

Public Education . . .



Wisconsin is #1 in High School graduation rates



*Why pay MORE
for LESS?*

A Toolkit

**for parents, teachers
and School Board members
To Support and Strengthen our Public Schools**

- *What's in the Governor's Budget?*
- *What does it mean for Wisconsin's Public Schools?*
- *What can you do?*
 - *Talk with your Senator and Representative*
 - *Talk with your local School Board*
 - *Talk with your friends and Neighbors*
 - *Write letters to your local newspaper*
 - *Let teachers, principals and staff know*


you support our Public Schools

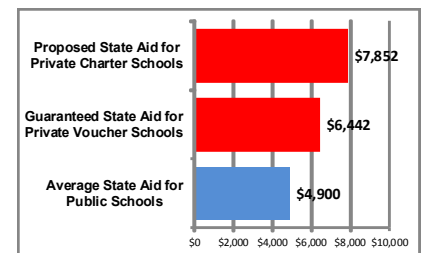


Produced by C Uphoff for Oregon Area Progressives

What's in the Governor's Budget?

EXPANSION OF PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS - talking points

- In his February 20 budget presentation for 2013-14, Governor Walker said he plans to add \$73 million in additional voucher funding and spending authority, along with an expansion of voucher schools in nine additional communities.
- Students enrolled in private voucher schools reduce the amount of State Aid that is available to support our public schools. This means higher property taxes, less money for our public schools and more money for private, and often for-profit, voucher schools that aren't held to the same standard of accountability as public schools.
- Study after study and the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE), which is administered state-wide, have shown that students in Milwaukee's voucher schools do not perform better in reading or math than their counterparts in the Milwaukee Public Schools and in many cases do worse.
- Approximately 75% of students, who had enrolled in Milwaukee's voucher school program in 9th grade, withdrew from the program by the 12th grade.
- The question needs to be asked. Why are we paying more per student for private charter and voucher schools that aren't performing as well as public schools? 
- Students in voucher schools risk losing their due process rights.



SPECIAL NEEDS VOUCHERS

- Why should we spend scarce taxpayer dollars on unregulated **special needs vouchers** that have not been shown to improve outcomes in other states? Wisconsin should invest in special education funds that can benefit all students,"

EXPANSION OF PRIVATE CHARTER SCHOOLS

- This bill creates the Charter School Oversight Board (CSOB), attached to DPI, and authorizes it to approve nonprofit, nonsectarian organizations, or consortia of such organizations, to contract with persons to operate independent charter schools.
- The CSOB consists of the state superintendent of public instruction and ten other members. Of the latter members, two are appointed by the state superintendent, two are appointed by the governor, and six by the leaders in the senate and assembly. The bill prohibits the CSOB from promulgating administrative rules and provides that any policy or standard adopted by the CSOB is exempt from the rule-making process.
 - The bill removes the restrictions that limit who may attend private charter school.
 - The bill eliminates the restrictions on converting all of a school district's public schools to charter schools and explicitly permits a school board to do so.
 - **The school code (chapters 115 to 121 of the Wisconsin statutes) does not apply to charter schools.** You may want to take a look at a few of the things contained in these chapters, from which charter schools may be exempt.
 - 118.016 Assessments of reading readiness
 - 118.017 Foreign Language Instruction
 - 118.07 Health and safety requirements
 - 118.13 Pupil discrimination prohibited
 - 118.19 Teacher certificates and licenses



- Under this bill, in the 2013-14 school year, the state pays an operator of an independent charter school a per pupil amount of \$7,852 and, beginning in the 2014-15 school year, the state pays an operator of an independent charter school a per pupil amount in each school year of \$7,931.

What does this budget mean for Wisconsin's Public Schools and Taxpayers?

- The expansion of voucher and private charter school programs will mean Wisconsin's taxpayers will be **paying more** but **getting less**.
- Taxpayers will be paying **more property taxes** to make up for lost state aid to public schools with **less accountability** for dollars spent on voucher and private charter schools.
 - Under current law, Wisconsin pays 61.6% of the total cost of vouchers (about \$3,969 per student) The remaining 38.4% (about \$2,474) is paid by the school district and property taxpayers.
 - An analysis by the Green Bay Area Public Schools found that taxpayers would pay an **additional \$1,231,080** in property taxes if just 200 of the district's students were enrolled in private voucher schools.
 - "This is a backdoor assault on the property taxpayer. And we're going to fight like hell to get it changed" - Sen. Mike Ellis (R-Neenah)
 - Voucher and private charter schools are not subject to the same degree of scrutiny or accountability to the taxpayers for the services they provide.
- Paying **more money for charter schools** leaves **less money for public schools**.



