginning of the enrollment period, and we are excited to see both new and returning families taking steps to exercise their right to educational freedom.

There are now **over 400** private schools or school systems taking part in the programs. We want to welcome the following schools as they join one or multiple programs for the first time for the upcoming school year:

- Acton Academy Oshkosh, Inc. (Oshkosh)
- Christ the Lord Evangelical Lutheran School (Brookfield)
- Christus Vincit Academy (Madison)
- Cornerstone Lutheran High School (Chippewa Falls)
- Eagle School (Richland Center)
- Holy Cross Lutheran School (Menomonee Falls)
- Immanuel Lutheran School (Mayville)
- Karis Academy (Amherst Junction)
- NOVA Northwest Opportunities Vocational Academy (Milwaukee)
- Pella Hill Virtual Academy (Madison)
- Shalom High School (Milwaukee)
- St. Francis Cabrini School (West Bend)
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic School (Merrill)
- St. James Catholic School (Madison)
- St. Joan of Arc School (Nashotah)
- St. Paul Grade School (Bloomer)
- St. Peter Grade School (Chippewa Falls)
- St. Peter's Lutheran Grade School (Fond du Lac)
- SS. Peter and Paul Grade School (Independence)
- Wauwatosa Lutheran School (Wauwatosa)

More schools joining the program allows for more options for Wisconsin families to select the educational environment that is best for their children. **Thank you for your continued support of this cause—2025 is shaping up to be a great year!**

SCWA KEY ISSUE OF THE MONTH:

AUTONOMY

It is imperative that we advocate for schools' freedom in the areas of curriculum and instruction. Several bills have been proposed over the years that would undermine this independence by mandating state-regulated curriculum and instruction in private schools, and it has already started in the current session. More red tape and regulation means losing opportunities for innovation, which will also lead to fewer schools remaining in or joining the program. **Loss of autonomy will make parental choice programs unsustainable.**

The bottom line is that **choice is working**. Students in the Milwaukee, Racine, and statewide programs outperform their peers and score higher on the college-readiness ACT exam. Giving schools the freedom to develop their curriculum and teaching practices allows them to provide students with a top-notch education.

Several other states have included language in their choice programs aimed at preserving private school independence. SCWA plans to work with legal groups to develop language suitable for Wisconsin. We also continue to cautiously examine legislation to ensure choice schools' independence.



NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK AT THE CAPITOL: RECAP

We celebrated National School Choice Week last month with two special events hosted at the Wisconsin State Capitol. First, **Dr. Patrick Wolf** (University of Arkansas) delivered an informative presentation to legislators on evidence-based benefits of school choice programs.



Second, hundreds of Wisconsin families gathered at a **rally in the Capitol's rotunda** to hear inspiring speeches from school leaders, legislators, and a student from Trinity Lutheran Freistadt in Mequon. Student groups from two Milwaukee schools, St. Anthony School and Eastbrook Academy, delivered engaging musical performances.



It was a great day at the Capitol to support educational options for parents across the state!

LEGISLATOR SCHOOL VISITS

The 2025-27 legislative session is upon us! This month, School Choice Wisconsin helped organize a school tour for Representative Paul Melotik at Trinity Lutheran Freistadt in Mequon. During the visit, we discussed the importance of maintaining autonomy for private schools and how Trinity is using increased voucher funds to better serve its students, while expressing our gratitude for Rep. Melotik's strong support for the program. He had the opportunity to engage with staff, teachers, and students, receiving warm welcomes at each classroom stop.



If you are interested in hosting a legislator to tour your school, feel free to reach out to our Outreach Director Chris Lawrence at Lawrence@parentchoice.org. These opportunities allow your local officials to see firsthand the great things happening in your schools.