

AN EVALUATION

*Milwaukee Parental Choice  
Program*

00-2

*February 2000*

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February 2, 2000

Senator Gary R. George and  
Representative Carol Kelso, Co-chairpersons  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Senator George and Representative Kelso:

We have completed an evaluation of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, as required by s. 119.23(9), Wis. Stats. This program provides publicly funded private school tuition for low-income children in Milwaukee and was established in 1990. After the Wisconsin Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of religious schools' participation in 1998, and the United States Supreme Court allowed that decision to stand, Choice enrollment increased significantly. In the 1999-2000 school year, approximately 8,000 pupils are enrolled in 91 private schools, which will receive an estimated \$38.9 million in publicly funded tuition payments.

Some hopes for the program—most notably, that it would increase participating pupils' academic achievement—cannot be documented, largely because uniform testing is not required in participating schools. However, the program is serving low-income children and is serving a population whose ethnic composition is similar to that in Milwaukee Public Schools. Participating schools are located throughout the city and appear to be providing a variety of educational options. The application and admissions process has drawn criticism; we include alternatives to modify that process and to improve applicants' knowledge of program requirements.

Seventy-six of the 86 schools participating in the program in 1998-99 reported some form of independent quality review or performance measurement, such as accreditation by the Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or other organizations. All participating schools are required to meet statutory requirements intended to promote educational quality, such as a requirement to provide instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health, and all schools have submitted information indicating compliance.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by the Department of Public Instruction, Milwaukee Public Schools, the participating private schools, and the families that responded to our survey concerning participation in the Choice program. The Department's response is Appendix VIII.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Mueller  
State Auditor

JM/DB/bm



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## SUMMARY

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The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program is in its tenth year of providing publicly funded private school tuition for children of low-income families in Milwaukee. Currently, 7,996 pupils are enrolled in 91 participating private schools, which will receive an estimated \$38.9 million in tuition payments for the 1999-2000 school year. Tuition checks are made payable to the families of Choice pupils by the Department of Public Instruction but are mailed to the schools, where the families endorse them to make tuition payments.

Only three states—Florida, Ohio, and Wisconsin—have recently initiated programs to provide public funding that allows families to send children to private elementary and secondary schools, although similar programs are under consideration in other states. Combined enrollment in the Florida and Ohio programs is less than half of Wisconsin's current enrollment, and only Wisconsin's program has received judicial approval to include religious schools.

Since the Choice program was created in 1989 Wisconsin Act 336, the Legislature has required three evaluations, of which this is the third. The Department was required to provide comparative information on academic achievement, parental involvement, and other indicators for Choice and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) pupils. For that evaluation, the Department contracted with an independent researcher who provided five reports between 1991 and 1995. In addition, the Legislative Audit Bureau was directed to conduct a financial and performance evaluation of the program in 1995, and this evaluation in 2000. In conducting this evaluation, we examined funding for the Choice program; pupil characteristics and reasons for families' participation in the program; the participating schools' compliance with statutory requirements; and the educational options and indicators of academic quality provided by participating schools.

From the Choice program's inception in 1990 through the 1999-2000 school year, an estimated \$92.6 million in public funds will have been provided to participating private schools. In these schools, full-time equivalent enrollment, which is the method of counting pupils for funding purposes, increased from 300 in 1990-91 to 7,621 in 1999-2000, while allowable per pupil payment increased from \$2,446 to \$5,106. Enrollment in 1998-99 more than tripled compared to the previous school year after religious schools were first included in the program.

To participate in the program, a child must reside in Milwaukee and:

- be a member of a family whose total income does not exceed 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines established by the Office of Management and Budget, which was no more than \$29,225 for a family of four for the 1999-2000 school year; and
- have been, in the year before entering the program, enrolled in the Choice program or in MPS; enrolled in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade in a Milwaukee private school; or not enrolled in school.

When compared to MPS, the Choice program enrolled a larger percentage of elementary-grade pupils in the 1998-99 school year: 75.4 percent of Choice pupils were enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. African-American pupils constituted 63.2 percent of the elementary Choice pupils, 54.0 percent of the middle-school Choice pupils, and 74.7 percent of high school Choice pupils.

To determine why families chose not to enroll their children in MPS, how they learned about the Choice program and participating schools, and why they chose the private schools they did, we surveyed those with children in the program during the 1998-99 school year. We sent 606 surveys in July 1999 and received 159 responses that could be analyzed, for a response rate of 26.2 percent. Although this rate was low, respondents appeared to be a reasonably representative sample of all program participants with regard to characteristics such as enrollment in religious or secular schools and length of time in the program.

We found that most families learned about the program and their children's schools through informal sources, such as friends or relatives, and that most families decided to enroll their children in participating schools based on perceived educational quality. Families may not be aware of the number of schools that are participating in the Choice program: most respondents indicated that they considered only one private school.

Participating schools offer a variety of educational programs, including:

- alternative educational approaches, such as Montessori and Waldorf schools;
- programs with bilingual or multicultural emphases;



- programs for at-risk pupils and pupils with special educational needs; and
- college preparatory and vocational education.

Of the 86 schools that participated in the program in the 1998-99 school year, 23 were secular schools serving 30.1 percent of the pupils, and 63 were religious schools serving 69.9 percent of the pupils. Jewish, Christian, and Islamic schools participated in the program; Catholic schools served 45.1 percent of the participating pupils. Geographically, participating schools are distributed throughout the city of Milwaukee. Most enroll primarily pupils who live within three miles, although they also serve pupils who live at greater distances.

Among the most frequently cited concerns about the Choice program has been possible negative fiscal effects for MPS. For nine years, the Choice program was funded with equalization aid that was authorized for Milwaukee based on MPS and Choice program enrollment. While total revenue received by MPS was not significantly affected during this period, costs to MPS property taxpayers were higher than they would have been in the absence of the Choice program, because MPS was able to increase its property tax levy in order to offset the equalization aid it did not receive. Beginning in 1999-2000, the 1999-2001 Biennial Budget Act requires half of Choice program funding to be drawn from general state aids for MPS, and the remaining half to be provided from state aids for all other public school districts. Each of the other districts will be required to contribute 0.6 percent of its general state aids to fund the Choice program. If they choose, the other districts may also offset their aid transfers to the Choice program by increasing property taxes within allowable revenue limits.

Other concerns about the Choice program have focused on the participating schools' admissions practices. Statutes require schools to accept all eligible pupils or to select randomly among them in order to ensure that all eligible pupils, including those with poor academic records or special educational needs, have an opportunity to participate. In August 1999, a formal complaint was filed with the Department alleging that 17 schools were not in compliance with open admissions and other program requirements. The Department's investigation of this complaint is currently proceeding, after issues regarding the complainants' standing and the Department's jurisdiction to investigate were settled in December.

In addition, we found some features of processes the Department has established to prevent schools from considering inappropriate criteria in admissions decisions have had the unintended effect of creating difficulties that limit, rather than promote, effective parental choice. For example, schools currently make eligibility determinations and

admissions decisions simultaneously, then notify families and the Department only after the admissions process has been completed. The Department, therefore, must rely upon the schools to inform families of their rights in the application and admissions process. It cannot communicate with families directly because it is not informed of eligible pupils' names and addresses until after the enrollment process has been completed. The Department's requirements also limit, before a child's enrollment, the ability of families and schools to exchange any information that is not necessary to the eligibility determination. However, information about a child's needs and certain school policies, although not required for eligibility determination, could assist families in making an informed choice among schools.

