

Research Brief

Significant Growth in School Choice More schools, more students, fewer limits on income eligibility

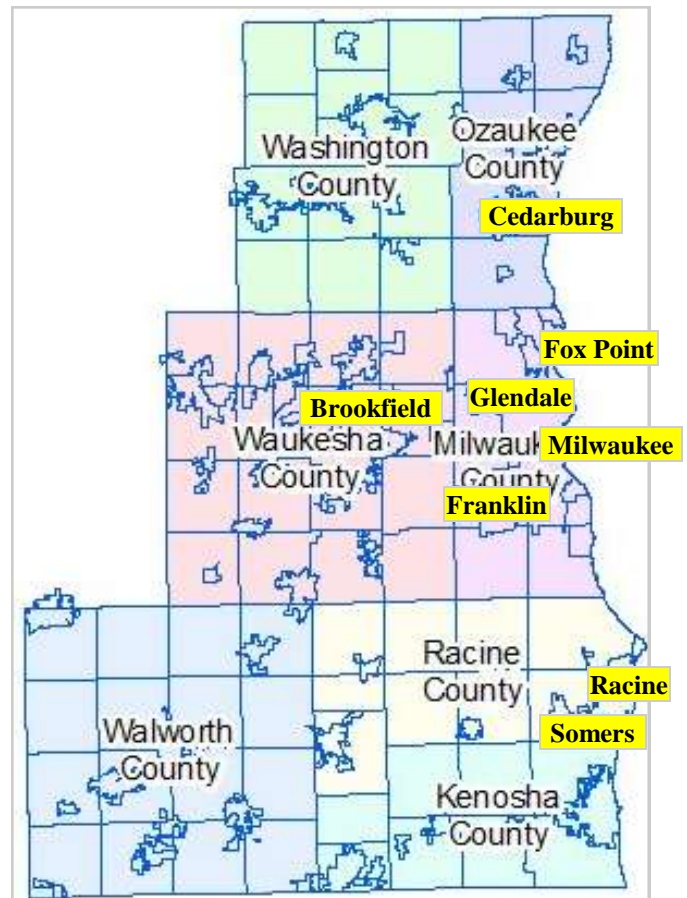
The number of students using taxpayer-funded vouchers for private school tuition increased 12% in the current school year, representing the largest increase since 2006 and reversing last year's enrollment decline.

The 2011-13 Wisconsin state budget amended the school choice program to allow Milwaukee students participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) to attend any private school in the state, and also created the Parental Private School Choice Program (PPSCP) in Racine. As Map 1 shows, students using vouchers now can attend private schools in ten cities across Wisconsin.*

Growth in the program also resulted from the elimination of the MPCP enrollment cap and the relaxation of income eligibility limits. Families living in Milwaukee and Racine earning up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are now eligible for tuition vouchers and, once eligible, may participate in the program in subsequent years, even if the family's income rises above the income limit. The FPL for a family of four in 2011 was \$22,350, meaning a family of four could initially earn up to \$67,050 to be eligible. The median annual household income in Milwaukee is \$35,921.

In total, 23,426 Wisconsin students now use state vouchers of \$6,442 each for a total program cost of \$150.9 million. There are 114 private schools participating in the program statewide, including 96 religious schools. Those schools enroll 85% of all voucher students at a total cost of \$128.3 million.

Map 1: Locations of private schools accepting voucher students



*Note: There are also two residential schools located outside the southeast Wisconsin region in New London, WI and Columbus, WI.

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program

School turnover increases

The MPCP program saw 107 participating schools in 2011-12, including 11 new schools (Table 1). However, this represents just a four-school increase in the total number of MPCP schools compared to the prior year, due to the closure or withdrawal of seven schools.

Over the past 10 years, the MPCP has seen an average of 9.5 new schools and 9.3 closed or withdrawn schools annually (Chart 2). The 2011-12 school year is the first since a pre-accreditation requirement was established in 2009-10 to see more schools join than leave the program, most likely because of the new rule allowing schools outside Milwaukee to participate.

Of the 11 new schools, just one is a start-up school in 2011-12 (St. John Fischer Academy, serving both Milwaukee and Racine students). The other 10 schools have been in existence for as long as 50 and as few as two years. Prior to the pre-accreditation requirement, most schools joining the program each year were new start-up schools.

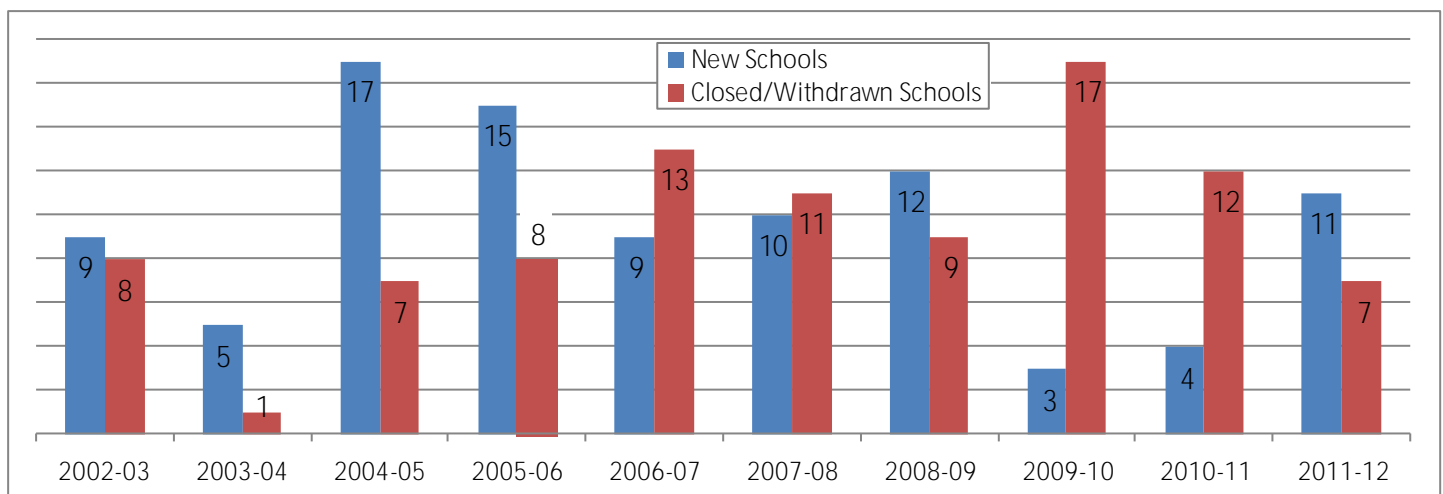
Of the seven schools that closed or withdrew from the MPCP this year, five appear to have permanently closed their doors while one, CEO Leadership Academy, left the program to become a charter school. Milwaukee Montessori School, which had participated in MPCP for 20 years, stopped accepting voucher students this year.

