

**Friday, May 31** – Today's fact of the day exposes continued misinformation and omission of facts by school voucher lobbyists. Today's fact highlights two emails sent on May 29, 2013 by voucher lobbyist John Gard. Below is his first email which is just a letter. The link below this paragraph highlights provides context to the data in his second email.

<http://www.gbaps.org/Hot-Topics/Documents/Vouchers/5%20points%20The%20Full%20Truth%20on%20Gard.pdf>

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*From the desk of John Gard*

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GARDBUSINESSGROUP@HOTMAIL.COM

**Friends of School Choice Expansion,**

As you know, we are at the most critical moment in the debate on expanding educational opportunities for parents in the Green Bay area and we need your help.

Soon, the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance will be voting on the single largest spending item in the Wisconsin State Budget- funding of our education system. Included in that debate, is the future of the School Choice program and its possible expansion to Green Bay and other communities.

Like you, I continue to see the scare tactics and hysteria come from the Green Bay School Board and Administration. It is unfortunate that they use taxpayer dollars to campaign and lobby in an intellectually dishonest way. However, I am confident that an overwhelming majority of legislators see it for what it is. I have received countless emails and calls from parents and community leaders who are frustrated by what they see coming from the educational establishment fully funded by hardworking taxpayers.

We have chosen to ignore much of their extreme rhetoric. We continue to focus on the kids and not on the establishment and believe parents appreciate that.

Over the next couple days, there is likely to be ongoing negotiations to expand options to Green Bay and other communities. Here are some things that you can expect to see develop-

- The legislature commits millions of new dollars to public schools to again demonstrate support for public schools. Public schools will remain the single largest spending item in the state budget largely unappreciated by the establishment.
- Discussion about performance and outcomes.
- Fierce debate about providing additional options to parents through Choice expansion.

We believe that with hundreds of millions of new dollars likely going into more spending on public education, it is reasonable to also offer taxpayers and parents additional options. I believe many legislators agree and we will continue to work toward a successful outcome.

What can you do while this is going on?

I would encourage friends to call Senators Rob Cowles at 608-266-0484\* and Senator Frank Lasee at 608-266-3512\*. Ask them to stand with parents who want to have a choice in their child's education. **Senator Lasee has been an great supporter of school choice.** We need their support more than ever.

\* In a few moments you will also be receiving a five point factual email on the [Reality of Green Bay in 2013](#) with strong arguments to support School Choice expansion.

Sincerely,  
John Gard

Gard Business Group | [gardbusinessgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:gardbusinessgroup@hotmail.com)

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**Thursday, May 30** – Today’s fact of the day continues to cover the significant amount of misinformation being shared in our community and the state regarding graduation rates in the Green Bay Area Public Schools.

On the Wednesday, May 29 Wisconsin Public Radio Joy Cardin Show, Jim Bender president of School Choice Wisconsin made fundamentally inaccurate statements about our high school graduation rates.

Here is the transcript: Jim: “If you’ve got high schools, in Green Bay, that graduate barely more than 50 percent of their low income population.” (Joy: Yeah, a couple of them) Jim: “No, all of them, and we are not talking the report cards.” (Joy: I thought she was saying that just a couple were failing, that the entire district . . .) Jim: “Well a couple, er, according to the report card they were. And I’m not talking about the report card. I am saying when you look at the graduating class of last year, and nearly 50 percent of the low income students aren’t graduating. If you’re in an elementary school that’s feeding that high school and you’re a low income person and you know your child has a 50 percent chance of graduating or not, if there is an off ramp where you think your child is going to have a better opportunity, the whole district, erhm, should be given the opportunity to find the situation that’s going to get the best results for their kid.”

The statement can be found at 40:59 in on the podcast (<http://mp3.wpr.org/cgi-bin/download.cgi?userID=statusalarm@wpr.org&fileID=jca130529b.mp3>). This is not the first time Bender has misrepresented the school district.

Our data shows that students who enter the Green Bay Area Public Schools as freshmen and stay all four years, graduate at a rate of 95%. African-American students who spent four years in their same high school graduated last year at a rate of 97%. Our overall graduation rate with the "churn" or turnover of students was 80%, up 2 % from last year. All four high schools showed increases in graduation rates.

