

***“If we can’t get additional money out of the Choice Program, how are we supposed to afford to pay our teachers more? What’s going to happen? They’re going to have to leave. And who hurts? The students get hurt.”***

– Marikris Coryell

St. Joan Antida High School  
Milwaukee



## “A Child Is A Child Is A Child”

Private schools in Wisconsin’s parent choice programs and independent charter schools receive thousands of dollars less per pupil than traditional public schools.

Students who attend these schools get results, yet we estimate at least 3 in 4 must raise private funds to stay alive. There is a cumulative funding shortfall of at least \$160 million at 227 private schools in the Milwaukee, Racine, and statewide choice programs.

This is unsustainable. **Without relief, the lifeline for students that many highly rated private high schools provide will be severed.** Many will impose enrollment caps or reduce seats. A popular Milwaukee high school actually had to close two years ago. Without relief, Wisconsin students will be the ones who pay the price.

## Our Proposal...

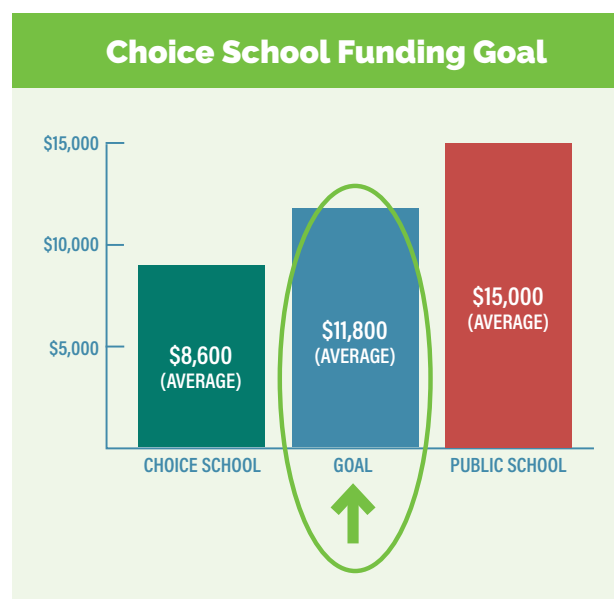
### • Private Schools in Choice Programs

- A weighted average of \$11,800 per pupil.\*  
**Ninety-nine percent of Wisconsin school districts receive more in state and local revenue.** The average is about \$15,000.
- Grades K-8 would receive \$11,000 per pupil (now \$8,399).
- Grades 9-12 would receive \$14,500 per pupil (now \$9,045).

\*\$2023\$

### • Independent Charters

Independent charters would receive base per pupil funding equal to the most current average statewide revenue limit (\$11,888 in FY 22-23).



# Why Funding Relief Matters

## 1 Schools can't compete for staff

*"If we could pay our teachers more, we would because we have about a 26% turnover rate every year. We have a difficult time competing for teachers and holding on to them."*

– Brenda White  
Siena Schools of Racine



## 2 Schools must raise private funds to cover costs

*"All of our time is spent trying to fund the gap... We're going to have to limit enrollment for freshmen this year."*

– Paul Scriver  
Shoreland Lutheran High School, Kenosha



## 3 Seats will shrink

*"We are going to be constricting seats. It's becoming unworkable with the amount of staff loss."*

– Jim Piatt  
Messmer High School Milwaukee



## More Funding Means Growth

School Choice Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty conducted a survey of school leaders throughout the state.

Based on responses from school leaders, if funding were increased nearly 20,000 more Wisconsin students would be able to attend a school that best fits their needs.

That estimate is conservative. It does not include new seats in schools that would enter the program if funding levels were higher.

## What We Have to Lose

*These programs get results:*

- Private school choice students **outscore public school students from all income levels** on the college-readiness ACT test. Private high schools consistently rank high on DPI Report Cards.
- Private school students in the Milwaukee choice program **graduate at higher rates** and **lead more crime-free lives** than public school peers.
- **Sixty percent** of independent charter and private choice students in Milwaukee attend schools that DPI says **"exceed" or "significantly exceed" expectations**. Only 20 percent of traditional MPS students attend such schools.



Watch stories from choice school leaders in Wisconsin, and learn about their programs, financial challenges, and struggles with staffing at [schoolchoicewiaction.org/choicestories](https://schoolchoicewiaction.org/choicestories).

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## 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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