Table 1: MPCP by the numbers, 2011-2012

| | Number of schools | Percent of MPCP schools |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Schools | 107 | -- |
| <i>Preschool through early grade</i> | 5 | 4.7% |
| <i>Elementary schools</i> | 6 | 5.6% |
| <i>Kindergarten through 8th grade</i> | 64 | 59.8% |
| <i>Middle schools</i> | 1 | 0.9% |
| <i>High schools</i> | 16 | 15.0% |
| <i>Kindergarten through high schools</i> | 15 | 14.0% |
| New schools | 11 | -- |
| Religious schools | 90 | 84.1% |
| <i>Catholic</i> | 32 | 29.9% |
| <i>Lutheran</i> | 25 | 23.4% |
| <i>Christian, non-denominational</i> | 19 | 17.8% |
| <i>Other religion</i> | 14 | 13.1% |
| Non-religious schools | 17 | 15.9% |
| Accredited | 83 | 77.6% |
| Working toward accreditation | 17 | 15.9% |
| Schools with independent boards | 86 | 80.4% |
| Standardized tests | 95 | 88.8% |
| <i>WKCE</i> | 82 | 76.6% |
| <i>ITBS</i> | 31 | 29.0% |
| <i>Other</i> | 28 | 26.2% |

Over the program's 22-year history, 230 schools have participated. Tamarack Community School is now the longest participant, having participated since 1996-97. The average length of participation among today's schools is 9.3 years. In 2011-12, 21 schools have participated in the program five years or fewer; 33 of the religious schools joined the program in 1998-99.

Chart 2: Annual turnover in MPCP-participating schools, 2000-2001 to 2011-2012



Most voucher growth in continuing schools, among continuing students

The overall increase in MPCP voucher users from 2010-11 to 2011-12 was 2,202 students, to 23,198 voucher users, while total enrollment growth in the schools was 2,460 students, to 28,249 students (Chart 3). If MPCP were a Wisconsin public school district, it would be the third largest in the state, behind the Milwaukee and Madison districts. MPCP's 10% voucher use increase, the largest since 2005-06, reversed last year's slight decrease in voucher use.

There are 388 voucher users enrolled in schools new to the program, representing 18% of the total growth in voucher use (Chart 4). Thus, despite the expansion of the program to schools outside the City of Milwaukee, most of the growth of the MPCP this year was in the continuing schools. In addition, much of the growth appears to have come from students already enrolled in these schools. In fact, in 56 schools, the growth in voucher use from 2010-11 to 2011-12 exceeded the overall enrollment growth in the school; and in another 13 schools, voucher growth and enrollment growth were equal. This is likely because higher income limits under the new rules resulted in more students being eligible.

The higher income limits also explain why voucher use increased in every grade level from 2010-11 to 2011-12, not just entry grade levels such as K4 or ninth grade (Chart 5). In fact, the largest increase (18%) in voucher users was in eighth grade, the terminal grade for about two-

Chart 3: Total enrollment vs. voucher use, MPCP

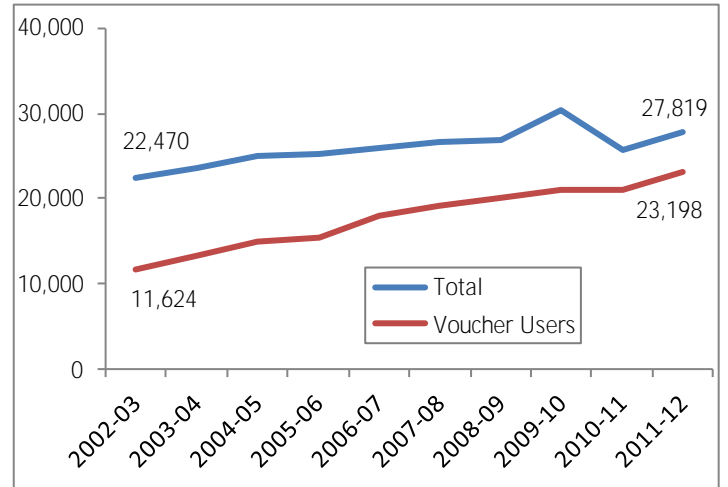
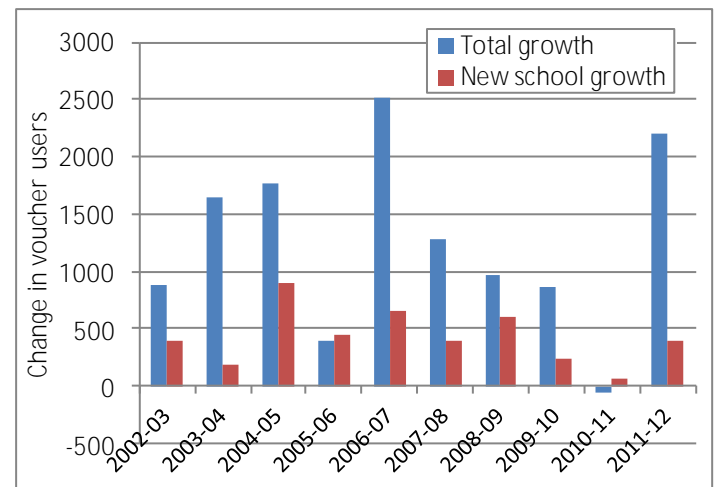


Chart 4: Voucher use in schools new to MPCP vs. growth in voucher use in total



thirds (64) of the schools. Voucher use in five-year-old Kindergarten and seventh grade increased by 15%.