Here are the four year graduation rates for our four high schools found on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction WINNS site:  
East

NON Economically Disadvantaged	89.2%
Economically Disadvantaged	67.4%
Preble	
NON Economically Disadvantaged	93.9%
Economically Disadvantaged	74.7 %
Southwest	
NON Economically Disadvantaged	93.5%
Economically Disadvantaged	65.0%
West	
NON Economically Disadvantaged	84%
Economically Disadvantaged	74.7%

**Tuesday, May 28** - Today's fact of the day highlights the Green Bay Press-Gazette's position against the expansion of school vouchers in the state budget. Similar to other major newspapers, such as the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel and the Appleton Post Crescent, the Green Bay Press-Gazette has called for the expansion of vouchers to be removed from the state budget. The editorial also noted that Green Bay Area Public Schools are NOT failing, "The Green Bay School District has many very good schools and to characterize it as failing is unfair." The Joint Finance Committee is set to take up voucher expansion and other important educational issues tomorrow, Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20130523/GPG0602/305230371/Editorial-Voucher-program-expansion-should-not-budget>

Community members can contact their legislator with their opinion on this issue <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/Pages/waml.aspx>; and to members of the Joint Finance Committee <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/jfc/Pages/default.aspx>. Please find the Green Bay Area School Public School District and Green Bay Area Public School District Board of Education's letter to area legislators and members of the Joint Finance Committee below.

May 28, 2013

Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

As the Joint Finance Committee begins to make its final decisions on K12 education, we are writing to urge you to remove the following policy issues from the budget:

- Remove all private school voucher expansion proposals from the budget
- Remove all charter school proposals from the budget
- Remove the special education voucher proposal from the budget

There is no community groundswell for voucher expansion in Green Bay. The Press-Gazette Editorial Board joins us in calling on members of the Joint Finance Committee to remove voucher expansion from the budget. It stated, "Two years ago we editorialized

on the proposal to expand school vouchers to the Green Bay School District. We believe then as we do believe today, that such a profound change in the way public education is funded deserves time for a full debate.”

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20130523/GPG0602/305230371/Editorial-Voucher-program-expansion-should-not-budget>

The Press-Gazette Editorial Board also joins us in the recognition that the Green Bay Area Public Schools are NOT failing. It stated, “The Green Bay School District has many very good schools and to characterize it as failing is unfair.” Our district newsletter will be delivered to every household in our community in the upcoming days.

<http://www.gbaps.org/Parents/Documents/Spring2013.pdf> Highlights of the newsletter include factual information on our increased graduation rates, the impact of voucher expansion on our school community and a review of the innovative programs and partnerships we are implementing to ensure that all of our students are college, career and community ready, regardless of their life’s circumstance.

There has also been no groundswell for voucher expansion in the state of Wisconsin. Numerous editorial boards across the state have consistently echoed the fact that they do not believe that voucher expansion, with its twenty year unproven track record, is the answer to improving public education. They join us in supporting the belief that changes in education policy should stand as separate pieces of legislation that should be debated in the light of day and stand, or fall, on their own merits.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have voiced a belief that the Joint Finance Committee should remove all education policy issues from the budget. Perhaps this is because they too believe that their constituents are deserving of transparency when there is such a profound change in how public education will be funded. They may have read the Legislative Fiscal Bureau report and recognize the significant fiscal impact voucher expansion will have on their constituents in their communities. They may also believe that the local taxpayers deserve to have a voice in determining whether their tax dollars should fund a second statewide school system that some are referring to as an entitlement program with little accountability.

Finally, we ask you to support the Ellis/Olsen increase to the revenue cap by at least \$200 per student in each year of the biennium.

As residents of the Green Bay area, taxpayers, registered voters, and the elected officials and leaders responsible for the education of almost 21,000 students in the Green Bay Area Public Schools, we trust that you will do the right thing.

Michelle Langenfeld  
Superintendent of Schools and Learning

Celestine Jeffreys  
School District Clerk

Brenda Warren  
Board President

Michael Blecha  
Trustee

Katie Maloney  
Board Vice President

Andrew Becker  
Trustee

Christopher Wagner  
Board Treasurer

Mary Frantz  
Trustee

**Friday, May 17** - On May 15, Senator Alberta Darling stated on Milwaukee radio station WTMJ that graduation rates in Beloit and Green Bay were 40%.