It may be possible to reduce the Department's role in regulating the exchange of information between families and schools by:

- informing families of their rights in the process before its completion, so that families can more independently monitor the process and exercise their rights; and
- allowing families to obtain eligibility determinations before, and separate from, admissions to specific schools, so that a pupil's right to participate in the program could be established before the families and schools exchange more detailed information.

We also have suggested alternatives to help the Department communicate more effectively with families about fees and the program's requirement that schools must allow pupils to opt out of religious activities if they desire.

The academic achievement of Choice pupils has been another area of concern. Of the 84 schools that responded to our survey question about standardized testing, 68 reported administering some type of standardized test in 1998-99. However, not all schools administer the same tests, so their scores cannot be compared or used to compare the performance of MPS and Choice schools. Previous evaluations of the Choice program and similar programs in other states have resulted in mixed findings that show either no differences in test results for public school pupils and those participating in choice programs, or slight but statistically significant achievement gains for pupils participating in choice programs.

Although comparable test data are not available, other information about the quality of participating schools does exist. Of 85 participating schools that responded to survey questions about accreditation, licensing, or use of standardized tests, 76 schools (which served

93.0 percent of the Choice pupils in 1998-99) indicated they submitted to at least one form of independent quality review or performance measurement. Most of the 57 schools that reported having or seeking accreditation did so through the Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Fully accredited schools must have demonstrated that they:

- offer a comprehensive, regularly evaluated and revised curriculum plan that includes reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health, fine arts, physical education, and safety;
- provide a wide variety of educational materials and equipment that are adequate in quantity and quality to meet the needs of, and accommodate individual differences in, pupils; and
- employ as teachers only those who hold a bachelor's degree or its academic equivalent from an accredited institution, including at least 40 semester hours of work in general education and at least 12 semester hours in areas such as educational measurement and psychology, plus student teaching. In comparison, public school teachers are required to possess a bachelor's degree from a teacher preparatory program approved by the Department, to pass a background investigation, and to comply with other training requirements specific to the subject and the age, grade level, or special needs of the pupils to be taught.

Four schools that are not accredited are subject to other independent reviews of educational quality, such as licensure by or contracting with other educational organizations. However, 9 of the 86 schools participating in Choice for the 1998-99 school year participated in no program or activity that would provide independent review of educational quality, and 1 provided no information to us.

In addition to measures initiated by most participating schools, statutes impose certain minimum requirements for Choice schools. First, the schools must be private schools as defined in s. 118.165, Wis. Stats., which requires:

- a primary purpose of providing private or religious-based education;

- an educational program that provides at least 875 hours of instruction each school year (public schools are required to provide at least 437 hours of instruction in kindergarten, 1,050 hours in grades 1 through 6, and 1,137 hours in grades 7 through 12); and
- a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health.

In addition, statutes require each Choice school to meet at least one of the following performance standards:

- at least 70 percent of the pupils in the program are to advance one grade level each year;
- the private school's average attendance rate for pupils in the program is to be at least 90 percent;
- at least 80 percent of the pupils in the program are to demonstrate significant academic progress; or
- at least 70 percent of the families of pupils in the program are to meet parental involvement criteria established by the private school.

The Department requires all schools to affirm that they have met these requirements each year and reviews the reports filed by the schools. All participating schools have filed the appropriate reports and indicated they met the statutory requirements. However, 3 of the 91 Choice schools participating in 1999-2000 failed to meet standards imposed by a privately financed scholarship program operated by Partners Advancing Values in Education (PAVE). As a result, PAVE will not allow its scholarship funds to be used in these schools.

It is possible that greater assurance of the accuracy of the schools' reports could be obtained if the Department were to conduct site visits at a sample of schools annually, focusing on those that are not independently accredited. Department staff, however, have indicated that in light of past controversies about the extent of their authority, and the absence of explicit statutory language authorizing site visits, they do not believe they have adequate authority to conduct site visits to independently verify schools' statements of compliance with standards. On the other hand, some might argue that the existing requirements in s. 119.23(7)(a), Wis. Stats., which requires the State Superintendent to determine whether schools are meeting one of the four performance

standards, appear to provide adequate authority to conduct such reviews when the Superintendent believes them necessary. Potential concerns by schools could be limited if the Department limited the scope of such site visits to a review of records related to the performance standard selected by the school.

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## INTRODUCTION

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**The Choice program is in its tenth year of financing private school education.**

In the 1990-91 school year, the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program began providing public funds to pay for the children of low-income families in the City of Milwaukee to attend, at no cost to the families, any private, secular school located within the city. Initially, the program funded 341 pupils in 7 secular schools. After it was expanded to include religious schools in the 1998-1999 school year, enrollment increased significantly. In the 1999-2000 school year, 7,996 pupils in 91 schools participate in Choice.

The program, which was established by the Legislature in 1989 Wisconsin Act 336, is the only one in the nation for which the participation of religious schools has been approved by judicial action. Families may enroll their children in secular or religious schools that have been approved for participation by the Department of Public Instruction. The Department makes tuition checks payable to the families but mails them to the schools, where the families endorse them to make tuition payments.

As originally enacted by the Legislature, the program would have operated for five years ending with the 1994-95 school year. However, the Governor vetoed the sunset provision, making the program permanent. The Legislature also included two provisions in the original legislation to require evaluations of the program. First, the Department was required to provide comparative information on academic achievement, parental involvement, and other indicators for pupils involved in the program and pupils in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). Second, the Legislative Audit Bureau was directed to conduct a financial and performance evaluation of the program in its fifth year. In that evaluation (report 95-3), we reviewed the work of an independent researcher with whom the Department contracted, as well as other available information on program operations.

In 1995 Wisconsin Act 27, the Legislature directed the Legislative Audit Bureau to perform a second financial audit and a program evaluation in 2000. Consequently, we examined funding for the Choice program, pupil characteristics and reasons for families' participation in the program, participating schools' compliance with statutory requirements, and the educational options and indicators of quality provided by participating schools. In completing this evaluation, we reviewed program records at the Department of Public Instruction, discussed the program's implementation and its effects with officials in the Department and MPS, surveyed administrators of participating private schools, and interviewed administrators of private schools in the

city of Milwaukee that are not currently participating in the program. In addition, we surveyed families whose children participated during the 1998-99 school year, as well as professionals who have contact with families of eligible non-participating children. We also discussed the program with both advocates and critics of school choice programs.

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**Five states provide public funds for private elementary and secondary school tuition.**

Wisconsin's program is one of few in the nation that provide public funding to allow families to send their children to private schools. Since 1996, Ohio has provided state funding for pupils in Cleveland to attend secular and religious private schools; 59 schools participate in the Cleveland program. In 1999, the Florida legislature enacted a program to allow pupils at low-performing public schools to transfer to other public schools or to secular or religious private schools; five private schools participate in Florida's program. For the current school year, enrollment in both these programs is less than half of Wisconsin's enrollment. Maine and Vermont also, for more than a century, publicly funded tuition at secular private schools for pupils in rural areas that are without public schools. Other programs to provide public funding for some pupils to attend private schools have been proposed in New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and other jurisdictions, but these are not yet in operation.

