



# Robin J. Vos

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PARENTAL CHOICE EXPANDS TO RACINE

**MADISON**...Racine area parents will soon have more input as to where their children attend school. The Joint Committee on Finance passed a budget motion that would phase in an expansion of parental choice this fall for families with children in the Racine Unified School District.

“Parents deserve to have the opportunity to select the best school for their children,” said JFC Co-Chair Rep. Robin Vos (R-Rochester). “Racine area parents want a choice program and I’m excited that we’re bringing it to our area.”

The legislative motion begins the choice program for RUSD students in the 2011-12 school year with 250 scholarships. In 2012-13 school year, there would be 500 scholarships and no scholarship cap in the following years. Any private school can participate if it meets current eligibility standards regardless of its geographic location. Income eligibility would be set at 300% of the federal poverty level with preference given to low-income families if applications exceed the available slots. Current RUSD students would be eligible for a scholarship as well as private school students who are entering the ninth grade.

“The Milwaukee school choice program has been a success with higher graduation rates than the public schools at more than half the cost to taxpayers,” said Rep. Vos.

A recent study showed that 55% of Racine residents support expanding school choice to Racine and 79% agreed that students should have the right to the best education right now and not have to wait until public schools improve.

The school choice expansion to Racine is included in the biennial budget bill that the full legislature will pass in mid-June.

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