



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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November 3, 2016

TO: Senator Kathleen Vinehout  
 Room 22 South, State Capitol

FROM: Russ Kava, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: K-12 School Aid, Choice, and Charter Funding

At your request, I am providing information on state funding for K-12 school aids, private school choice programs, and the independent charter school program.

Table 1 shows the total amount appropriated for K-12 school aids, private school choice programs, and the independent charter school program in each year from 2002-03 to 2016-17. The appropriations for the choice and charter programs are sum sufficient, and the figures shown in Table 1 reflect the estimates of the payments from those appropriations that appear in the final state appropriations schedule for each biennium. Also shown in Table 1 is the change in funding in each year, both in dollar and percentage terms.

**TABLE 1**

**Appropriations for School Aids, Choice Programs, and Charter Program  
 (\$ in Millions)**

	<u>K-12 School Aids</u>			<u>Private School Choice Programs</u>			<u>Charter School Program</u>		
	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Chg to Prior Year Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Chg to Prior Year Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Chg to Prior Year Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
2002-03	\$4,775.2			\$65.6			\$18.8		
2003-04	4,806.3	\$31.1	0.7%	76.2	\$10.6	16.2%	26.4	\$7.6	40.4%
2004-05	4,857.9	51.6	1.1	87.4	11.2	14.7	30.2	3.8	14.4
2005-06	5,159.1	301.2	6.2	93.7	6.3	7.2	35.5	5.3	17.5
2006-07	5,294.4	135.3	2.6	110.5	16.8	17.9	39.6	4.1	11.5
2007-08	5,340.1	45.7	0.9	120.3	9.8	8.9	44.4	4.8	12.1
2008-09	5,462.4	122.3	2.3	128.8	8.5	7.1	48.9	4.5	10.1
2009-10	5,315.4	-147.0	-2.7	130.1	1.3	1.0	49.7	0.8	1.6
2010-11	5,325.0	9.6	0.2	130.8	0.7	0.5	56.1	6.4	12.9
2011-12	4,893.5	-431.5	-8.1	145.8	15.0	11.5	54.6	-1.5	-2.7
2012-13	4,964.4	70.9	1.4	157.8	12.0	8.2	62.2	7.6	13.9
2013-14	5,079.2	114.8	2.3	171.9	14.1	8.9	64.2	2.0	3.2
2014-15	5,241.7	162.5	3.2	212.5	40.6	23.6	70.3	6.1	9.5
2015-16	5,244.5	2.8	0.1	229.9	17.4	8.2	71.9	1.6	2.3
2016-17	5,444.6	200.1	3.8	252.1	22.2	9.7	77.0	5.1	7.1

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the K-12 school aid figures shown in Table 1. Table 2 shows the total amount appropriated for both general and categorical school aids in each year from 2002-03 to 2016-17. Also shown is the change in total funding for both types of aid in each year, both in dollar and percentage terms.

**TABLE 2**  
**Funding for General and Categorical School Aids**  
**(\$ in Millions)**

	General Aids			Categorical Aids		
	Appropriations	Chg to Prior Year		Appropriations	Chg to Prior Year	
	Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent	
2002-03	\$4,201.0			\$574.2		
2003-04	4,273.1	\$72.1	1.7%	533.2	-\$41.0	-7.1%
2004-05	4,317.5	44.4	1.0	540.4	7.2	1.4
2005-06	4,613.9	296.4	6.9	545.2	4.8	0.9
2006-07	4,722.7	108.8	2.4	571.7	26.5	4.9
2007-08	4,731.7	9.0	0.2	608.4	36.7	6.4
2008-09	4,811.5	79.8	1.7	650.9	42.5	7.0
2009-10	4,671.2	-140.3	-2.9	644.2	-6.7	-1.0
2010-11	4,671.2	0.0	0.0	653.8	9.6	1.5
2011-12	4,285.0	-386.2	-8.3	608.5	-45.3	-6.9
2012-13	4,310.5	25.5	0.6	653.9	45.4	7.5
2013-14	4,398.4	87.9	2.0	680.8	26.9	4.1
2014-15	4,492.8	94.4	2.1	748.9	68.1	10.0
2015-16	4,492.8	0.0	0.0	751.7	2.8	0.4
2016-17	4,600.9	108.1	2.4	843.7	92.0	12.2

Table 3 provides additional information on K-12 school aid appropriations and the aid reductions made for the choice and charter programs. The table shows the total gross appropriations for general and categorical school aids in the indicated year, the general school aid reductions made to the aid that would otherwise have been paid to districts under the statutory provisions that applied in the indicated year, and total school aids net of the choice and charter reductions in each year. (Because of differences in the timing of when the sum sufficient estimates are made and when the Department of Public Instruction prepares the October general aid distribution, the figures in Table 1 may differ slightly from those in Table 3.)

**TABLE 3****K-12 School Aids and Choice and Charter Aid Reductions  
(\$ in Millions)**

	Gross School Aids	Reductions for Private School Choice Programs			Special Needs Scholarship	Charter Program Reduction	School Aids Net of Reductions
		<u>Milwaukee</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>Statewide</u>			
2002-03	\$4,775.2	\$29.5				\$24.2	\$4,721.5
2003-04	4,806.3	34.3				26.4	4,745.6
2004-05	4,857.9	39.3				29.9	4,788.7
2005-06	5,159.1	42.2				35.5	5,081.4
2006-07	5,294.4	49.7				39.9	5,204.8
2007-08	5,340.1	54.1				44.5	5,241.5
2008-09	5,462.4	58.0				43.5	5,360.9
2009-10	5,315.4	54.1				49.7	5,211.6
2010-11	5,325.0	50.2				57.3	5,217.5
2011-12	4,893.5	55.4	\$0.6			54.6	4,782.9
2012-13	4,964.4	59.4	1.2			59.8	4,844.0
2013-14	5,079.2	56.7				64.2	4,958.3
2014-15	5,241.7	61.1				68.6	5,112.0
2015-16	5,244.5	56.5	4.2	\$11.9		71.9	5,100.0
2016-17	5,444.6	52.1	8.8	16.7	\$2.4	62.2	5,302.4

Under current law, in 2016-17, the general school aid that would otherwise be paid to the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is reduced by an amount equal 25.6% of the estimated cost of the Milwaukee private school choice program. MPS does not count choice pupils in its enrollment for revenue limit and general aid purposes or receive a revenue limit adjustment related to those pupils, but may levy to replace the aid reduction. Payments for continuing pupils in the Racine and statewide choice program who participated prior to the 2015-16 school year are fully state funded and are not included in any district's enrollment. Payment for incoming pupils who began participating in the 2015-16 school year or later are fully offset by a reduction in the general aid of those pupils' districts of residence. These districts receive a revenue limit adjustment equal to the aid reduction. Pupils in the special needs scholarship program are counted by their district of residence for revenue limits and general aid purposes, and payments for these pupils are fully offset by a reduction in the general aid of those pupils' districts of residence. General aid payments to all districts in the state are reduced proportionately in an amount totaling payments to the authorizers of independent charter schools and school districts may levy to replace the aid reduction. None of the pupils attending independent charters in 2016-17 are counted in school district enrollments.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have any questions.

RK/sas