Chart 5: MPCP enrollment by grade level and number of schools offering each grade level

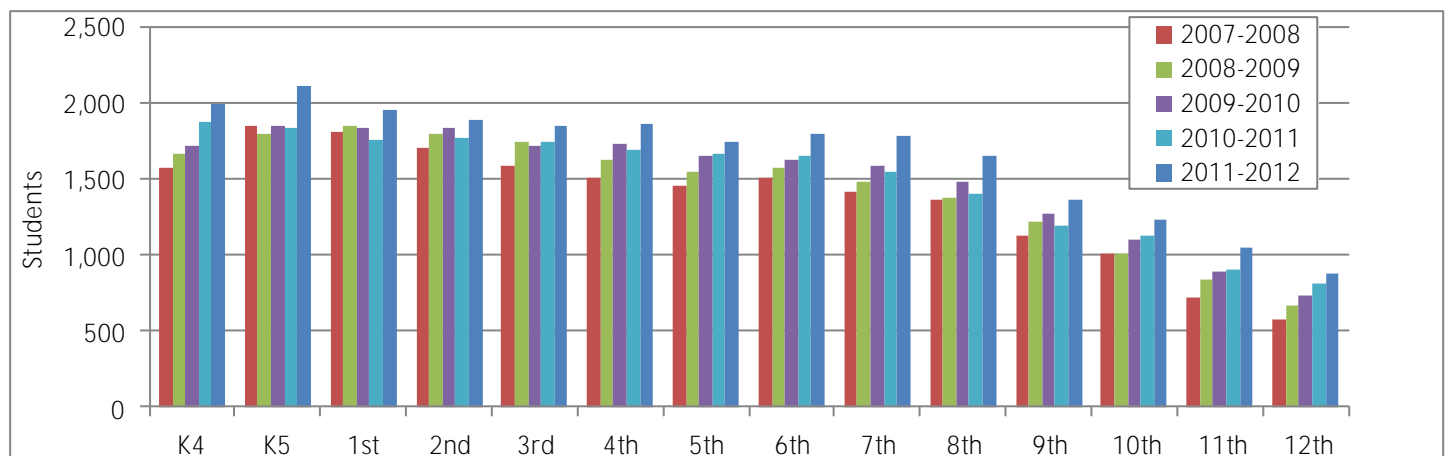


Table 2: MPCP schools gaining and losing most voucher users, 2010-11 to 2011-12

| School Name | Years in MPCP | 2010-11 Headcount | 2011-12 Headcount | Difference | Change in payment | Total 2011-12 payment |
|---|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| HOPE Christian School: Prima | 10 | 259 | 491 | 232 | \$ 1,494,544 | \$ 3,163,022 |
| St. Marcus Lutheran School | 14 | 376 | 483 | 107 | \$ 689,294 | \$ 3,111,486 |
| Early View Academy of Excellence | 14 | 330 | 432 | 102 | \$ 657,084 | \$ 2,782,944 |
| Emmaus Lutheran School | 14 | 235 | 330 | 95 | \$ 611,990 | \$ 2,125,860 |
| St. Anthony School | 14 | 1,476 | 1,566 | 90 | \$ 579,780 | \$ 10,088,172 |
| Daughters of the Father Christian Academy | 5 | 64 | 150 | 86 | \$ 554,012 | \$ 966,300 |
| St. Sebastian School | 14 | 102 | 185 | 83 | \$ 534,686 | \$ 1,191,770 |
| Northwest Catholic | 3 | 259 | 341 | 82 | \$ 528,244 | \$ 2,196,722 |
| Child Development Center of St. Joseph | 3 | 60 | 128 | 68 | \$ 438,056 | \$ 824,576 |
| St. Joan Antida High School | 14 | 270 | 265 | -5 | \$ (32,210) | \$ 1,707,130 |
| Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy* | 9 | 734 | 726 | -8 | \$ (51,536) | \$ 4,676,892 |
| HOPE Christian School: Fortis | 7 | 276 | 268 | -8 | \$ (51,536) | \$ 1,726,456 |
| The AppleCrest Preparatory Leadership Academy | 7 | 21 | 13 | -8 | \$ (51,536) | \$ 83,746 |
| Jared C. Bruce Academy | 10 | 203 | 190 | -13 | \$ (83,746) | \$ 1,223,980 |
| Calvary's Christian Academy, Inc. | 4 | 48 | 31 | -17 | \$ (109,514) | \$ 199,702 |
| Siloah Lutheran School | 12 | 216 | 185 | -31 | \$ (199,702) | \$ 1,191,770 |
| Texas Bufkin Christian Academy | 14 | 136 | 101 | -35 | \$ (225,470) | \$ 650,642 |
| Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy* | 15 | 197 | 157 | -40 | \$ (257,680) | \$ 1,011,394 |
| HOPE Christian High School* | 8 | 307 | 213 | -94 | \$ (605,548) | \$ 1,372,146 |

Bold indicates was in top ten for change in voucher users last year.

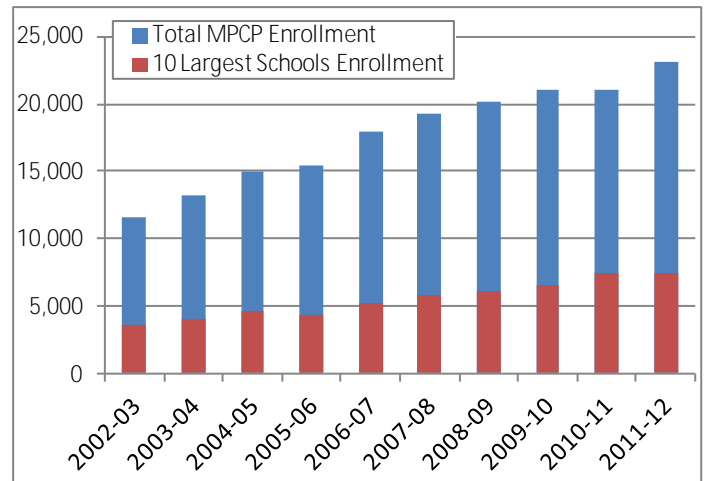
* Indicates was in bottom ten for change in voucher users last year.

Among the schools that saw an overall growth in enrollment as well as voucher use, two stand out in Table 2: Emmaus Lutheran School and St. Anthony School, which each attracted more than 90 new voucher users this year and have been among the top 10 in enrollment growth for three years. St. Anthony has enrolled the largest number of voucher students for the past seven years and now receives over \$10 million annually in voucher payments.

Three schools roughly doubled in size in 2011-12 due to new voucher users: the Prima HOPE Christian School, Daughters of the Father Christian Academy, and the Child Development Center of St. Joseph.

On the other end of the spectrum, three schools experienced a second year (or more) of an aggregate loss in voucher students: Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy, Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy, and HOPE Christian High School. Also, three schools saw an aggregate loss of at least 30% of their voucher users: AppleCrest Preparatory Leadership Academy, Calvary's Christian Academy, and HOPE Christian High School.

Chart 6: Market share of largest MPCP schools



Two schools, the Fortis HOPE Christian School and Texas Bufkin Academy, were among the top 10 in voucher growth last year, but were among those losing the most voucher students overall this year.

As in previous years, the 10% of schools having the most voucher users (a total of 7,414 voucher users) represent about a third of the total voucher use in 2011-2012 (Chart 6). The total voucher payments received by these largest 10 schools this year was \$47.8 million.

Student performance varies

In November 2010, voucher students in 3rd-8th and 10th grades were tested for proficiency in reading and math as measured by the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE), the same exam taken by the state's public school students. The 2010 exam was the first under a new rule requiring annual WKCE testing of voucher students. Test scores from November 2011 will be released this spring.