In June 1998, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that the Choice program did not violate either the United States Constitution or the Wisconsin Constitution. In November 1998, the United States Supreme Court declined to review that decision. No further challenges alleging constitutional violations by Wisconsin's program have been filed in state or federal courts. The Cleveland program was, in late 1999, determined to be unconstitutional by a federal judge in Ohio, but it will be allowed to operate for previously enrolled pupils pending resolution of appeals. In Florida, two separate lawsuits have been filed in state court alleging violations of the state and federal constitutions. In addition, the United States Supreme Court, in late 1999, declined to review lower courts' rulings that the Maine and Vermont programs were not constitutionally required to include religious schools.

### **Participation Requirements**

In creating the Choice program, the Legislature:

- limited participation to low-income pupils residing in Milwaukee who meet certain criteria related to previous enrollment;
- established participation criteria for schools and authorized the Department of Public Instruction to set certain administrative requirements; and



- required participating schools to accept the amount provided by the Choice program as full payment for Choice pupils.

### **Pupil Participation Requirements**

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**Family income and previous enrollment status determine a child's eligibility for the Choice program.**

State statutes define which pupils are eligible for participation in the Choice program. To participate in the program, a child must reside in Milwaukee and:

- be a member of a family whose total income does not exceed 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines established by the Office of Management and Budget, which was no more than \$29,225 for a family of four in 1999; and
- have been, in the year before entering the program, enrolled in MPS at any grade level; enrolled in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade in a Milwaukee private school; or not enrolled in school.

Statutes require a child's parent or guardian to submit an application documenting compliance with these eligibility criteria to the participating school the pupil wishes to attend. Within 60 days after receiving the application, the school must provide written notification of whether the child has been accepted as a Choice pupil. Each participating school must admit all eligible applicants unless the number of applications exceeds the number of spaces the school has designated for Choice pupils. In that case, the school must select randomly among eligible applicants.

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**When religious schools entered the program, participation more than tripled.**

Program funding is based on full-time equivalent pupils. Figures for full-time equivalent pupils are slightly lower than enrollment figures, because each kindergarten pupil is counted as only a fraction of a full-time pupil. Table 1 shows the number of full-time equivalent pupils in the Choice program each year since its inception. In 1998-99, pupil participation more than tripled compared to the previous school year, largely because of religious schools' participation in the program.

Table 1

**Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Participation**  
1990-1991 through 1999-2000

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Full-time Equivalent Pupils*</u>	<u>Number of Schools Participating</u>
1990-1991	300	7
1991-1992	512	6
1992-1993	594	11
1993-1994	704	12
1994-1995	771	12
1995-1996	1,288	17
1996-1997	1,616	20
1997-1998	1,497	23
1998-1999	5,758 **	86
1999-2000	7,621 **	91

\* The number of full-time equivalent pupils is used to calculate payments. This figure is less than a head count of enrolled pupils.

\*\* Estimates

**Private School Participation Requirements**

**Participating schools must provide pupils at least 875 hours of instruction in six subjects.**

To participate in the Choice program, schools must be private schools as defined in s. 118.165(1), Wis. Stats. That statute requires them to provide at least 875 hours of instruction each school year and to have a sequentially progressive curriculum of instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health. In addition, each participating school must:

- notify the State Superintendent of Public Instruction of its intent to participate in the program by May 1 of the previous school year and specify the number of Choice pupils for whom the school has space;
- comply with federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin;

- meet all health and safety laws or codes that apply to public schools; and
- designate a representative to a pupil assignment council created in s. 119.23(8), Wis. Stats., the statute that governs the pupil assignment process to be used by participating schools.

In addition, statutes require each private school participating in the program to meet at least one of the following performance standards:

- at least 70 percent of the pupils in the program are to advance one grade level each year;
- the private school's average attendance rate for pupils in the program is to be at least 90 percent;
- at least 80 percent of the pupils in the program are to demonstrate significant academic progress; or
- at least 70 percent of the families of pupils in the program are to meet parental involvement criteria established by the private school.

Finally, beginning in the 1998-99 school year, each school participating in the program is subject to uniform financial accounting standards and is required to submit an independent financial audit for the previous fiscal year to the Department by September 1.

### Secular and Religious Schools

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**Almost three-quarters of the schools are religious; almost two-thirds of those are Catholic.**

Of the 86 schools that participated in the program in the 1998-99 school year, 23 can be classified as secular schools and 63 as religious. Secular schools served 30.1 percent of pupils enrolled in the program, and religious schools served 69.9 percent. Jewish, Christian, and Islamic schools participated in the program; Roman Catholic schools accounted for almost two-thirds of the religious schools and served 45.1 percent of the participating pupils.

Because religious schools are now allowed to participate in the program, it is no longer necessary for the Department or any other governmental agency to adopt criteria to designate schools as "religious" or "secular." In the absence of uniform criteria, some schools that we classified as religious for the purposes of analysis might be classified differently by other observers. For example:

- Neither Keal Preparatory School nor Gray’s Child Development Center is associated with a religious entity, either through accreditation, school ownership, or the schools’ governing bodies. However, Keal’s informational brochure describes “a private, nondenominational school that teaches Christian values,” while Gray’s brochure mentions the integration of Christian values in the curriculum and prayer at meals.
- Messmer High School identifies itself as a privately owned “independent Catholic high school,” but it is no longer affiliated with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In 1992, when religious schools could not participate in the program, the school identified itself as secular and the Department determined it to be religious. A hearing examiner appointed under s. 227.46(2), Wis. Stats., determined the school to be religious, and it was excluded from participation at that time.
- Sharon Junior Academy and Sherman Park Preschool are identified as secular schools in informational materials provided by the Department, but one is owned by the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists and the other by Sherman Park Lutheran Church.

The classification of each school that participated in the 1998-99 school year is included in Appendix I. Schools that began participation in 1999-2000 are identified in Appendix II. Information about these schools was gathered, in part, through a survey of schools that participated in the 1998-99 school year, for which responses are reported in Appendix III.

### **Program Costs and Participation Levels**

Statutes direct the Department to pay Choice tuition in four equal installments, in September, November, February, and May. The Department makes checks payable to the families but mails them to the schools. There, parents and guardians restrictively endorse the checks to the schools. If a school cannot obtain a signature because, for example, a pupil is no longer enrolled, the school returns the check to the Department.

Before the 1998-99 school year, all schools received the same per pupil payment, which was equal to the per pupil state aid provided to MPS. Currently, schools receive payment equal to the lesser of:

- their actual per pupil operating and debt service costs, as determined by an audited financial statement that must be filed each year with the Department; or
- an amount based upon average per pupil state aid provided to MPS in 1998-99 and the annual increase provided to public school districts statewide.

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**Choice will pay schools a maximum of \$5,106 per pupil in the current school year.**

As shown in Table 2, per pupil payments and total payments to participating private schools have increased each year since the program's inception. In the program's first decade, per pupil payments increased from \$2,446 in 1990-91 to \$5,106 in 1999-2000.

