



GREEN BAY AREA
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
All learning. All growing.

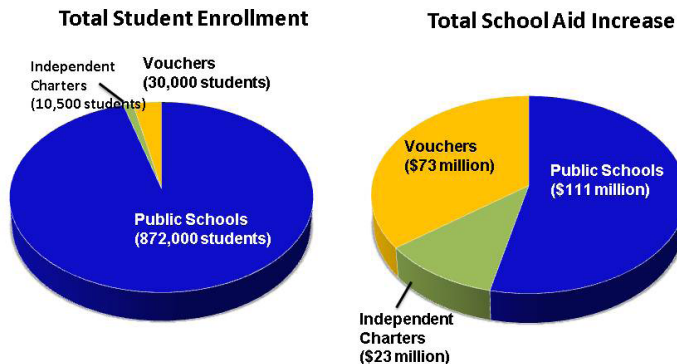
INFORMATION ABOUT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET AND VOUCHER EXPANSION

Taxpayer Dollars Diverted to Private Schools

The Governor's proposed budget provides disproportionate funding for private and religious education (chart on the right), while also expanding the school voucher program into nine school districts (including Green Bay) that have been incorrectly labeled as "failing" based on the pilot year results of the school report cards.

The chart below shows the disparity in enrollment vs. funding. What the public needs to know is that even though public schools are designated to receive an additional \$111 million in the budget, that is misleading. The money will be used to lower the tax levies in communities. This is good for taxpayers, but bad for students, as districts will receive a \$0/ per student increase, meaning no more money for classrooms.

State Aid Increase by School Type



However, because the public school revenue limits are frozen, new general aid reduces property taxes without allowing for new spending. New categorical aid is spent outside the revenue limit.

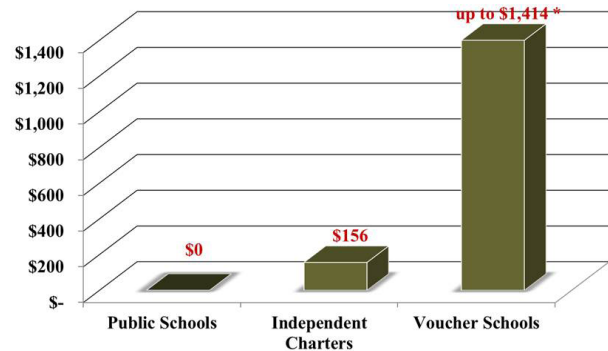
The impact is real. Taxpayers in Racine saw a 3.4 percent increase in taxes in the first year of the voucher program. This number will increase as the number of voucher students increases.

Additionally, 50 percent of Racine's voucher students have NEVER attended a public school - creating two education systems for taxpayers to fund.

Milwaukee has increased property taxes by \$50 million because of the voucher program.

**Reports of the fiscal impact of vouchers from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, AND the Wisconsin Taxpayers' Alliance can be found on our website at www.gbaps.org.*

Per-Pupil Revenue Increase by School Type



* For high school students

The Expansion of the Voucher Program will Increase Property Taxes

The impact is real: The Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, AND the Wisconsin Taxpayers' Alliance have all stated expansion of the voucher program will raise taxes.* In addition to vouchers raising property taxes in Green Bay, property values and economic growth and development could be negatively impacted by voucher proponents falsely labeling our schools as failing.

HOW? Green Bay receives funding only for each public school student enrolled in the district. The taxpayer-funded voucher program would reduce the amount of aid Green Bay receives, because the district does not receive funding for private school students. With fewer students, the property value per remaining students will rise, giving the impression that the district is "richer" than it actually is. Additionally, the district is required to pay 38% of voucher costs to the voucher school for students who may not have been enrolled in our public schools.

The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau recently released an analysis of the voucher expansion plan stating the nine districts entering the voucher program would lose about \$8 million in state aid as students take a voucher to attend private schools. That money would be redistributed to 324 other districts, reducing the tax levies in those communities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Number of students receiving vouchers	Predicted Tax Levy INCREASE
200	\$1.2 million
500	\$3.1 million

What is a Voucher?

A school voucher takes public taxpayer dollars from public school budgets to fund private and religious schools with minimal accountability to taxpayers. Private schools receiving vouchers do not have to provide information regarding testing, other data, and certified teachers; in addition, they do not have to comply with open meetings and open records laws.

Private schools also do not have to meet the same federal and state mandates as public schools.

Do voucher programs work?

In March 2011, the University of Arkansas' School Choice Demonstration Project, funded largely through donation from the Walton Family Foundation, released a report on Milwaukee's school choice program. That study found there was no significant difference in the performance of select choice students and similar Milwaukee public school students in the 2009-10 school year.

That finding was affirmed by the report released in August, 2011, by Wisconsin's nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau.

In addition, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction data, based on the test scores of all students, show that voucher students in Milwaukee's choice program actually performed worse on standardized tests in fall 2010 compared to their matched peers in Milwaukee Public Schools. Recently released data from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction shows Milwaukee Public School students still outperforming the choice program schools.

Do voucher schools improve a student's chances to graduate?

Voucher schools may decide who to identify as a graduate or non-graduate. In the Milwaukee voucher schools, a majority of students (approximately 75%) who enrolled in a voucher school in 9th grade withdrew from the program by 12th grade.

Don't know your legislator? Go to: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/Pages/waml.aspx>

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Did You Know?

The Green Bay Area Public School District spends \$800,000 a year to transport private school students to their schools. The district also provides special education services, school resource officers, and federal Title I dollars to the private schools.

If the voucher cost remains at \$6,442, private schools would receive \$281 more per student from the state than the district would. In addition, the Governor is proposing an increase to \$7,050 for K-8 vouchers and to \$7,856 for a voucher at the high school level.

A family of four making \$70,000 after taxes can qualify for a voucher. In comparison, a family of four making \$29,000 qualifies for the federal free/reduced lunch program.

School choice groups from around the United States have spent \$10 million in the state of Wisconsin; \$2.8 million was given to Wisconsin politicians and \$7 million was spent on broadcast ads and mailings.

There are five Milwaukee voucher schools still taking taxpayer dollars after losing their accreditation. One of these schools has 83% of its students using vouchers, the other schools have between 97-100% of their students using vouchers.

After 22 years, the Milwaukee voucher program has not shown strong academic improvement.

Although a private voucher school may not discriminate against a child with special educational needs during the admissions process, a voucher school is required to offer only those services to assist students with special needs that it can provide with minor adjustments. The state's largest disability advocacy group, Disability Rights Wisconsin, has filed a federal discrimination lawsuit alleging that in Milwaukee, students with disabilities "are actively counseled out of the (voucher) program."

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**For more information, go to www.gbaps.org and click on "WI State Budget & Vouchers" under Quick Links.
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