- The money paid to private charter schools means less money is available for all public schools, not just those districts with charter schools
- More public school districts will be forced to cut back on sports, music and the arts, because of funding cuts, while voucher schools, that get more money, often offer fewer choices and extra-curricular activities for their students than the public schools.
- One third of the voucher schools in Milwaukee and Racine do not have teachers for art, music and physical education. (*January 2013 report by the Public Policy Forum*)

- Despite receiving more money per student, in 2011, voucher school students did not do as well on standardized reading and math tests as Milwaukee Public School students.
- Although public school districts lose funding when students are enrolled in private voucher schools they may still be required to provide transportation for those students or reimburse parents for transportation costs.
- Almost two-thirds of Wisconsin's 424 school districts will receive less general state aid in the 2012-'13 school year than they did last year
- The Republican-controlled Legislature dramatically cut funding for schools and limited districts' ability to make up those funds by raising local taxes - changes that were passed as part of the biennial 2011-'13 state budget.



Are our public schools failing?

- Wisconsin boasts the highest high school graduation rate in the nation, and although Wisconsin students' average ACT scores dropped slightly this year compared to last, state students still ranked second nationally among the 28 states where at least half the students took the standardized test.

What can you do ?

- Contact Governor Walker, Senators and Representatives

To Contact Governor Walker:

Contact information courtesy of WREA

By Phone: 608-266-1212

By Email: govgeneral@wisconsin.gov

By Mail: 115 East Capitol, P.O. Box 7863, Madison, WI 53702

By Phone: Use their direct lines or call the Legislative Hotline and leave a message for your legislators: 1-800-362-9472; or from Madison, 608-266-9960

By Email: Example: Sen.Schultz@legis.wisconsin.gov
Senators: Sen.(insert last name)@legis.wisconsin.gov
Representatives: Rep.(insert last name)@legis.wisconsin.gov

By Mail: Senators P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707
Representatives A-L P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Representatives M-Z P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708

- **Introduce yourself**

- Who are you? Why are you there? and Why do you care?
- Take a friend with you, there's strength in numbers.
- Remember in all of your interactions with legislators and staff.... relationships matter!
- Make note of the persons with whom you speak.
- Don't assume the legislator or their staff, with whom you speak is the enemy, state your case and ask how they might help.
- Don't ramble or rant.
- Don't assume because a legislator may smile and nod that they are on your side.
- Ask specifically where they stand on the issues you are raising.
- Leave a written summary of your concerns and what you are asking them to do.
- Thank the persons with whom you speak, by name, for taking time to meet with you.

- **Know something about the persons with whom you are speaking**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter you wish to discuss and it doesn't hurt if you know a bit about the district they represent.
 - Know the current status of proposed legislation.
 - What specific changes would you like to see?
 - Pick **a few** of your best talking points that support your position.
- Be mindful of political considerations that might be persuasive but don't threaten.
- Take the time to familiarize yourself with the relevant information, resources and the positions being taken by the opposition and various interest groups.
- Proposals in the budget for the expansion of vouchers and charter schools overturn the principle of local control and take locally elected school boards out of the picture regarding vouchers and charter schools. Local control could be an effective talking point.
- There are many services and programs in the public schools that voucher and private charter schools may not offer, such as art, music, foreign languages and transportation.