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Table 2

**Payments to Participating Schools**  
1990-91 through 1999-2000

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Full-time Equivalent Pupils*</u>	<u>Per Pupil</u>	<u>Total Payments</u>
1990-1991	300	\$2,446	\$ 733,800
1991-1992	512	2,643	1,353,216
1992-1993	594	2,745	1,630,334
1993-1994	704	2,985	2,101,203
1994-1995	771	3,209	2,474,139
1995-1996	1,288	3,667	4,607,586
1996-1997	1,616	4,373	6,875,450
1997-1998	1,497	4,696	7,027,564
1998-1999	5,758**	4,894	26,870,310
1999-2000	7,621**	5,106	<u>38,912,826</u>
Total			\$92,586,428

\* The number of full-time equivalent pupils is used to calculate payments. This figure is less than a head count of enrolled pupils.

\*\* Estimates

A number of schools report that Choice enrollment did not reach capacity in the 1999-2000 school year, despite a 31 percent increase over 1998-99 enrollment levels. In May 1999, the 91 schools currently participating indicated they would be able to serve 9,089 Choice pupils in the 1999-2000 school year. However, as shown in Table 3, these schools enrolled 7,996 Choice pupils, or 88.0 percent of their available Choice capacity. The table also shows that demand varies by grade level. Enrollment levels ranged from a low of 56.9 percent of available twelfth-grade capacity to 98.2 percent of available ninth-grade capacity.

Table 3

**Enrollment and Estimated Choice Capacity by Grade**  
1999-2000 School Year

	Total Estimated Capacity*	December Enrollment**	Percentage of Choice Capacity Filled
4-year-old Kindergarten	1,042	833	79.9%
5-year-old Kindergarten	1,089	996	91.5
Grade 1	1,041	955	91.7
Grade 2	962	890	92.5
Grade 3	852	739	86.7
Grade 4	740	694	93.8
Grade 5	724	614	84.8
Grade 6	714	642	89.9
Grade 7	620	541	87.3
Grade 8	533	484	90.8
Grade 9	285	280	98.2
Grade 10	203	166	81.8
Grade 11	175	100	57.1
Grade 12	<u>109</u>	<u>62</u>	56.9
Total	9,089	7,996	88.0

\* As indicated by schools on the "Notice of Intent" forms filed with the Department in May 1999.

\*\* Estimate as of December 22, 1999. This figure is a head count of enrolled pupils and is greater than the number of full-time equivalent pupils, or membership, used for funding purposes.

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**Families within MPS boundaries have several educational options.**

Questions about families' reasons for participating in the Choice program were included on our survey of families whose children participated during the 1998-99 school year, which is reproduced with compiled responses as Appendix IV. Several factors, ranging from limited program awareness to the availability of other educational alternatives, could be limiting the number of families seeking to participate in the Choice program. In addition to Choice, several alternatives to MPS include:

- the Chapter 220 integration aid program, which began in 1976 in response to school segregation issues and pays for approximately 4,900 minority MPS pupils to attend 23 suburban public school districts in the 1999-2000 school year;
- the public school open enrollment program, which began operation in the 1998-99 school year and allows 449 former MPS pupils to attend school in a district other than the one in which they reside in the 1999-2000 school year. Previously, MPS had restricted the number of pupils who could transfer out of the district because of a statutory requirement to deny transfers that would increase racial imbalance; however, in April 1999, the MPS Board adopted a less-restrictive definition of racial imbalance that permitted all pupils wishing to attend other school districts in 1999-2000 to do so.
- charter schools, which have been allowed to enter into contracts with school districts since the 1993-94 school year. In addition, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Area Technical College have been allowed to establish charter schools since 1998-99. In general, charter schools are public schools that agree to abide by certain provisions of a negotiated contract in exchange for more autonomy from the public school system and exemption from many state laws governing public schools. Seven charter schools enrolled 2,055 Milwaukee pupils in 1999-2000. Three of these seven schools formerly participated in the Choice program, and two were MPS schools that were granted charter status by the district. Additional charter schools, including for-profit schools, could begin operation in the future.

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## FUNDING THE CHOICE PROGRAM

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**By the end of the 1999-2000 school year, the program will have paid private schools an estimated \$92.6 million.**

An estimated \$92.6 million in public funds will have been provided to participating private schools from the inception of the Choice program through the 1999-2000 school year. Program financing concerns have been raised in two areas. First, schools have not been required to document their financial condition as a requirement for participation in the Choice program, so that the financial viability of participating schools is not known. Second, there has been substantial debate about whether and to what extent funding for Choice has limited revenues received by MPS.

### **Payments to Participating Schools**

From 1990-91 through 1998-99, funding for the Choice program came from state equalization aid designated for Milwaukee. To determine the per pupil amount that would be provided for each Choice pupil, the Department divided the equalization aid authorized for Milwaukee by the number of full-time equivalent pupils enrolled in both MPS and Choice. In 1998-99, the equalization aid authorized for Milwaukee was \$4,894 for each MPS and Choice pupil; \$26.9 million in equalization aid was set aside for the Choice program, and \$486.4 million in equalization aid was provided to MPS.

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**Beginning in 1999-2000, half of the Choice funding will come from school aids for non-Milwaukee school districts.**

In 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, the 1999-2001 Biennial Budget Act, the Legislature modified Choice program funding. Beginning in 1999-2000, the Choice program will be funded with general state aids provided for all school districts statewide. Once the Department determines the total needed to fund the Choice program each year, it will reduce equalization aid payable to MPS by half of that amount. The remaining half of the funding for Choice will be drawn from aid authorized for the remaining 425 school districts, which will each contribute 0.6 percent of the general state aids they would otherwise have received. The per pupil amount set aside for the Choice program will no longer be based on the average equalization aid per Milwaukee pupil; instead it will be calculated as the 1998-99 per pupil payment of \$4,894 plus, in each succeeding year, the statewide per pupil increase allowed under school districts' revenue limits. In 1999-2000, that amount is \$212, so per pupil funding for Choice is \$5,106. Based on that amount, the Department estimates 1999-2000 costs of over \$38.9 million.

Beginning in the 1998-99 school year, participating private schools are allowed to keep the lesser of a set amount or an amount equal to their per pupil operating and debt service costs as determined by an

independent financial audit. As noted, tuition is paid for Choice pupils in four equal installments in September, November, February, and May. Because a school's actual costs may be less than the maximum allowable payment, and because of other circumstances that require adjustments to payments, such as transfers of pupils between schools, the Department makes adjustments after the school year is completed. Schools with lower costs must return excess payments, and schools that gain pupils receive an additional amount. In 1998-99, the net amount returned by schools, after deducting the amount needed for extra payments to other schools, was \$791,728. If the net adjustment continues to be substantial in future years, the Department may need to recommend changes to current payment methods.

### **Financial Viability of the Participating Schools**

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**Four Choice schools have closed as a result of financial problems.**

While participating schools are currently required by statute to provide annual audited financial statements for the calculation of actual per pupil costs, schools are not required to document financial viability as a condition of program participation. Critics have expressed concern that financially unstable schools might be participating in the Choice program. Four of 96 schools that have participated in the program have closed as a result of financial problems:

- Juanita Virgil Academy enrolled 63 pupils in the fall semester of 1990 and closed in January 1991;
- Milwaukee Preparatory Academy enrolled 96 pupils before it closed in January 1996;
- Exito Education Center enrolled 44 pupils before it closed in January 1996; and
- the Waldorf School of Milwaukee enrolled 24 pupils in the spring semester of 1996 and closed in August 1996.