The WKCE is a criteria-referenced test measuring how well a student performs as compared to a proficiency standard set by state education administrators. On the aggregate, a smaller percentage of voucher students earned proficient scores in reading and math than did Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) students.

Chart 7 shows the aggregate performance of voucher students relative to MPS students at each grade level. At no grade level did voucher students, on the whole, out-perform MPS students in either reading or math. For both voucher and MPS students, reading proficiency rates are higher than math rates at every grade level.

Among the MPCP schools, there is considerable variance in voucher student performance. Charts 8 and 9 show the variance by school religion and accrediting agency. The students attending Catholic or Lutheran schools have higher rates of proficiency, which is also reflected by accrediting agency.

Chart 8: MPCP student performance by school religion

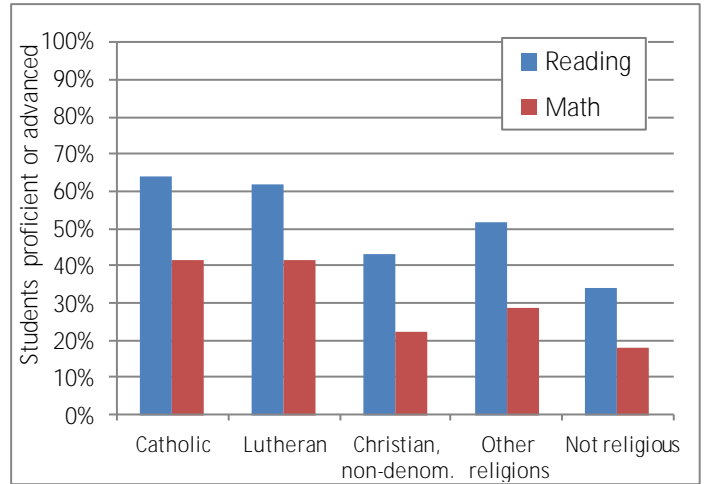
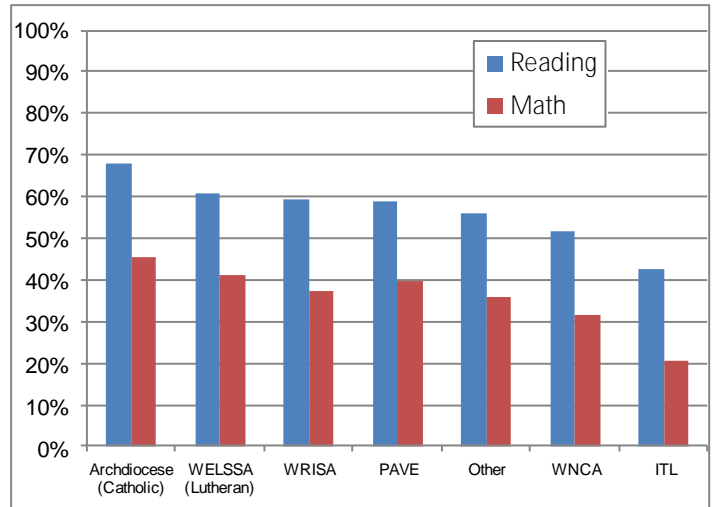


Chart 9: MPCP student performance by accrediting agency*



*See page 12 for a list of accrediting agencies.

Chart 7: Aggregate MPCP and MPS 2010-11 WKCE reading and math scores by grade level

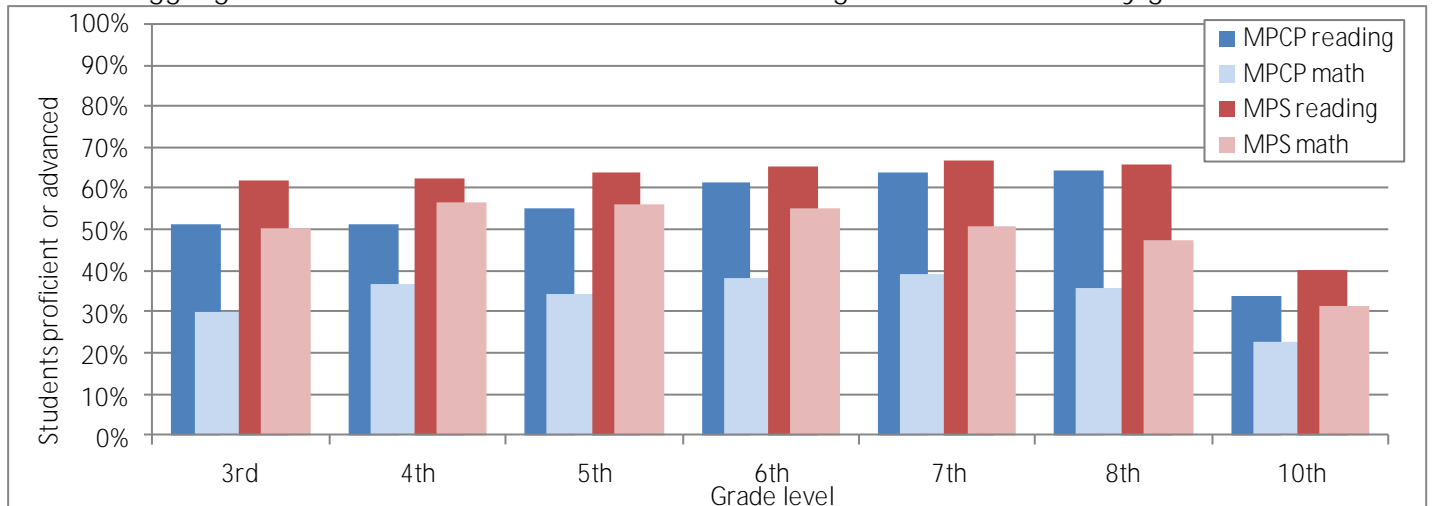


Table 3: Performance in MPCP schools enrolling 90% or more minority and voucher students