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM	STAFF
(D-3) CARPENTER, Tim	6-8535	109 South	Stuart Ewy, Russell DeLong, Scott May
(R-2) COWLES, Robert	6-0484	118 South	Ryan Smith, Katherine White, Jason Mugnaini, Anna Watson
(D-15) CULLEN, Timothy F.	6-2253	108 South	Kelley Flury, James Stoa, Ben Van Pelt
(R-8) DARLING, Alberta	6-5830	317 East	Heather Smith, Jelena Radich, Robert Delaporte, Andrew Evenson, Holly Patterson, Nick Kitzman
(R-19) ELLIS, Michael G.	6-0718	220 South	Kurt Schultz, Lynn Nelson, Scott Kelly, Kay Reetz
(D-27) ERPENBACH, Jon B.	6-6670	104 South	Tryg Knutson, Kelly Becker, Julie Laundrye
(R-33) FARROW, Paul	6-9174	323 South	Andrew Gustafson, Scott Rausch, Jacob Margis, Doug Lundgren, Jenna Zantow
(R-13) FITZGERALD, Scott L.	6-5660	211 South	Dan Romportl, Cindy Block, Tad Ottman, Rob Richard, Eric Bott, Tom Evenson, Adam Foltz
(R-20) GROTHMAN, Glenn	6-7513	10 South	Rachel VerVelde, Michael Murphy
(R-18) GUDEX, Rick	6-5300	415 South	Tim Lakin, Shawn Smith, Angela Hodkiewicz
(D-30) HANSEN, Dave	6-5670	106 South	Jay Wadd, Jessica Lundquist, John Wagnitz, Charles Schultz
(D-6) HARRIS, Nikiya	6-2500	3 South	Cindy McGinnis, David Crowley, Lisa Bahr
(R-10) HARSDORF, Sheila	6-7745	18 South	Matt Woebke, Brooke Froelich, Brittany Lewin
(D-25) JAUCH, Bob	6-3510	310 South	Jeff Buhrandt, Steven Kulig Jr., Lisa Lundquist
(R-11) KEDZIE, Neal	6-2635	313 South	Dan Johnson, Michelle Osdene, Doug Wheaton, Katie Scott
(D-7) LARSON, Chris	6-7505	206 South	Justin Sargent, Shannon Powell, Ashley Siefert, Lacy Langbecker, Sarah Barry, Greg Renden, Gillian Morris
(R-1) LASEE, Frank G.	6-3512	316 South	Kevin Jenkins, Robert Kovach, John Vander Leest, Lars Fiorio
(D-24) LASSA, Julie	6-3123	126 South	Jessica Ford Kelly, Danielle Williams, Mark Knickelbine, Ritch Williams
(R-28) LAZICH, Mary	6-5400	8 South	Tricia Sieg, Brittany Brzenk
(D-21) LEHMAN, John W.	6-1832	5 South	Denise Stromme, Beau Stafford, Geoffrey Gaston, Michael Tierney
(R-9) LEIBHAM, Joseph	6-2056	15 South	Lucas Moench, Katy Prange, Luke Petrovich, Alex Hansen
(D-16) MILLER, Mark	6-9170	7 South	Beth Bier, John Anderson, Bridget Esser, Liz Trevino
(R-23) MOULTON, Terry	6-7511	306 South	Nathan Duerkop, W. Scott Nelson, Hilary Shaw, Mark Morgan
(R-14) OLSEN, Luther	6-0751	319 South	Deanna Pettack, Sarah Archibald, Amy Harriman
(R-29) PETROWSKI, Jerry	6-2502	123 South	Tim Fiocchi, Derek Panches, Dan Alamillo, Lane Oling
(D-26) RISSER, Fred A.	6-1627	130 South	Dianne Cieslewicz, Sarah Briganti, Terry Tuschen, Cassie Jurenci
(R-17) SCHULTZ, Dale W.	6-0703	122 South	Todd Allbaugh, Tom Jackson, Joe Hasler, Sanchit Mulmuley
(D-32) SHILLING, Jennifer	6-5490	20 South	Tony Palese, Kara Pennoyer, Nathan Houdek, Alex Madorsky
(D-4) TAYLOR, Lena C.	6-5810	19 South	Eric Peterson, Jazmine Pinel, Gary Bennett, Michael Laird
(R-12) TIFFANY, Tom	6-2509	409 South	Jennifer Esser, Eric Searing, Tyler Wenzlaff, Nathan Simmons
(D-31) VINEHOUT, Kathleen	6-8546	22 South	Linda Kleinschmidt, Joel Nilsestuen, Ben Larson
(R-5) VUKMIR, Leah	6-2512	131 South	Dean Cady, Jason Rostan, Jason Booth, Lucas Fuller
(D-22) WIRCH, Robert	7-8979	127 South	Paula McGuire, Steven Gillitzer, Stephen Pienkos, Jonathan Knudson

Senate Chief Clerk's Office	6-2517	B20 (SE)	Jeffrey Renk, Chief Clerk	Tour Information	6-0382	Rotunda (C)
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Senate Scholar Program	6-2506	B35S (C)	Jacob Clark			
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Photographer	7-0897	B23 (W)	Jay Salvo			
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DIRECT ALL SENATE CORRESPONDENCE TO: P. O. BOX 7882, MADISON, WI 53707-7882