(<http://www.620wtmj.com/podcasts/talk/charliesykes/207576021.html>, 11 minutes in.) Here is the transcript:

“Well you know, if you look at two of the areas the Governor targeted – Beloit and Green Bay – most people will say, ‘No, Green Bay doesn’t have a problem like Milwaukee.’ Well, the graduation rate is the same as or similar to Beloit – like 40%. So there are a lot of ah school districts around the state that are not far behind Milwaukee in terms of need of great improvement and need of the state’s attention. So we’re gonna see a compromise on the voucher program and it’s gonna be a good one.”

The DPI recently released the 2011-12 4-year graduation rate for the Green Bay Area Public School District, which is at 80%, up 2 percentage points from the previous year. For non-mobile students who stay in one of our high schools for all four years (freshman through senior year), 95% of our students graduate.

<http://data.dpi.state.wi.us/data/HSCompletionPage.aspx?GraphFile=BlankPageUrl&SCounty=47&SAthleticConf=45&SCESA=05&FULLKEY=07228903%60%60%60%60&SN=None+Chosen&DN=Green+Bay+Area+Public&OrgLevel=di&Qquad=performance.aspx>

Senator Darling’s contact information is (608) 266-5830, her email is [Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**Wednesday, May 8** - Today’s fact of the day points out that two district high schools have received national attention for their educational attainments. *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Green Bay Preble High School 17th and Green Bay Southwest High School 28th out of 459 public and charter high schools in Wisconsin. Of note is that these same two schools received ratings of "Meets Few Expectations" (Preble) and "Meets Expectations" (Southwest) in the pilot year of the state report cards. The current budget proposal would place a school district of 4,000 or more, and with two or more schools in the “Meets Few Expectations” or “Fails to Meet Expectations” categories in the voucher expansion.

US News and World Report rankings: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/wisconsin/rankings?int=c0b4c1>

**Tuesday, April 30** – Today’s fact of the day features the number of our homeless students. As of April 26, 1,005 students have been identified as homeless in our district, an increase of 112 students over the same time last year.

Here is an editorial worth reading on the educational success gap between high- and lower-income students:

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/27/no-rich-child-left-behind/>

**Friday, May 3** – Today's fact of the day is about special education students in Milwaukee voucher schools. The U.S. Department of Justice has found that students with disabilities who are seeking to enroll or currently enrolled in Wisconsin voucher schools have faced discrimination have been denied enrollment or been forced out of school as a result of their disability, or behavior stemming from it.

The Department of Public Instruction will have to monitor voucher schools to make sure they are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and to report parent complaints alleging the voucher program discriminated against their disabled children.

<http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/205833811.html>

**Thursday, May 2** – Today's fact of the day features the importance of early childhood intervention. In the first year of the PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening Tool) kindergarten assessment, we learned that 326 of our incoming kindergartners (20% of the children screened) were identified as at-risk, meaning they didn't know up to three letters and/or numbers. Surrounding area districts have about 3-7 percent of their students identified as at risk.

It was no surprise to see that large percentages of these students are attending schools that are not meeting state expectations. It is also no surprise to see that the school districts targeted for voucher expansion have a similar percentage of their students entering school also deemed "at risk."

Here is a New York Times editorial worth reading on the educational success gap between high- and lower-income students:

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/27/no-rich-child-left-behind/>

Recognizing that school readiness is key to student success in school, the district has reached out to the Brown County United Way Community Partnership for Children - Children and Families Workgroup. We are in the process of setting up avenues for data sharing, and by working together we will be able to replicate many of the interventions and successes this group has already experienced, ensuring that students are school ready.

The district has also entered in partnership with Bellin Health and the Green Bay Packers to provide learning opportunities for preschool students and their families over the summer. We are also in the planning stages for STRIVE – a cradle to career model – focused on supporting ALL children from birth to career.