| School | % Minority | % MPCP | MPCP enrolled in tested grades | MPCP tested | % Reading at/above proficient | % Math at/above proficient |
|--|------------|--------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Notre Dame Middle School | 99.3% | 93.5% | 117 | 115 | 93.2% | 75.2% |
| Holy Wisdom Academy | 99.7% | 97.2% | 133 | 132 | 85.0% | 55.6% |
| Christ Memorial Lutheran School | 96.4% | 95.2% | 51 | 51 | 80.4% | 29.4% |
| St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School | 90.2% | 92.9% | 94 | 94 | 75.5% | 30.9% |
| St. Martini Lutheran School | 97.3% | 95.7% | 113 | 113 | 72.6% | 41.6% |
| Northwest Lutheran School | 93.9% | 96.5% | 132 | 131 | 72.0% | 48.5% |
| St. Rafael the Archangel School | 98.2% | 99.2% | 177 | 177 | 71.8% | 58.8% |
| Risen Savior Lutheran School | 99.2% | 96.6% | 124 | 124 | 70.2% | 46.8% |
| St. John Kanty School | 94.2% | 95.9% | 98 | 98 | 68.4% | 37.8% |
| St. Josaphat Parish School | 95.5% | 95.1% | 126 | 126 | 68.3% | 44.4% |
| Garden Homes Lutheran School | 96.4% | 91.5% | 134 | 134 | 67.9% | 59.7% |
| Mount Calvary Lutheran School | 99.5% | 93.6% | 113 | 112 | 67.3% | 32.7% |
| Blessed Savior Catholic School | 96.7% | 97.6% | 417 | 417 | 62.8% | 31.2% |
| HOPE Christian School: Prima | 99.6% | 99.8% | 172 | 172 | 61.6% | 56.4% |
| Prince of Peace/Principe de Paz | 98.8% | 100.0% | 249 | 248 | 61.4% | 38.6% |
| Believers in Christ Christian Academy | 99.1% | 93.5% | 106 | 103 | 61.3% | 17.9% |
| Sherman Park Lutheran School/Preschool | 99.1% | 97.2% | 59 | 59 | 59.3% | 27.1% |
| St. Adalbert School | 99.8% | 98.0% | 283 | 278 | 58.7% | 44.2% |
| St. Philip's Lutheran School | 92.9% | 98.2% | 67 | 67 | 58.2% | 41.8% |
| Siloah Lutheran School | 99.5% | 95.4% | 130 | 130 | 56.9% | 28.5% |
| HOPE Christian School: Fortis | 97.4% | 100.0% | 149 | 143 | 55.7% | 34.2% |
| St. Anthony School | 99.7% | 99.2% | 829 | 821 | 54.9% | 39.8% |
| St. Rose and St. Leo Catholic School | 99.1% | 100.0% | 228 | 226 | 54.8% | 28.1% |
| Sharon Junior Academy | 100.0% | 100.0% | 34 | 34 | 52.9% | 29.4% |
| Victory Christian Academy | 94.7% | 97.9% | 57 | 57 | 52.6% | 42.1% |
| Mount Lebanon Lutheran School | 91.3% | 98.5% | 104 | 104 | 51.9% | 28.8% |
| Holy Redeemer Christian Academy | 100.0% | 96.7% | 231 | 231 | 51.1% | 18.6% |
| LifeSkills Academy | 100.0% | 100.0% | 25 | 24 | 48.0% | 32.0% |
| Concordia University School | 97.6% | 98.8% | 121 | 114 | 47.1% | 28.1% |
| St. Catherine School | 99.5% | 99.5% | 86 | 81 | 45.3% | 20.9% |
| St. Joan Antida High School | 96.0% | 95.7% | 59 | 59 | 42.4% | 23.7% |
| Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy | 100.0% | 100.0% | 130 | 130 | 42.3% | 21.5% |
| Jared C. Bruce Academy | 100.0% | 96.9% | 116 | 116 | 42.2% | 18.1% |
| Hickman Academy Preparatory School | 99.0% | 99.8% | 234 | 233 | 41.9% | 24.8% |
| Early View Academy of Excellence | 100.0% | 99.1% | 169 | 167 | 41.4% | 18.9% |
| Atlas Preparatory Academy, Inc. | 97.3% | 100.0% | 468 | 461 | 41.0% | 20.7% |
| Alston's Preparatory Academy | 99.0% | 91.0% | 22 | 21 | 40.9% | 31.8% |
| Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy | 98.9% | 99.5% | 414 | 414 | 38.6% | 15.7% |
| CrossTrainers Academy | 100.0% | 97.8% | 52 | 52 | 38.5% | 19.2% |
| Clara Mohammed School, Inc. | 100.0% | 97.8% | 105 | 105 | 35.2% | 15.2% |
| Christian Faith Academy of Higher Learning | 100.0% | 100.7% | 71 | 71 | 35.2% | 29.6% |
| Young Minds Preparatory School | 100.0% | 100.0% | 115 | 113 | 34.8% | 8.7% |
| Daughters of the Father Christian Academy | 99.3% | 100.0% | 38 | 38 | 34.2% | 0.0% |
| Institute of Technology and Academics | 99.2% | 100.8% | 117 | 116 | 34.2% | 23.9% |
| HOPE Christian High School | 100.0% | 99.1% | 80 | 75 | 31.3% | 28.8% |
| Emmaus Lutheran School | 100.0% | 100.0% | 145 | 136 | 30.3% | 13.1% |
| Carter's Christian Academy | 100.0% | 90.0% | 75 | 75 | 24.0% | 6.7% |
| Washington DuBois Christian Leadership Academy | 100.0% | 100.0% | 84 | 83 | 20.2% | 7.1% |
| Ceria M. Travis Academy, Inc. | 99.7% | 99.4% | 248 | 231 | 19.0% | 6.0% |
| Dr. Brenda Noach Choice School | 100.0% | 100.0% | 22 | 22 | 18.2% | 0.0% |
| Destiny High School | 99.3% | 100.7% | 57 | 52 | 15.8% | 8.8% |
| Aggregate MPS proficiency rate | -- | -- | -- | -- | 60.9% | 50.0% |
| Aggregate MPCP proficiency rate | -- | -- | -- | -- | 55.1% | 34.4% |

Table 3 lists the 50 schools for which we have data available that have student populations consisting of at least 90% minority students and 90% voucher students. Of the highlighted schools, 16 have school-wide aggregate reading proficiency rates higher than the aggregate proficiency rate for MPS. Five schools also have higher aggregate math proficiency rates than MPS. However, most of these high minority/high poverty schools (29) have proficiency rates lower

than both the aggregate rate for the MPCP program as a whole and for MPS.

Table 4 presents the remainder of the MPCP schools with students in tested grade levels. These schools have smaller concentrations of minority and voucher students. Twelve of these schools have higher aggregate reading and math proficiency rates than in MPS. Another nine schools exceed MPS rates in reading only.

