

Wisconsin Coalition for Education Freedom

Working to Save School Choice

Parent choice programs have grown in Wisconsin. They get results, including higher test scores and better DPI Report Card grades.

Wisconsin families want more educational options. But current programs will not survive — let alone expand — unless we address major threats.

Close the funding gap

All children have value. Yet those who attend private and independent charter schools receive only about 60 percent of funding available to public school students. We need to close that gap.

The funding gap particularly hurts private high schools, including those in Milwaukee and Racine, that significantly outperform public schools. Private schools struggle to compete for teachers. An exemplary Milwaukee high school already has closed. Others are cutting back on seats.

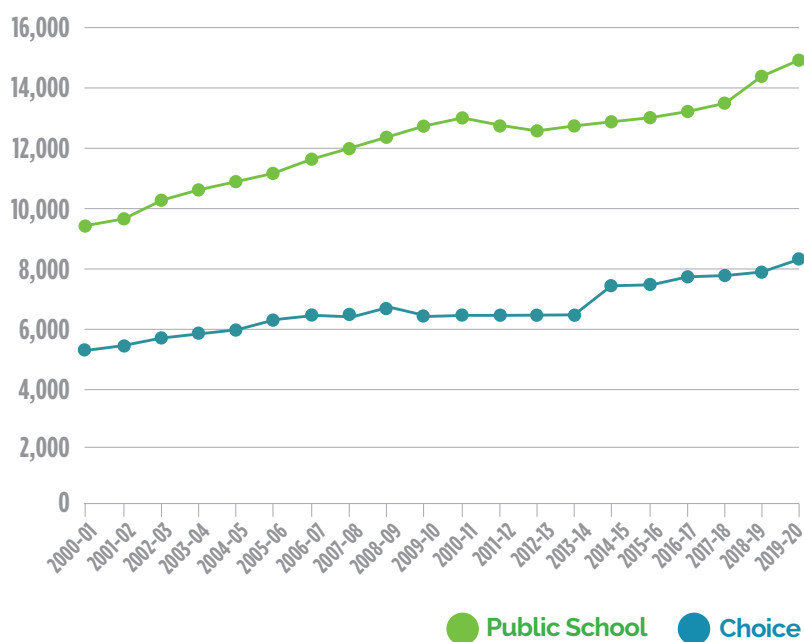
Choice vs. Public School Funding Gap*

*Excludes varying amounts of limited federal aid to private schools.

“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*



Eliminate the property tax impact

Enrollment growth can mean higher property taxes. This is true except in Milwaukee, where choice soon will be paid 100% by GPR. We should do the same elsewhere, including for independent charters. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates that this would mean a statewide property tax cut of more than \$200 million.

End barriers to entry

Any family may choose traditional public schools, charters, or open enrollment. Barriers to entry exist only in the Milwaukee, Racine, and statewide parent choice programs.

Income eligibility is not the only barrier. Restrictive enrollment periods, district enrollment caps, and grade point entry levels also limit participation.



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*

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 Sobie,* 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 Sobie*

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.

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