**Wednesday, May 1** – Several Wisconsin newspapers have published editorials with respect to the proposed expansion of the voucher program, citing some of the similar data that the district has presented in its information to the community and the Facts of the Day. Yesterday, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published the following editorial:

<http://m.jsonline.com/more/editorials/evidence-doesnt-support-choice-program-expansion-0s9p7ao-205476591.html>

**Tuesday, April 30** – Today's fact of the day highlights our school funding. Public school districts receive state aid based on the number of students enrolled in the public schools on the third

Friday in September and January. The count also includes the students who open enroll to other public school districts. Those districts are reimbursed by the Green Bay Area Public School District. Private school students are NOT included in the count, and the district does not receive money for those students.

However, the Green Bay Area Public School District spends \$800,000/year to transport private school students to school, which is required by Wisconsin state law. Additionally, the district provides private school students with: Title I services, special education services, school resource officers, and Advanced Placement testing administration. Private school students in grades 6-8 can also participate on our athletic teams.

**Wednesday, April 24** – Today's fact of the day shares that district across the state fund the Milwaukee charter schools. The Green Bay Area Public School District pays \$1.8 million a year to help fund this program.

**Tuesday, April 23** – Today's fact of the day highlights three separate analyses that have all found that expansion of the voucher program will result in higher taxes. The non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, AND the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance have all concluded that the expansion of the voucher program will raise taxes.

Click here to see the reports from the three organizations: <http://www.gbaps.org/Hot-Topics/Pages/School-Vouchers.aspx>

**Monday, April 22** – Today's Fact of the Day shares that the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau recently released an analysis of the voucher expansion. This nonpartisan agency concluded that the nine districts slated for the expansion of the voucher program will lose approximately \$8 million in state aid as students take a voucher to attend private schools. The loss of \$8 million will be redistributed to 324 other school districts, reducing the tax levies in those communities.

For more information, visit:

[http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/Miscellaneous/Documents/2015\\_04\\_15WILeg\\_Choice.pdf](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/Miscellaneous/Documents/2015_04_15WILeg_Choice.pdf)

**Wednesday, April 17** – Today's Fact of the Day shows how the proposed Governor's budget provides disproportionate funding for private education (see chart below), while also expanding

the school voucher program into nine school districts (including Green Bay) that have been inaccurately labeled as “failing” based on the pilot year results of the school report cards.

While school district budgets will see a \$0 increase from the state, private charter schools will receive a \$156 per student increase, K-8 private schools taking a voucher will see a \$608 per student increase, and private high schools taking a voucher will see a \$1,414 per student increase.

As it stands, if the voucher expansion comes to Green Bay at the current \$6,442 per student amount, private schools taking voucher students will receive \$281 more per student from the state than the Green Bay Area Public School District.

**Tuesday, April 16** – Today’s Fact of the Day covers the change in school funding and how it has affected the Green Bay Area Public School District. Over the past seven years, the district has cut \$51.5 million from its budget. Prior to 2011, school districts received about a \$200-\$250 per student increase a year in revenues to keep up with inflation (see graph below). In 2011, the state cut school district budgets by \$732 per student and the Green Bay Area Public School District attempted to close the resulting \$20 million shortfall by increasing the amount employees paid into benefits and retirement. Even using the “tools,” the district still had to cut an additional \$8 million from its budget.

Last year, Wisconsin school districts received a \$50 per student increase, \$682 less than pre-2011 amounts. Even with the \$50 per student increase, the district had to cut \$9 million from last year’s budget.

The current proposed budget calls for a \$0 increase for Wisconsin school districts over the next two years. If this goes through, the district will have to cut \$6 million for the next school year.

**Thursday, April 11** – Today’s fact of the day talks about the mobility of our students. The district has many students that switch schools throughout the school year – many multiple schools during the same year. Any school move requires a child to get acclimated to his/her new surroundings, new teachers, and new friends. There is also lost learning time.

What does this look like? Take for example Nicolet Elementary School. In their 2011-12, their mobility rate was 28% last year, meaning that just under one-third of their students were not present for the full academic year. You can compare our mobility data here: <http://infogr.am/Green-Bay-Mobility-Chart/> and see a correlation between schools that score higher on the WKCE test and those that score lower.

Students will experience learning growth after he or she has experienced support and stability when staying put at a school. While the outcomes at a given point in time may not be at the desired cut score on the state tests, you’ll find that many of these kids make significant growth over time.