Table 4: Performance in other MPCP schools

| School | % Minority | % MPCP | MPCP enrolled in tested grades | MPCP tested | % Reading at/above proficient | % Math at/above proficient |
|---|------------|--------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Eastbrook Academy | 62.8% | 41.4% | 75 | 75 | 93.3% | 90.7% |
| Family Montessori School | 94.7% | 84.2% | 8 | 8 | 87.5% | 87.5% |
| St. Charles Borromeo School | 31.2% | 30.2% | 24 | 23 | 87.5% | 66.7% |
| Catholic East Elementary School | 58.4% | 65.4% | 67 | 67 | 86.6% | 59.7% |
| St. Marcus Lutheran School | 92.8% | 87.0% | 174 | 173 | 85.6% | 78.2% |
| St. Vincent Pallotti School | n/p | 76.9% | 73 | 73 | 84.9% | 67.1% |
| St. Sebastian School | 41.5% | 49.9% | 71 | 67 | 83.1% | 56.3% |
| Yeshiva Elementary School | n/p | 84.1% | 88 | 88 | 80.7% | 70.5% |
| New Testament Christian Academy | 100.0% | 71.5% | 63 | 60 | 77.8% | 42.9% |
| Word of Life Evangelical Lutheran School | 56.7% | 80.6% | 25 | 25 | 76.0% | 52.0% |
| St. Thomas Aquinas Academy | 18.4% | 55.1% | 43 | 41 | 74.4% | 48.8% |
| Salam School | 31.4% | 80.5% | 296 | 296 | 74.0% | 52.7% |
| St. John's Lutheran School | 18.9% | 44.1% | 30 | 30 | 73.3% | 73.3% |
| Mother of Good Counsel School | 76.1% | 77.4% | 103 | 102 | 70.9% | 47.6% |
| St. Gregory the Great Parish School | 48.6% | 52.4% | 64 | 56 | 70.3% | 45.3% |
| St. Lucas Lutheran School | 35.2% | 51.7% | 30 | 30 | 70.0% | 60.0% |
| Atonement Lutheran School | 89.4% | 85.7% | 81 | 81 | 69.1% | 46.9% |
| St. Margaret Mary School | 78.7% | 91.5% | 115 | 115 | 67.8% | 46.1% |
| Blessed Sacrament School | 82.9% | 86.1% | 83 | 83 | 67.5% | 33.7% |
| Northwest Catholic | 86.1% | 84.8% | 154 | 153 | 66.9% | 44.8% |
| Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish | 85.6% | 90.7% | 97 | 95 | 62.9% | 40.2% |
| Christ St. Peter Lutheran School | 89.6% | 93.9% | 111 | 111 | 59.5% | 33.3% |
| St. Roman Parish School | 43.7% | 45.6% | 67 | 56 | 56.7% | 28.4% |
| The Margaret Howard Christian Leadership Inst | n/p | n/p | 11 | 11 | 54.5% | 27.3% |
| Pius XI High School | 42.2% | 24.6% | 37 | 35 | 54.1% | 37.8% |
| Milwaukee Seventh Day Adventist School | 86.6% | 83.0% | 42 | 42 | 52.4% | 28.6% |
| Wisconsin Lutheran High School | 44.9% | 36.7% | 77 | 67 | 46.8% | 37.7% |
| Tamarack Waldorf School | 38.9% | 65.4% | 88 | 40 | 42.0% | 23.9% |
| Milwaukee Lutheran High School | 54.0% | 63.3% | 98 | 74 | 38.8% | 27.6% |
| Right Step, Inc. | n/p | n/p | 159 | 120 | 23.3% | 8.8% |
| Travis Technology High School | n/p | n/p | 36 | 36 | 16.7% | 5.6% |
| Texas Buffkin Christian Academy | n/p | n/p | 43 | 35 | 11.6% | 14.0% |
| Lutheran Special School & Education Services | 73.7% | 63.2% | 17 | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| The AppleCrest Preparatory Leadership Academy | 100.0% | 43.3% | 1 | 1 | *see note | *see note |
| Calvary's Christian Academy, Inc. | 100.0% | 83.8% | 2 | 2 | *see note | *see note |
| Divine Savior Holy Angels High School | 18.3% | 7.8% | 8 | 0 | none tested | none tested |
| Marquette University High School | 19.5% | 3.4% | 10 | 0 | none tested | none tested |
| St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee | n/p | 75.0% | 7 | 0 | none tested | none tested |
| Aggregate MPS proficiency rate | -- | -- | -- | -- | 60.9% | 50.0% |
| Aggregate MPCP proficiency rate | -- | -- | -- | -- | 55.1% | 34.4% |

Tables 3 and 4 clearly present the wide variance in performance across MPCP schools, with a handful comparing favorably to MPS and many more having proficiency rates far lower. While test scores are not the only indicator of school quality, the extreme variance in scores may indicate variance in quality among the schools. Thus, parents making schooling choices should consider several factors when investigating school quality.

Unfortunately, there is not much comparable data available to assist parents with this task. For example, student achievement and school quality are commonly measured by high school graduation rates, but graduation data are not made available for MPCP students or individual schools.

The aggregate attrition in MPCP enrollment over the four years of high school can be measured, however, providing a sense of the maximum number of graduates that could be expected for a given class. In 2011-12, there are 883 12th grade voucher students. Four years ago, there were 1,228 freshman voucher students. The *aggregate* attrition rate among voucher students in high school for this class is thus 28%. (If individual students were tracked, the *actual* attrition rate might be higher.) The MPCP attrition rate reflects students who have dropped out of school, students who remain in school but have stopped using vouchers, as well as students who have transferred to public schools or moved away.

Class size is another data point that can be used by parents in evaluating school quality. Although schools do not report class size, a student-teacher ratio can be calculated based on enrollment and staffing data. For the 93 schools providing both total enrollment and teacher data, half have student-teacher ratios of less than 17 students per teacher (Table 5). There is considerable variance among the schools, however.

**Note: Not all schools have test scores to report, for several reasons. Some schools may not offer the grade levels in which testing is required. In addition, individual students are allowed to opt out of the WKCE testing and there is no limit as to how many students per school may opt out. Thus, some schools may have had all their voucher students opt out of the tests. Finally, the state Department of Public Instruction does not release scores when five or fewer students in a grade are tested, out of concern for students' privacy.*

MPCP student scores cannot be compared to scores of tuition-paying students because schools are not required to administer the WKCE to private students, nor is there a requirement that the scores of private students be reported.