Before religious schools participated in the Choice program, payments were made directly to schools. The closures of Juanita Virgil Academy and the Waldorf School resulted in no lost Choice program funds because these schools had received no payments to which they were not entitled at the time they closed. However, the Department reports that it determined in March 1995 that Exito Education Center had been overpaid for the previous semester, because its claim was based on the number of applications received rather than the number of pupils enrolled. To recover the overpayment, the Department withheld the school's scheduled August 1995 payment, but it reports that at the time Exito closed, overpayments remained in excess of \$88,000. The

school's director was eventually convicted by the Milwaukee County Circuit Court of two felony counts relating to theft by fraud. The Department also reports that Milwaukee Preparatory Academy owed \$111,843 in unrecovered overpayments at the time of its closure. The director of this school was also charged with fraud in relation to the overpayments, although he was eventually cleared of the charge by the court.

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**Statutes currently require participating schools to file audited financial statements annually.**

The current statutory requirement for annual audited financial reports, which took effect in 1999, may help to prevent such incidents in the future. Although several administrators indicated it was costly to prepare the audits, most indicated support for the requirement and noted that it improved the schools' financial records and increased accountability. Although it is not likely that many families will seek to review the statements as part of the process of selecting schools for their children, the statements' availability enables interested members of the public to review each school's finances.

### **Fiscal Effects on Milwaukee Public Schools**

Because the Choice program has been funded with state aids redirected from MPS to the private schools, many have been concerned that it has adversely affected the district's ability to provide high-quality education to remaining public school pupils. Several reports have attempted to describe the fiscal effects of the Choice program on MPS, but conclusions have been contradictory. Some have reported that the program has significantly reduced MPS revenues, while others have reported that the Choice program has actually improved MPS's fiscal condition.

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**The Choice program has affected MPS's state aid, property tax limits, and costs.**

There are several reasons for the contradictory conclusions. Not all analyses have taken into account all the ways in which Choice affects MPS revenues and costs. For example, it would be accurate to report that in 1998-99, \$26.9 million in equalization aid was withheld from MPS and paid instead to the Choice program. This fact alone could lead to a conclusion that MPS revenues were reduced. However, the Choice program also affects MPS's property tax levy limit, which is higher than it would be in the absence of the Choice program, and MPS's costs, which may be lower than they would be in the absence of the Choice program. A complete analysis of the fiscal effects of Choice on MPS would need to take these other factors into account. In addition, any comparison of actual revenues and costs to the revenues and costs that might have occurred had the Choice program not existed requires making highly debatable assumptions about where pupils would have enrolled in the absence of the Choice program.

Appendix V describes how MPS has been able to mitigate the fiscal effects of Choice by using its authority to levy property taxes in approximately the amount of the equalization aid provided to the Choice program. Estimates of the cost savings that MPS might have been able to make are not possible with available information.

The recent modifications to the way in which the Choice program is funded were designed to further reduce any negative financial effects upon MPS. As noted, beginning in 1999-2000, state aids redirected to the Choice program will be provided in equal parts from the amount authorized for MPS and the amount authorized for all other districts in the state. Both MPS and other schools districts will be able to replace this amount with property taxes within allowable revenue limits if their school boards choose to do so.

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

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**Choice was intended to provide eligible families a variety of educational options.**

One of the purposes of the Choice program was to make educational choices that have been available to more affluent families available to low-income families. We found that participating schools provide a variety of educational approaches, are located throughout the city, and offer both secular and religious education. In the 1998-99 school year, schools attended by 93.0 percent of Choice pupils reported participating in some form of independent quality review or performance measurement, in addition to the statutory performance requirements that all participating schools must meet.

### **Educational Approaches**

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**Participating schools offer a variety of educational approaches.**

As part of our survey of schools that participated in the Choice program during the 1998-99 school year, we requested copies of informational brochures or other descriptive material schools normally provided to families considering enrollment. These materials indicate that participating private schools offer a variety of educational approaches and provide various educational services. For example:

- Two schools reported offering bilingual education in English and Spanish, and three reported multi-cultural programs, one provides an Afrocentric curriculum, and the other two offer Hispanic curricula.
- Three schools are based on the nontraditional educational principles established by Dr. Maria Montessori, another is based on those established by Chicago educator Marva Collins, and one follows the Waldorf curriculum based on the work of Rudolf Steiner. Ten schools reported reliance on educational methods based on a current educational philosophy known as the theory of multiple intelligences.
- Two schools reported serving at-risk pupils. Five schools reported offering a college preparatory program, five reported vocational education, and three reported school-to-work programs.
- Five schools offer single-gender education (three for girls and two for boys), one of which offers a special program for boys with behavior problems.

- Several schools reported offering other features, including ten schools that offer child care before or after school. Others offer extended school days, after-school assistance with homework, or extracurricular activities. Four schools reported providing supportive services to the families of pupils, including daycare for the children of teenage pupils, and two reported high school equivalency programs for the families of pupils.

Seven schools reported they offer special educational services. Six schools indicated the availability of services for children with special educational needs, and a seventh—the Lutheran Special School—takes referrals from and offers services to other participating Lutheran schools that do not have staff or programs for children with special education needs.

By comparing the list of Choice pupils enrolled in 1998-99 with a list of pupils who had been identified as special needs pupils by MPS in the previous school year, we found 171 Choice pupils who had been identified by MPS as being in need of special education services. However, because private schools are not required to identify special needs children to any governmental agency, it is not known how many, if any, additional special needs pupils are potentially being served by the Choice program. It should be noted that statutes do not require participating schools to offer special education, nor are participating schools that voluntarily provide special education services reimbursed through state categorical aids. Because the provision of special education by Choice schools is not required by statute, information on the types of services offered, and children served is not available. However, because special education services provided by Choice schools is not reimbursed by state categorical aids, it is less likely that higher-cost services, such as those that may be required for children with severe autism, are available. Instead, it is more likely that the services available are lower-cost services, such as those needed for children with speech and language disabilities or learning disabilities.

### **Secular and Religious Schools**

As noted, although other states have instituted similar programs, as described in Appendix VI, Wisconsin's program is the only one for which the participation of religious schools has been determined to be constitutional. Appendix VII contains a summary of the legal history of Wisconsin's program. As shown in Table 4, nearly 70 percent of Choice pupils attend religious schools, while approximately 30 percent attend secular schools.

Table 4

**Participating Schools by Religious Affiliation\***  
1998-99 School Year

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Choice Enrollment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
<b>Secular</b>	23	1,830	30.1%
<b>Religious</b>			
Catholic	40	2,742	45.1
Lutheran	11	590	9.7
Other Christian	9	667	11.0
Islamic	2	185	3.0
Jewish	<u>1</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>1.1</u>
Subtotal	<u>63</u>	<u>4,250</u>	<u>69.9</u>
Total	86	6,080**	100.0%

\* Identification of schools as “religious” or “secular” is based on criteria in effect before 1995, when the Department was required to identify and exclude religious schools. Currently, statutes governing the Choice program contain no definition of religious or secular schools.

\*\* Reflects a head count of participating pupils as of January 1999, which is greater than the number of full-time equivalent pupils that is used for purposes of reimbursement.