This is also evident in our graduation rates. Students who are in our high schools for all four years graduate at a significantly higher rate than their peers who are not. See the middle of page two here: <http://www.gbaps.org/Hot-Topics/Documents/Reform/Growth%20Handout.pdf>.

**Wednesday, April 10** – Today's fact of the day is about our district's homeless population. As of last week, the district has identified 949 students as homeless. This is 122 more than the 827 students identified at this time last year, and more than the 937 students identified by the end of the school year. What constitutes a homeless student or family?

The term 'homeless children and youths' means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. This includes children and youth who:

- are temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- are living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- are living in emergency shelters
- are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement
- have a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- runaway children or children who are abandoned

District staff works hard to provide what may be the only stability in these families' lives. Through the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, school districts are required to provide transportation, school supplies, cover school fees, school breakfast and lunch for identified McKinney-Vento students.

Through private grants and donations, we are able to provide clothing, transportation to afterschool events and summer school, extended learning activities, transportation for parents to come to school events, help support parents to get students to medical appointments, bus passes to get parents to employment, and basic necessities such as hygienic products, bedding, and nonperishable food items.

The district provides transportation to keep students in their home school so they have stability. If students are new to the district, we have attendance areas based on what shelter the students are living in. Shelters in Green Bay are located in all four high school attendance areas.

**Tuesday, April 9** – Today's Fact of the Day showcases our secondary schools' Caring Closets. The first Caring Closet was started at Preble by business teacher Mark Bonetti and a group of students when they saw all the school supplies left in lockers at the end of the year. The students collected the supplies, set up a room in the basement, and also started collecting clothing, hygiene products, graduation gowns, prom dresses and more to help Preble students whose families were financially struggling. From that, the Preble Hive was born and has expanded to multiple basement rooms and hosts a washer and dryer.

Students and staff at all four high schools and all four middle schools and Aldo Leopold Community School created Caring Closets to help their students and families. Social workers

discreetly take students to these Caring Closets to get the supplies they need so students can focus on school and learning.

**East High School's Carling Closet:** [http://www.gbaps.org/hs/east/Students/programs-assistance/caring\\_closet/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.gbaps.org/hs/east/Students/programs-assistance/caring_closet/Pages/default.aspx)

**Preble High School's The Hive:** <http://www.gbaps.org/hs/Preble/Pages/The-Hive.aspx>

**Southwest High School's Troy's Closet:**

<http://www.gbaps.org/hs/Southwest/Students/Pages/Troys-House.aspx>

**West High School's The Cat "CLAWSet":** <http://www.gbaps.org/hs/West/Student/Cat-Clawset/Pages/default.aspx>

**Monday, April 8** - In March, Wisconsin Public Television's The Here and Now visited Green Bay to do a story on using the pilot year state report cards to bring vouchers into the community. Zac Smith, the reporter, spoke with the principals at East High School, Preble High School, Danz Elementary School and MacArthur Elementary School; district students; Board President Brenda Warren; and Superintendent Dr. Michelle Langenfeld. Additionally, Smith interviewed legislators, the President of School Choice Wisconsin and the principal at St. Bernard's. The story captures an insightful snapshot of our schools that the public may be surprised to see.

Please watch this story if you missed it this weekend: <http://m.video.wpt2.org/video/2364991373/>

**Friday, April 5** – This week, the Facts of the Day have highlighted community partnerships that have worked collaboratively with the district to provide resources for our at-risk populations in working towards graduation. Contrary to voucher proponent's contentions, the district and various community partners are providing a number of resources, programs and opportunities for traditionally at-risk populations as they work their way towards high school graduation. The final partnership to be highlighted is the Second Chance Partners for Education which is a 21-month, manufacturing-based educational program to support academic success, manufacturing skill development, and graduation for disengaged students. The Green Bay Area Public School District is the first district in northeast Wisconsin to provide this program. Students who have not been engaged in regular curriculum and are at risk for graduating are offered academic instruction at business partner sites where students gain valuable technical skills while learning a trade at Lindquist Machine Corporation.

