

MONTHLY

MAY 2025

Celebrating Success, *Supporting What's Next*

As we approach the end of the 2024-25 school year, we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the schools, educators, and administrators across Wisconsin for your dedication and hard work. You've guided students through another successful year of learning, growth, and achievement, something truly worth celebrating. In addition, we congratulate those schools who have announced exciting updates for the year ahead: building expansions, facility upgrades, increased programming, and more. This is all an indication of the strong support of choice school communities.

Here at School Choice Wisconsin, our work continues through the summer months. We are committed to supporting schools with program-related needs, and we remain just a phone call or email away for any questions you may have. Whether you are preparing for next school year or navigating compliancy updates, we are here to help!

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Support our mission to sustain vibrant, quality options in K-12 education in Wisconsin! Click the button to donate today.

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SCWA KEY ISSUE OF THE MONTH:

DECOUPLING

Currently, the statewide and Racine choice programs rely on local property taxes for funding. When state aid to school districts is reduced to cover these programs, districts often increase property taxes to offset the loss. This places local taxpayers on the hook and creates unnecessary complexities for public school budgets. Critics use these property tax increases to attack school choice programs, despite their proven benefits for families and students.

Decoupling is the solution, which would eliminate property tax increases associated with school choice, streamline school district budgeting, and provide property tax relief exceeding \$340 million statewide over the next two years. Decoupling ensures equitable funding for school choice while preserving resources for public schools.



OTHER SCWA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

Currently, we know many of you have questions regarding the Governor's budget for 2025–2027. SCWA is monitoring the situation closely and will update schools with any relevant information as soon as we learn about it.

One aspect that schools can plan for is the increase to per-pupil funding. Based on the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision to maintain the Governor's 400-year veto from last session, funding will be increased by **\$325 per pupil** for the 2025–26 school year. If something changes, we will let you know.

If you have any questions about this or other legislative issues, do not hesitate to contact us at:

scwa@parentchoice.org or 414-319-9160.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

For schools facing leadership gaps, the Center for Urban Teaching (CfUT) offers a proven pipeline of future administrators ready to lead with confidence. Click the button below to learn more.

LEARN MORE

Check out these FAQs to learn more:

Q. Why should decoupling happen now?

According to the Tax Foundation, Wisconsin ranks 10th in the nation for property tax burden. It's time to treat taxpayers across the state fairly and deliver meaningful property tax relief.

Q. How is Milwaukee treated?

The MPCP already is fully decoupled. There are no aid reductions or property tax hikes tied to the MPCP.

Q. What is the property tax impact?

Estimated annual property tax relief is about \$340 million for taxpayers outside Milwaukee. This change treats all property taxpayers around the state equally.

Q. Are there other benefits?

Yes. It simplifies budget planning for public school districts. The complex current process creates uncertainty in the local budget process.

UPCOMING INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS

Thursday, June 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA): If enacted, this federal bill will provide a new funding source for parents to send their children to the school of their choice throughout Wisconsin. The bill recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives and will soon be decided on by the Senate. On this webinar, SCWA is partnering with national experts to explain how the ECCA is moving forward and how it would affect families and choice schools.

[Register here](#)

Friday, June 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Wisconsin Act 20 (3rd to 4th grade literacy promotion policy):

Per state law, schools have until July 1, 2025 to implement their 3rd to 4th grade promotion policy that considers a child's reading ability. SCWA and the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) will help alleviate any concerns and answer your questions as we approach this deadline. Seminar participants will be the first to receive access to WILL's model policy for private schools.

[Register here](#)

Thursday, June 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Wisconsin Act 12 (crime reporting for schools with grades 9-12):

The DPI recently released guidance on how schools should complete their annual legal reporting requirement for state and local law violations that occur on school property. To best support schools in understanding the process and answer questions, SCWA and WILL are teaming up to help.

[Register here](#)