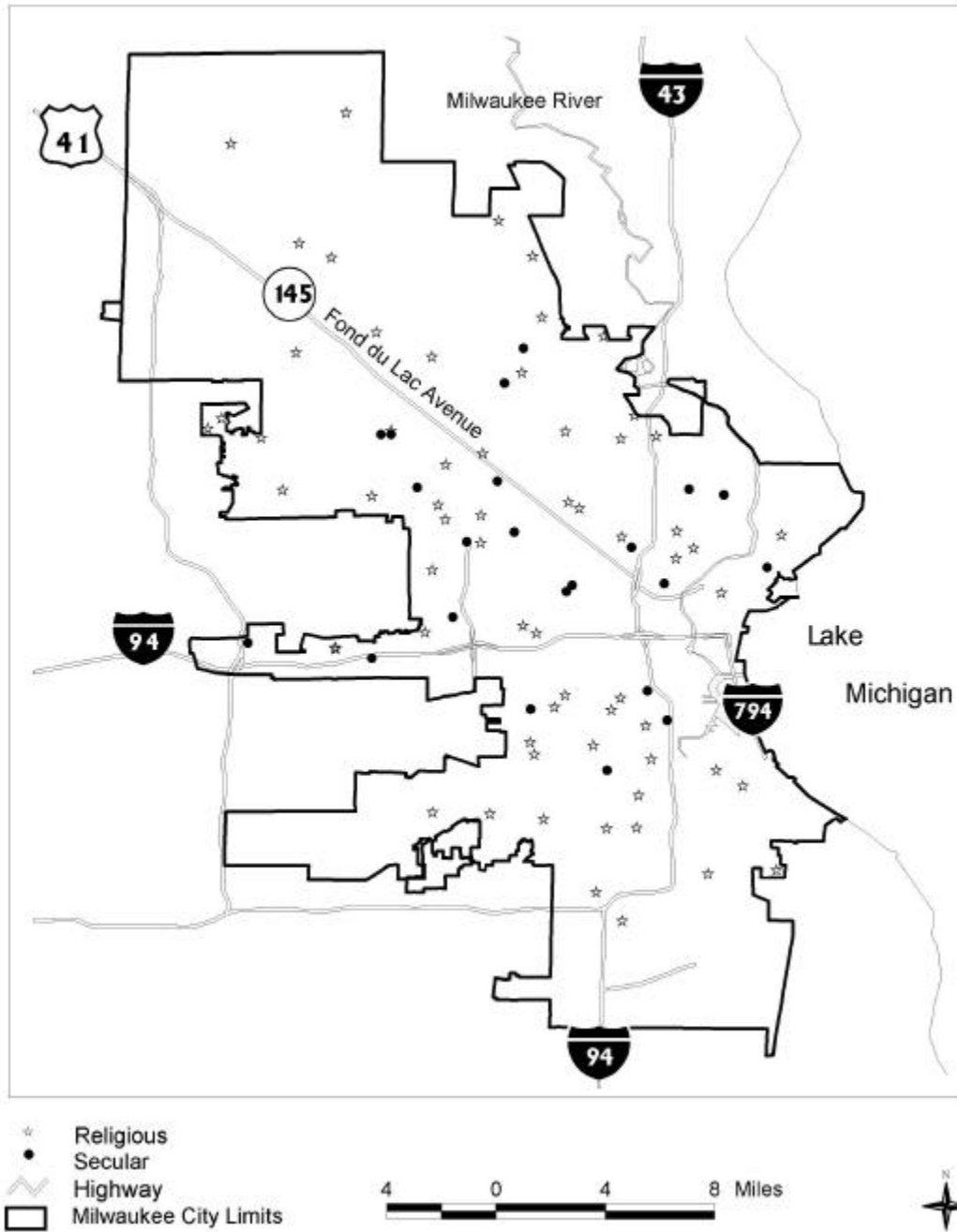
**Geographic Distribution**

**Participating schools are distributed throughout the city.**

As shown in Figure 1, participating schools are located throughout the city of Milwaukee, rather than concentrated in one neighborhood or area. However, if Milwaukee is divided into three regions, the proportion of Choice pupils in religious and secular schools is not equal among all three. In 1998-99, religious schools served a greater proportion of pupils in the northern and southern regions of the city, while secular schools served almost half of the pupils in the midsection. Table 5 shows the distribution of participating secular and religious schools in the three regions.

Figure 1

**Location of Participating Schools  
1998-1999**





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Table 5

**Schools and Enrollment by Geographic Region**  
1998-99 School Year

	<u>Number of Schools</u>	<u>Number of Pupils*</u>
<b>North of Fond du Lac Avenue</b>		
Secular	7	798
Religious	<u>24</u>	<u>2,059</u>
Subtotal	31	2,857
<b>Central</b>		
Secular	11	968
Religious	<u>18</u>	<u>985</u>
Subtotal	29	1,953
<b>South of Interstate 94</b>		
Secular	5	171
Religious	<u>21</u>	<u>1,160</u>
Subtotal	26	1,331

\* These figures represent a head count of enrolled pupils as reported in September 1998.

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We calculated the distance between the 87 school buildings (one of the 86 schools had two campuses) and each of the households with children enrolled in those schools in the 1998-99 school year. As shown in Table 6, for 66 of the 87 schools, the typical Choice pupil traveled less than three miles to school. However, most schools serve at least some children who live at greater distances. In 55 of the schools that were within three miles of half or more of their Choice pupils' homes, at least one pupil lived more than five miles from school; in 16, at least one pupil lived more than ten miles from school.

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Table 6

**Distance Traveled to School by Choice Pupils**  
1998-99 School Year

<u>Median Distance Traveled by Pupils*</u>	<u>Number of Schools</u>
Less than 1 Mile	16
1 to 1.9 Miles	28
2 to 2.9 Miles	22
More than 3 Miles	21

\* The median distance represents the distance within which half of each school's pupils live and beyond which the other half of the school's pupils live.

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**Potential Indicators of Academic Program Quality**

While there is public debate over how best to measure the quality of educational programs, many schools voluntarily obtain independent verification or review of their programs or their results by, for example, seeking or earning accreditation from an independent accrediting authority or having pupils' academic progress independently tested through standardized tests. Of the 86 schools participating in 1998-99, 76 schools serving 93.0 percent of Choice pupils reported using one or both of these methods to measure the quality of their programs.

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**Accreditation was achieved or sought by 57 private schools participating in 1998-99.**

Of the 85 schools that responded to our survey question regarding accreditation, 57 were either accredited or were seeking accreditation from an independent accrediting authority. These schools served 3,987 pupils, or 65.6 percent of the pupils in the program. As shown in Table 7, the two most common types of accreditation were granted by the Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (WNSAA) and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The Archdiocese requires schools seeking its accreditation to meet WNSAA accreditation requirements in addition to meeting standards set by the Archdiocese.

Table 7

**Agencies Providing Accreditation to Participating Schools**  
1998-99 School Year

	Number of Schools <u>Accredited*</u>	Number of Schools Seeking <u>Accreditation</u>
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association	36	2
Archdiocese of Milwaukee	26	1
North Central Association of Secondary Schools	2	0
North Central Association of Schools and Colleges	2	0
Independent Schools Association of the Central States	2	0
National Lutheran School Accreditation	1	2
National Catholic Educational Association	1	0
Other	6	5

\* Schools may hold accreditation from more than one agency.