Chart 10: Attrition among class of 2012's voucher users

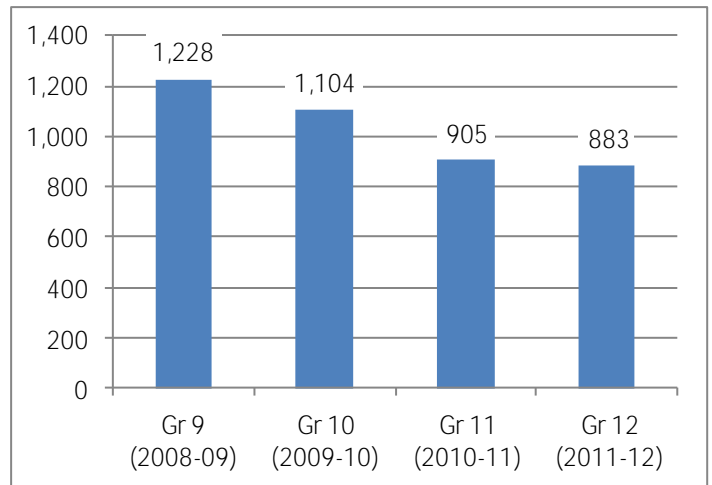


Table 5: Student-teacher ratios

| Students per teacher | Number of schools |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 30+ | 3 |
| 26-29 | 1 |
| 22-25 | 11 |
| 17-21 | 32 |
| 14-16 | 24 |
| 10-13 | 18 |
| <10 | 4 |

Most MPCP schools are hyper-segregated by race, income

This year, 96 MPCP schools reported their student demographic breakdown. Overall, 84% of the 27,648 students attending those schools are minority and 55% are African American. The MPCP students thus mirror the racial make-up of MPS, which has a student body that is 85% minority and 56% African-American.

In 2011-12, 23 of the 96 schools providing data enroll 100% minority students and another 41 have student populations between 90-99% minority. As a result, 65% of the students attending these 96 schools attend a school that is at least 90% minority (Table 6). Nineteen schools have student populations less than 50% minority.

Socio-economic segregation is considerable in the MPCP program, as well. In 2011-12, 100% of students use vouchers at 19 MPCP schools and between 90-99% of students use vouchers at another 42 schools. As a result, 65% of students attending schools participating in the MPCP are at a school in which more than 90% of the student body is low-income (Table 7).

Overall, 82% of all students in MPCP-participating schools use vouchers, indicating that the vast majority of students at these schools are low-income. This also mirrors MPS, where 81% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Most MPCP students (77%) also qualify for free or reduced price lunch, according to the 82 schools providing this data.

The percentage of MPCP students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch is lower than in MPS because not all MPCP schools offer hot lunch or participate in the federal lunch program. There is no requirement that MPCP schools serve any meals to students. Table 8 shows the schools that responded to questions about meal programs offered in school. Lunch is served by 92 schools, most often in the cafeteria, while breakfast is served in 71 schools.

Table 6: Enrollment by degree of racial segregation

| School population | Share of total enrollment |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 100% Minority | 14% |
| 90-99.9% Minority | 51% |
| 70-89.9% Minority | 7% |
| 50-69.9% Minority | 5% |
| <50% Minority | 24% |

Table 7: Enrollment by degree of socio-economic segregation

| School population | Share of total enrollment |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 100% Voucher users | 19% |
| 90-99.9% Voucher users | 46% |
| 70-89.9% Voucher users | 12% |
| 50-69.9% Voucher users | 8% |
| <50% Voucher users | 16% |

Table 8: MPCP school meal programs

| No. of schools | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Served in classroom | 15 | 5 | 0 |
| Served in cafeteria | 50 | 83 | 1 |
| Served in gymnasium | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Served in other location | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Total serving meal | 71 | 92 | 1 |

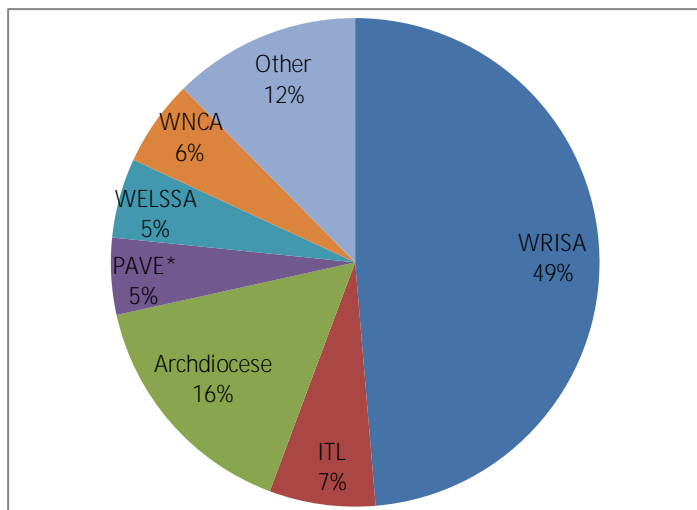
Half of MPCP schools accredited by WRISA

In 2011-12, the schools in MPCP are accredited by 18 different accrediting agencies. (See page 12 for a list of accrediting agencies.) Schools may be accredited by more than one agency. The most common accrediting agency in 2011-12 is the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA) agency, which has accredited, or is in the process of accrediting 57 schools. In terms of enrollment, 49% of the MPCP students are in WRISA-accredited schools (Chart 11). The next most commonly used accrediting agency is the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

PAVE, an organization originally founded to provide scholarships to private school students, is the only accrediting agency for eight schools in the program in 2010-11. While PAVE is included as an approved accrediting agency in state regulations, it does not consider itself an accrediting agency and urges schools to seek accreditation from other agencies.

This year, 17 schools are working towards accreditation. Of these 17 schools, seven are considered accredited by PAVE but are working

Chart 11: MPCP enrollment by accrediting agency



* Listed only PAVE as accrediting agency.

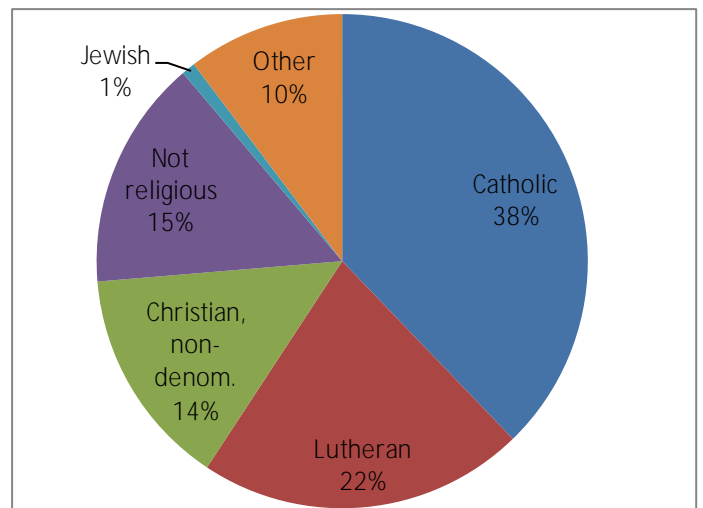
towards accreditation from another agency. Nine of the 17 schools are working towards accreditation from WRISA.