Second Chance Partners for Education: <http://www.secondchancepartners.org/>

**Thursday, April 4** – Today's Fact of the Day highlights the Upward Bound program, which is offered through UW-Green Bay and up until this year, St. Norbert College. The program is designed to prepare high school students for college who come from low-income and/or first-generation families. Offered at East, Preble and West high schools, the program offers academic development, career exploration, and leadership development through tutoring, college visits, college placement assistance and pre-college summer programs.

UW-Green Bay Upward Bound: <http://www.uwgb.edu/ub/>

St. Norbert College Upward Bound:

<http://www.snc.edu/communications/enews/0707/upwardbound.html>

**Wednesday, April 3** – This week's Facts of the Day have highlighted resources available, in partnership with our community, to assist our students in graduating. Today's community partner is the Boys and Girls Club and its program, Be Great: Graduate. Be Great: Graduate is a dropout prevention program offered to participating students whose attendance, behavior and/or academic achievement may have identified them as being at risk from graduating. School counselors in the Green Bay high schools work with Boys and Girls club staff to identify students to be matched up with a caring and trusted adult who provides consistent support in developing the academic, emotional and social skills needed to achieve academic success.

Be Great: Graduate:

<http://www.bgca.org/whatwedo/EducationCareer/Pages/BEGREATGraduate.aspx>

**Tuesday, April 2** – Today's highlighted partner working with the District to offer resources for students to achieve graduation is GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. GEAR UP located in all four Green Bay high schools, is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The program works with students and their families starting in middle school, until graduation, including college tours, financial aid (FASFA) help, and parent workshops.

GEAR UP DPI: <http://www.weop.net/>

GEAR UP federal: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html>

**Monday, April 1** – Pro-voucher proponents would lead you to believe the Green Bay Area Public School District does not have resources in place to help students graduate. They are wrong. The district has many resources in place to help students become college, career and community ready. Combined with the District's work, these resources have improved our graduation rates for ... from ... to .... Many of our students are either the first in their family to graduate high school or the first with plans to go onto college. This week we will highlight some of those programs offered with our community partners that have increased graduation rates, including: UWGB's Phuture Phoenix, GEAR UP [spell this out] [add who the partner is], Be Great Graduate [add who the partner is], St. Norbert's Upward Bound, and Second Chance [add who the partner is].

Today we will highlight Phuture Phoenix. Phuture Phoenix is an award winning program designed to inspire at-risk students of Northeast Wisconsin to pursue higher education. Once a year, Phuture Phoenix invites over 1,500 5th graders to visit the UW-Green Bay campus. UW-Green Bay role models serve as tour guides and stay connected to these 5th graders in a variety of ways throughout middle and high school. At Jefferson Elementary, and Eisenhower Elementary, starting in the 2013-2014 school year, Phuture Phoenix goes one step further through the College Bound partnership by infusing college preparedness into the curriculum and school environment, providing each child with a shirt with their year of graduation from college and monthly visits from UWGB students talking about their areas of study.

Additionally, UWGB students tutor/mentor students at Washington, Franklin, East and West. Through these programs, students.... [any evidence of improving graduation.]

Phuture Phoenix: <http://www.uwgb.edu/phuturephoenix/>

College Bound:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntGiPKx8Sr4&list=UUGA\\_ZSkvcZZkdm2AJBGB12g&index=51](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntGiPKx8Sr4&list=UUGA_ZSkvcZZkdm2AJBGB12g&index=51)

**March 19, 2013: #15**

The proposed voucher program reduces money from a school district's state aid. In Milwaukee and Racine, voucher schools receive \$6,442 per student. As noted by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Green Bay Area Public School District receives \$6,161 per student, \$281 less than a Milwaukee or Racine voucher school.

The budget proposes an increase of \$7,050 for K-8 voucher students and \$7,856 for high school voucher students in the 2014-15 school year. There is no proposed increase for public schools. If voucher expansion happens in Green Bay, a voucher school will receive \$889 more per pupil in funding than the district would receive for the same student. Similarly, the voucher school would receive \$1,695 more in funding per pupil for every high school student than the district would receive for the same student.

[http://thewheelerreport.com/wheeler\\_docs/files/0130popelfb\\_01.pdf](http://thewheelerreport.com/wheeler_docs/files/0130popelfb_01.pdf)

To see how districts are further financially impacted, please see the simple explanation of the voucher tax and the funding flaw.