Achievement of WNSAA accreditation standards—and even achievement of requirements for becoming a recognized candidate for accreditation—would require a school to be in compliance with the standards for Choice schools described in s. 118.165(1), Wis. Stats. Each fully accredited school must have demonstrated, among other criteria, that it:

- has developed a comprehensive curriculum plan that is regularly evaluated and revised and includes fine arts, physical education, and safety, in addition to the six subjects required by state statutes (reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health);
- provides a wide variety and diversity of print, nonprint, and manipulative materials to accommodate individual differences in pupils, and that books, materials, and equipment are adequate in quantity and quality to meet the needs of pupils;

- operates with location, grounds, and a physical plant consistent with the school’s purposes and the needs of the pupils, and that it ensures the physical well-being of occupants with respect to sanitation, lighting, heating, ventilation, acoustics, and maintenance; and
- employs as teachers only those who hold a bachelor’s degree or its academic equivalent from an accredited institution, including at least 40 semester hours of work in general education and at least 12 semester hours in areas such as educational measurement and psychology, plus student teaching.

In comparison, public school teachers are required to hold a valid teaching license based upon completion of a college or university teacher education program approved by the Department, to pass a background investigation, and to comply with other requirements pertaining to the specific subject area, grade level, and special needs of the pupils to be taught. These requirements include the necessary credits in the subject area, an education course sequence of at least 24 credits, and a full semester of student teaching.

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**Four of the 28 non-accredited schools were subject to other forms of independent review.**

Among the 28 schools that reported no accreditation, 4 are subject to different forms of independent review of educational quality. One school follows the principles of educator Marva Collins and is annually evaluated and licensed by the national organization of such schools. Three of the non-accredited schools serve as “partnership schools” with MPS; that is, MPS contracts with these schools to serve pupils who remain enrolled in MPS. Schools that enter into these contracts agree to:

- administer standardized tests provided by MPS;
- meet certain program performance measures, including minimum graduation and attendance rates; and
- use only teachers who meet certain licensure requirements specified in the contract, or who are supervised by state-licensed teachers.

While the use of standardized tests is the subject of considerable debate in Wisconsin and nationally, they are seen by many as a form of accountability and are statutorily required in the public schools. Standardized tests are created and scored by independent agencies, and results are typically reported in a way that indicates how each pupil has performed in relation to his or her grade-level peers. As a result, these

tests provide an assessment of each pupil's progress independent of the school's own judgment. Standardized tests can be used to identify and diagnose individual pupils' academic progress in comparison to previous scores or to the scores of a group of similarly situated pupils.

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**Standardized tests were used by 68 schools.**

Of the 84 schools responding to our survey question regarding testing, 68 reported administering standardized tests of some type to their pupils. Several schools administer more than one type of test; the types of tests they reported using are shown in Table 8.

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Table 8

**Standardized Tests Administered by Schools Participating in the Choice Program  
1998-99 School Year**

	<u>Number of Schools Administering the Test</u>
Iowa Tests of Basic Skills	52
Cognitive Abilities Test (COGAT)	14
3rd Grade - Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (WRCT)	10
Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS)	6
Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholars Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)	5
Plan for Your Future (PLAN)	5
Metropolitan	5
Other	11

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Although several of the tests listed in Table 8 are norm-referenced (scores of individual pupils are compared to those of other pupils nationally who took the test), results of one type of test cannot be compared to the results of another. In addition, many participating schools use the scores primarily to assess individual pupils' progress and do not compile school-wide scores that could be compared with compiled scores of other schools. Participating schools are not required to make these test scores available to the public.

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## FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CHOICE PROGRAM

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To determine what types of pupils were participating in the Choice program, we examined data available from the Department (such as the grade level of pupils) and included questions about pupil characteristics (such as ethnicity) in our survey of schools. To examine the reasons families chose not to enroll their children in MPS and how they chose the private schools they did, we also sent 606 surveys to individuals whose children participated in the Choice program in the 1998-99 school year. We received and were able to analyze 159 responses, for a response rate of 26.2 percent. Although this response rate was low, respondents appeared to be a reasonably representative sample of all program participants with regard to characteristics such as enrollment in religious or secular schools and length of time in the program. We found that most families learned about the program and their children's schools through informal sources, such as friends or relatives, and that families decided to enroll their children in participating schools based on the perceived educational quality of the schools.

### Characteristics of Participating Pupils

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**High school pupils represented 6.5 percent of all Choice pupils in the 1998-99 school year.**

Participation in the Choice program varies across grade levels, as shown in Table 9. As a group, Choice pupils were younger than MPS pupils. In the 1998-99 school year, 75.4 percent were in kindergarten through fifth grade, compared to 55.3 percent of MPS pupils. Only 6.5 percent of Choice pupils were in grades 9 through 12, compared to 24.1 percent of MPS pupils.

Table 9

**Grade Level of MPS and Choice Pupils**  
1998-99 School Year

	MPS		Choice	
	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
4-year-old Kindergarten*	6,446	6.4%	663	10.8%
5-year-old Kindergarten	7,822	7.8	765	12.5
Grade 1	9,147	9.2	791	12.9
Grade 2	8,324	8.3	709	11.5
Grade 3	8,276	8.3	616	10.0
Grade 4	7,836	7.9	581	9.5
Grade 5	7,359	7.4	505	8.2
Grade 6	7,345	7.4	489	8.0
Grade 7	6,822	6.8	425	6.9
Grade 8	6,434	6.4	195	3.2
Grade 9	9,356	9.4	160	2.6
Grade 10	6,038	6.1	104	1.7
Grade 11	4,795	4.8	74	1.2
Grade 12	<u>3,814</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>1.0</u>
Total	99,814**	100.0%	6,141***	100.0%

\* For MPS, 4-year-old kindergarten includes Head Start and Early Childhood Education.

\*\* MPS enrollment figures do not include MPS pupils who attend non-MPS schools through the Chapter 220 and Open Enrollment programs.

\*\*\* This figure is a head count of enrolled pupils as reported in September 1998. It differs slightly from audited enrollment figures reported at year-end, which were based on an average of September and January enrollments; from survey responses, which contain slight response errors; and from full-time equivalent pupil counts used for funding purposes.

Possible reasons for the higher participation of children in the lower grades include:

- eligibility criteria allow pupils entering fourth grade and below to enter the Choice program without first being enrolled in MPS, so that a greater proportion of the pupils at these grade levels are eligible for Choice;



- private schools have more capacity in the elementary grades than in the high school grades;
- older pupils with established ties to MPS schools may be less likely to want to switch schools; and
- families of eligible pupils may perceive MPS offerings in the higher grades to be adequate or desirable.

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**In the 1998-99 school year, 62.4 percent of Choice pupils were African-American.**

Data obtained from our survey of participating schools indicate that African-American pupils constituted a majority of total Choice pupils, as shown in Table 10. The percentages of Choice pupils in the African-American, white, and Hispanic ethnic groups were similar to the percentages of MPS pupils in those ethnic groups.

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Table 10

**Ethnic Composition of Choice Participants and MPS Pupils\***  
1998-99 School Year

	MPS		Choice	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
African-American	61,271	61.4%	3,796	62.4%
White	20,164	20.2	1,149	18.8
Hispanic	13,285	13.3	805	13.2
Asian	4,070	4.1	144	2.4
Native American	1,024	1.0	40	0.7
Other			18	0.3
Unknown *	--	--	134	2.2
Total	99,814**	100.0%	6,086***	100.0%

\* Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment in nine schools was not reported by the schools. Ethnic composition for Choice pupils in five of these schools with a combined Choice enrollment of 442 pupils has been estimated from other available information.