(C)=Capitol, (E) =1E. Main, (RJC) = Risser Justice Center

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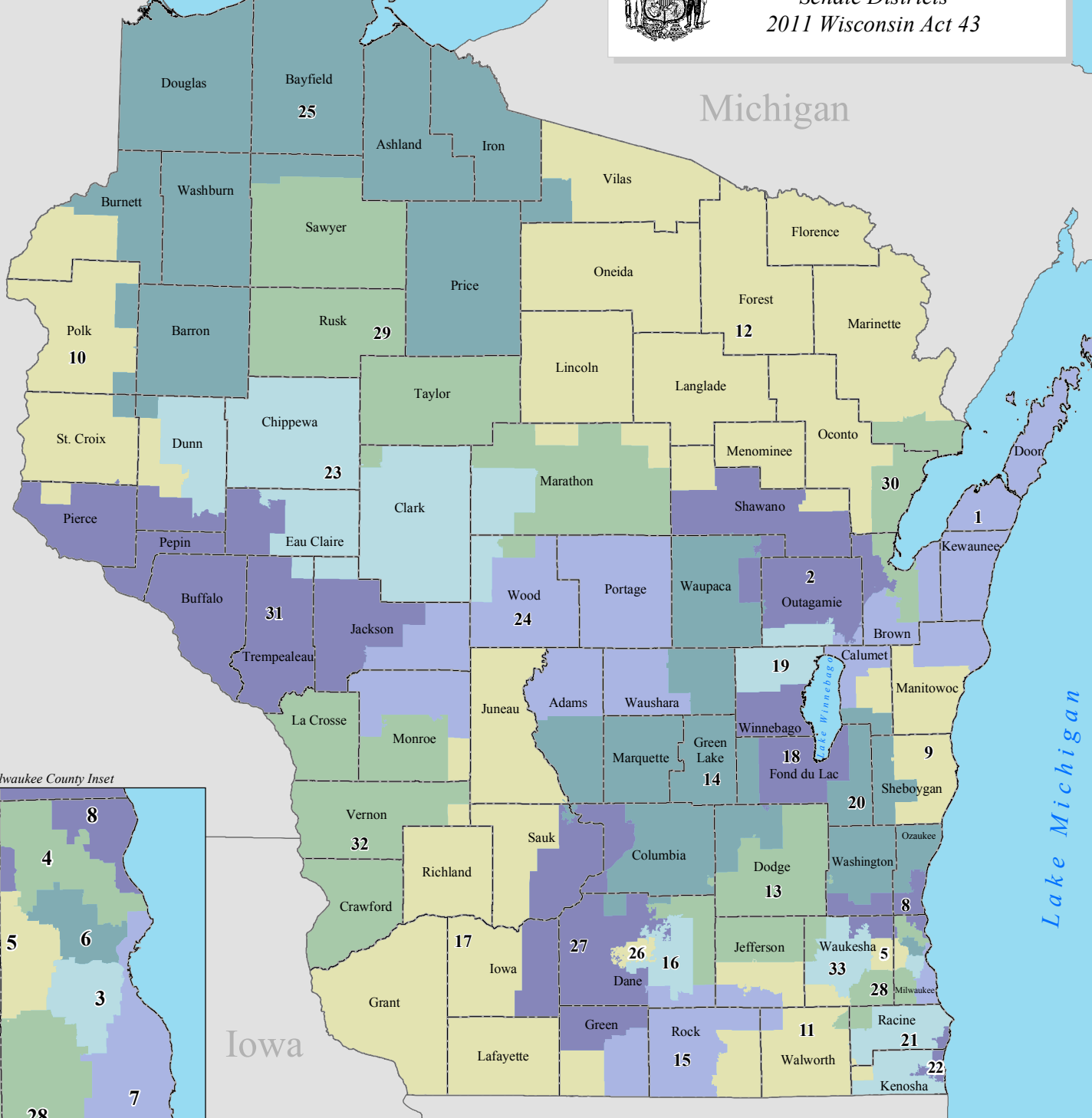
Minnesota

Lake Superior



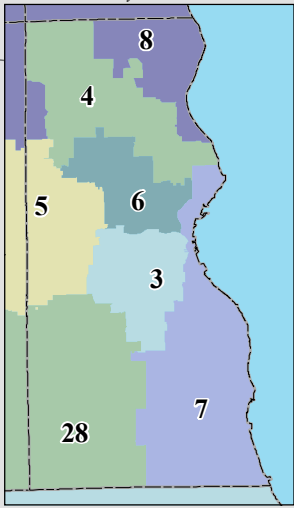
STATE OF WISCONSIN
Senate Districts
2011 Wisconsin Act 43

Michigan



Lake Michigan

Milwaukee County Inset



Iowa

2013 - 2014 WISCONSIN SENATORS

- | | | | | | |
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| Robert Cowles (2) | Alberta Darling (8) | Luther Olsen (14) | Glenn Grothman (20) | Fred Risser (26) | Jennifer Shilling (32) |
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** Senate Districts are formed from three consecutive Assembly Districts. For example, Senate District 1 is comprised of Assembly Districts 1, 2, and 3. Senate District 2 is comprised of Assembly Districts 4, 5 and 6, and so on.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's TIGER 2010 data was used in the creation of these districts.

Projection: All data is projected in Wisconsin Transverse Mercator (WTM 8391).

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