<http://www.gbaps.org/Hot-Topics/Documents/Vouchers/Generic%20voucher%20tax%20and%20funding%20flaw%20explination%202-25-13.pdf>

**March 18, 2013: #14**

The district has had 21 students receive the prestigious Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarship since 1989. East High School (tied with Pulaski) leads area high schools with 7 such scholars.

**March 15, 2013: #13**

Since 1994, the Green Bay Area Public School District has had 78 teachers win the Golden Apple.

**March 14, 2013: #12**

**District Scores Above State and National Averages on the ACT**

The district has consistently scored above the state and national averages for the College Board ACT test.

2012 Composite Scores

District: 22.3

State: 22.1

National: 21.1

2011 Composite Scores

District: 22.5

State: 22.1

National: 21.1

2010 Composite Scores

District: 22.5

State: 22.0

National: 21.0

**March 13, 2013: #11**

**706 Students Exited from the English Language Program in One Year**

With more than 4,100 students and almost 40 native languages, last year the Green Bay Area Public School District had the highest percentage of English Language Learner students in Wisconsin. With the hard work of our staff and students, last year alone 706 students were exited from the English Language Learner program as being English proficient.

**March 12, 2013: #10**

**District Exceeds State on AP Scores while Increasing Participation**

For the third year in a row, the Green Bay Area Public School District was named as an A.P. Achievement District by the College Board. The district received this recognition for increasing the number of students participating in Advanced Placement Exams (an increase of 20%), while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher (an increase of 4%).

2012

Participating Students: 654

Students Earning a Score of 3 or Higher: 75%

State: 68%

2011

Participating Students: 602

Students Earning a Score of 3 or Higher: 74%

State: 68%

2010

Participating Students: 549

Students Earning a Score of 3 or Higher: 71%

State: 69%

**March 11, 2013: #9**

**Graduation Rates for Non-Mobile Students Largely Exceed State Averages**

Students who attend one high school for four years in the district (non-mobile students) graduate at a significantly higher rate than their peers who are mobile, moving between more than one school district during high school (mobile students) even outperforming the state by up to 27 percentage points. This is particularly true for American Indian (91% non-mobile students vs. 63% mobile students) and African American (97% non-mobile students vs. 62% mobile students) students. Research shows that students who move between schools are often at risk for academic and behavioral problems.

See the bar graph on page two:

<http://www.gbaps.org/Hot-Topics/Documents/Reform/Growth%20Handout.pdf>

**March 8, 2013: #8**

What is the Graduation Rate of Economically Disadvantage Students in Green Bay?

It depends on where you look and what factors you consider. The district has increased graduation rates for all students. Using the legacy rate\*, in 2011-12 all students are graduating at a rate of 90.5% - up from 78.6% in 2008-09. For students who are identified as economically disadvantaged, the legacy graduation rate is currently at 79.3% up from 70.8% in 2009-10. \* *The legacy rate includes students who take more than four years to graduate, which includes special education students (we serve almost 3,000) and English Language Learners (we serve more than 4,300), both of whom may be educated by law until 20 years of age.*

Additionally, our African-American graduation rates have increased by 23.1% and American Indian rates by 17.8% over the last three years. We are not where we want to be, but we are moving in the right direction. See page 2 of the following document for more information.

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**March 6, 2013: #4**

Fact: The voucher program diverts funding away from public schools. The voucher program, if implemented like Milwaukee and Racine, would divert or take general aid away from the Green Bay Public Schools.

In 2012-13, the net aid reduction for Milwaukee Public Schools related to the choice program is \$53.6 million.

The language from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau supports this fact is below.