Catholic schools have highest share of MPCP enrollment

A majority of the schools (85%) in MPCP in 2011-12 are religious schools. Catholic and Lutheran schools are the most prevalent religions in MPCP. Thirty percent of the schools are Catholic schools, which enroll 38% of the voucher students (Chart 12). Lutheran schools make up 23% of MPCP schools and enroll 22% of voucher users. Christian, non-denominational schools enroll 14% of the total voucher users in 2011-12.

In 2011-12, eight of the 11 schools new to the MPCP are religious schools. The most common religion of the new schools is Catholic, with three schools. Two of the new schools are Lutheran and two are Jewish schools. One school is a Seventh Day Adventist school.

Chart 12: MPCP enrollment by religion



Racine's Parental Private School Choice Program

New program in Racine attracts eight schools

The 2011-13 Wisconsin state budget created a separate school choice program to serve Racine residents. The Parental Private School Choice Program (PPSCP) allows 250 Racine students to attend private schools with taxpayer-funded vouchers. In this first year of the program, eight schools enroll a total of 228 voucher users. Seven of the eight schools in the program responded to our survey, with only Mount Pleasant Renaissance School declining to do so.

Voucher users make up about 15% of the total school enrollment in PPSCP schools in 2011-12. These schools are less diverse than the MPCP schools, with an aggregate student population that is 77% white, 13% Hispanic, and 6% African American among the six schools that reported student racial data. This demographic profile also is much different than the Racine Unified School District (RUSD). In 2010-11, 46% of RUSD students were white, 27% African American, and 24% Hispanic.

Like MPCP, most of the PPSCP schools are religious, with four Catholic schools and three Lutheran schools enrolling 79% of all voucher users (Table 9). None of the PPSCP schools have more than a quarter of their students using vouchers, due to the low cap on total PPSCP enrollment (Table 10). That cap will grow to 500 students in 2012-13; after that, there will be no limit on enrollment in the program.

Racine students are eligible for the same voucher amount as Milwaukee students, \$6,442 per pupil. As in the Milwaukee program (as of this year), high schools in the PPSCP may charge tuition to voucher students whose families earn above 220% of the federal poverty level.

Table 9: PPSCP by the numbers, 2011-2012

| | Number of schools | Percent of PPSCP schools |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Schools* | 8 | -- |
| <i>Preschool through early grade</i> | 2 | 25.0% |
| <i>Elementary schools</i> | 1 | 12.5% |
| <i>Kindergarten through 8th grade</i> | 3 | 37.5% |
| <i>Middle schools</i> | 0 | 0.0% |
| <i>High schools</i> | 2 | 25.0% |
| <i>Kindergarten through high schools</i> | 0 | 0.0% |
| Religious schools | 7 | 87.5% |
| <i>Catholic</i> | 4 | 50.0% |
| <i>Lutheran</i> | 3 | 37.5% |
| <i>Christian, non-denominational</i> | 0 | 0.0% |
| <i>Other religion</i> | 0 | 0.0% |
| Non-religious schools | 0 | 0.0% |
| Accredited | 7 | 87.5% |
| Working toward accreditation | 0 | 0.0% |
| Schools with independent boards | 6 | 75.0% |
| Standardized tests | 7 | 87.5% |
| <i>WKCE</i> | 3 | 37.5% |
| <i>ITBS</i> | 4 | 50.0% |
| <i>Other</i> | 1 | 12.5% |

*One school, Mount Pleasant Renaissance School, did not respond

Table 10: PPSCP enrollment by school

| School | PPSCP enrollment | Total enrollment |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| John Paul II Academy | 43 | 201 |
| Mount Pleasant Renaissance School | 49 | not provided |
| Our Lady of Grace Academy | 31 | 140 |
| Saint John Fisher Academy | 3 | 42 |
| Saint Joseph School | 21 | 160 |
| Shoreland Lutheran High School | 26 | 291 |
| Trinity Lutheran School | 29 | 213 |
| Wisconsin Lutheran School | 26 | 149 |

Accrediting agencies

| Accrediting Agency | Full Name | Web Site |
|--------------------|--|---|
| AASDAS | Accrediting Association of Seventh Day Adventist Schools | http://www.nadeducation.org/ |
| ACSI | Association of Christian Schools International | http://www.acsi.org/ |
| ACTS | Association of Christian Teachers and Schools | http://www.actsschools.org/ |
| AdvancEd | AdvancEd | http://www.advanc-ed.org/ |
| AI | Accreditation International | http://www.aiaccredits.org/ |
| Archdiocese | Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Catholic schools only) | http://www.archmil.org/archmil/home.htm |
| AWSNA | Association of Waldorf Schools of North America | http://www.whywaldorfworks.org/04_AWSNA/index.asp |
| CSI | Christian Schools International | http://www.csionline.org/products_and_services/accreditation |
| ISACS | Independent Schools Association of the Central States | http://www.isacs.org/ |
| ITL | Institute for the Transformation of Learning | http://www.marquette.edu/education/centers_clinics/institute-for-the-transformation-of-learning.shtml |
| NCA-CASI | North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement | http://www.ncacasi.org/ |
| NCPSA | National Council for Private School Accreditation | http://www.ncpsa.org/ |
| NIPSA | National Independent Private Schools Association | http://www.nipsa.org/index.html |
| NLSA | National Lutheran Schools Accreditation | http://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=595 |
| PAVE | Partners Advancing Values in Education | http://www.pave.org/ |
| WELSSA | Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation | http://www.wels.net/ |
| WNCA | Wisconsin North Central Association | http://www.northcentralassociation.org/ |
| WRISA | Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation | http://www.wrisa.net/ |

Methodology

This *Research Brief* presents the results of the Forum's 14th annual census of private schools participating in Wisconsin school choice programs. The census questionnaire is mailed annually in October to all schools registered with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as participating in the MPCP and PPSCP for that school year. Follow-up calls and visits are made in an attempt to achieve a response rate of 100%. In 2011-2012, four MPCP schools declined to complete the census questionnaire: Immanuel Lutheran School, Right Step, Inc., Texas Bufkin Christian Academy, and Travis Technology High School. Data for those schools were obtained from DPI, from prior census participation, or from newspaper articles. One PPSCP school declined, Mount Pleasant Renaissance School; no information other than the number of voucher users is available for that school.

In addition, to ensure reliability, data provided by the schools pertaining to voucher use are verified by comparison to DPI data, to the extent possible. Where the data conflict, DPI data are used.

**For a directory of schools participating in
the MPCP and PPSCP programs,
please go to:**

www.publicpolicyforum.org/2012voucherposter.htm