**From page 16 of LFB Informational Paper # 26:** “As a result, the general aid that would otherwise be paid to MPS was initially reduced by \$69.6 million to partially fund the Milwaukee program. In 2012-13, MPS will receive \$5.8 million in high poverty aid and \$10.2 million in aid from the City to reduce the choice levy. After consideration of those aid payments, the net aid reduction for Milwaukee Public Schools related to the choice program is \$53.6 million, which represents 9.0% of the district's estimated 2012-13 aid eligibility,”

[http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/Informational-Papers/Documents/2013/26\\_Milwaukee%20and%20Racine%20Parental%20Choice%20Programs.pdf](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/Informational-Papers/Documents/2013/26_Milwaukee%20and%20Racine%20Parental%20Choice%20Programs.pdf)

### **March 5, 2013: #3**

#### **Will Charter Schools Still be held Accountable?**

Fact of the Day: The Green Bay Area Public School District currently operates one charter school, the John Dewey Academy of Learning, and a second, iLearnGreenBay, which will open in the fall. The budget bill proposes to eliminate the authority of a school board over a charter school's budget, curriculum, professional development, hiring and personnel policies, unless a decision affects the health or safety of pupils. The provision removes accountability over academic standards and district tax dollars.

### **March 4, 2013: #2**

Voucher program advocates say the program is needed to give low-income students in “failing” schools an opportunity to receive a high achieving education. All current choices available to families aside (and there are several), this statement is false on several counts. Here's one of them:

**Public school students in “failing” schools will NOT get priority status when it comes to receiving vouchers.** Parents of private school students will be the primary beneficiaries of the vouchers under the proposed program. In the first year of the voucher program, voucher schools must accept children who receive free and reduced lunch first, whether they are in a private or public school. Once those students have been placed in a voucher school, voucher schools then can give vouchers according to their own priorities, namely students already enrolled in their schools who meet the income level requirement (\$70,000 for a family of four.) In the second year of the program, when the number of participants doubles, the only priority that a voucher school must give is to the students who received a voucher the year prior. In the third year of the program, when there is no cap on the amount of students who can participate in the program, a voucher school would not have to give preference to any public school student, much less a student in a “failing” school, but rather could give preference to current students, their siblings, or any student who has attended an eligible private school the previous year. The State's budget analysis describes this new preference as follows: (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/proposals/ab40>):

Currently, a private school participating in a parental choice program must accept applications submitted under the choice program on a random basis; however, may give a preference to a sibling of a pupil who is accepted on a random basis. Under this bill, a participating private school may, when accepting applications submitted under a choice program, give preference to any of the following:

1. Pupils, or siblings of pupils, who attended the private school during the school year prior to the school year for which the application is being made.

2. Siblings of pupils who have been accepted to the private school for the school year for which the application is being made.

3. Pupils who attended any private school in a choice program during the school year prior to the school year for which the application is being made.

For example, in Racine, only half of the students participating in the voucher program were students enrolled in the Racine Unified School District. A significant percentage of students receiving vouchers were existing private school students. As a result, the greatest beneficiary of the voucher program in Racine has been private school parents.

### **March 1, 2013: #1**

We will be starting a fact of the day on the latest hot topic: school vouchers and the governor's education budget. These Facts of the Day will run on the district Facebook Monday-Friday, and will be e-mailed to staff as well.

Green Bay Area Public Schools are not failing. However, pro-voucher groups are using the Department of Public Instruction report cards to assign grades to schools, though, as the DPI Parent Guide to the report cards says, "It's important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability index score is not a "percent correct" measurement, so the scores are not the same as grades." The report cards are not even based on current data. According the DPI Technical Guide (pp. 10-11) the scores are based on a three year-average starting with the prior year's test, gauging work done the year before that. These school report cards, released in August of 2012, were based on state tests taken in the fall of 2009, 2010 and 2011 - in essence, testing students' mastery of knowledge and skills taught during the 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011 school years. We have made TREMENDOUS progress since then! Additionally, we will have a five-to-ten point gain next year simply by having students who speak little or no English take the WKCE test in English.

While Americans for Prosperity has shown a video in the Beloit, Green Bay and Kenosha communities citing the Green Bay Area Public Schools as failing, its own Mclver Institute gave the Green Bay Area Public School District a "passing grade" of a B-. This assault on Green Bay is not good for the community, and we are happy to tell of our progress such as: steadily making gains for all students (increasing graduation rates for American Indian and African-American students by double digits, ACT scores above the state and national average, and exiting more than 700 English Language Learner students into English proficiency last year alone!), offering education customization for families, and being named an Advanced Placement Achievement District three years in a row.