\*\* MPS enrollment figures do not include MPS pupils who attend non-MPS schools through the Chapter 220 and Open Enrollment programs.

\*\*\* This figure is a head count of the total number of pupils for whom ethnicity was reported in response to our survey. It differs from total audited enrollment figures and from full-time equivalent pupil counts.

However, as shown in Table 11, the ethnic composition of Choice participants varied by grade level in the 1998-99 school year: 63.2 percent of pupils in kindergarten through fifth grade and 74.7 percent of high school pupils were African-American; 19.0 percent of pupils in kindergarten through the fifth grade and 9.8 percent of high school pupils were white.

Table 11

**Ethnic Composition of Choice Participants by Grade Level**  
1998-99 School Year

	Grades K-5		Grades 6-8		Grades 9 - 12		Grade Unknown*
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
African-American	2,831	63.2%	575	54.0%	289	74.7%	101
White	853	19.0	241	22.6	38	9.8	17
Hispanic	569	12.8	183	17.1	48	12.4	5
Asian	97	2.2	36	3.4	11	2.8	0
Native American	29	0.6	7	0.7	1	0.3	3
Other	15	0.3	3	0.3	0	0.0	0
Unknown*	<u>85</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>29</u>
	4,479	100.0%	1,065	100.0%	387	100.0%	155

\* Six schools reported ethnicity for Choice enrollment but did not indicate grade level. Choice enrollment was estimated for five schools, and four schools did not provide enrollment data by either ethnicity or grade.

**Reasons for Leaving the Public Schools**

**We surveyed participating families about why and how they chose schools.**

The reasons families leave MPS and join the Choice program have been the subject of some debate. Our survey of participating Choice families included questions regarding the reasons for their decisions and the information sources they used. Responses indicated that not all families made their choices in the same sequence. For example, many families first contacted a private school and then learned about the Choice

program from that school; others learned of the Choice program and then sought out private schools. Families relied upon different sources of information to learn about the available private school choices.

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**Almost 69 percent of Choice families were concerned that MPS does not teach the morals and values they want their children to learn.**

When asked about their reasons for choosing not to enroll their children in MPS, 82.0 percent of respondents indicated specific areas of dissatisfaction that contributed to their decision to leave the public school system. Respondents could indicate more than one reason. Among these families:

- 68.8 percent stated that MPS does not teach the morals and values that they want their children to learn in school;
- 52.3 percent stated that they were concerned with safety in public schools;
- 51.6 percent stated that they were dissatisfied with the public schools' class sizes;
- 36.7 percent stated that they were dissatisfied with the public schools' academic standards; and
- 35.2 percent stated that they were dissatisfied with the quality of public school teachers.

Among responding Choice families, 10.9 percent reported that their children had not been assigned to the MPS school or program that they desired. For these families, public school enrollment may have been an acceptable alternative, but their specific preferences within the public school system were not available to them. An additional 7.1 percent indicated no specific source of dissatisfaction with MPS but indicated that their only reason for not enrolling in MPS was that they knew of a private school they preferred.

### **Decision to Enter the Choice Program**

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**62.8 percent of families said they first learned about Choice from a private school.**

When participants were asked how they learned that their children could obtain private school tuition paid by the Choice program, 62.8 percent answered that they learned about the program from the private schools that their children now attend. One reason for this response could be that in the 1998-99 school year, unlike previous years, many pupils new to the Choice program had previously been enrolled in a private school. As many as 3,500 pupils who had attended private schools through a privately financed scholarship program administered by Partners Advancing Values in Education (PAVE) joined the Choice program in 1998-99, when religious schools were first admitted into the program.

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**Families that are eligible for Choice may not be aware of the program or their eligibility.**

However, it is also possible that knowledge of the Choice program is limited among eligible families that have not yet sought out private schools. Although some school administrators indicated to us that applicant families frequently were already aware of the Choice program, our interviews with education professionals who have contact with the eligible population indicate that knowledge of the program is uneven. Furthermore, a national public issues research organization, Public Agenda, reported in November 1999 that 60 percent of parents of school-aged children surveyed in Milwaukee and Cleveland reported knowing “very little or nothing” about vouchers, the term used by researchers to refer to publicly funded private-school tuition programs.

Respondents to our survey could indicate several sources of information about the Choice program. In addition to the school in which their child enrolled, they reported sources such as:

- a friend or relative (32.1 percent);
- the media (27.6 percent); and
- their house of worship (21.2 percent).

The most typical way respondents learned about the Choice program was not advertisements or news stories, but word-of-mouth within existing affiliations with private schools, churches, or other social contacts. As a result, families not connected to a social network that includes families already knowledgeable about the Choice program may have less opportunity to learn of the program.

### **Selection of a Private School**

Because families may select among private schools for reasons that are not related to the concerns that caused them to leave the public schools, we asked separately about the reasons for selecting a specific private school. As shown in Table 12, when asked to identify the most important reasons for selecting the school their children now attend, more than half of all respondents reported that their choice was based upon their belief that the private school provides higher educational standards.

Table 12

**Reasons for Selecting Among Private Schools\***

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Provides Higher Educational Standards	108	71.1%
Has Good Teachers	107	70.4
Is Safe And Orderly	103	67.8
Provides Religious Instruction	99	65.1
Has Fewer Children In Each Classroom	86	56.6
Is Located In My Neighborhood	57	37.5
Provides On-Site Before- Or After-School Care	36	23.7
Students Score Well On Standardized Tests	35	23.0
Offers Full-Day Kindergarten Class	29	19.1
Employs A Certain Teaching Method	23	15.1
Focuses On A Certain Ethnic Identification	22	14.5
Other Reasons	25	16.4

\* Based on 152 responses to this question; percentages total more than 100 because respondents could choose more than one answer.

Survey responses indicate that families made decisions to enroll their children in participating schools primarily on the basis of perceived quality and type of education their children would receive. Three of the top five answers—higher educational standards (71.1 percent), good teachers (70.4 percent), and fewer children in each classroom (56.6 percent)— are linked to academic quality. School safety was also a concern among families. Finally, approximately the same percentage of respondents who cited morals and values as a reason for leaving MPS stated that religious education was important as a reason for choosing a school. Concerns cited less frequently by families included neighborhood location (37.5 percent) and standardized test scores (23.0 percent).

These findings are similar to those of research conducted by other organizations on choices families make about schools. The Public Policy Forum of Milwaukee, an independent, nonprofit organization, interviewed families participating in the Milwaukee and Cleveland programs in 1997 and found a high degree of interest in the schools' curricula. In general, families wanted to know that a curriculum is challenging and is generally similar to those of other schools. Some were more interested in programs that focus on gifted and talented pupils, while others wanted to ensure that schools will accommodate

pupils with learning disabilities. That survey found teacher quality was also important to families, who want assurance that the teachers will have a positive effect both on their children’s academic progress and on their emotional well-being. The Public Policy Forum’s research also found less concern about standardized test scores; only 15 percent of the families it surveyed placed high importance on obtaining this kind of information.

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**Families frequently reported learning of the private schools their children attend from friends or relatives.**

As shown in Table 13, when families were asked how they learned about the private schools their children now attend, three sources of information were identified most frequently:

- a friend or relative (41.1 percent);
- through the child’s current private school or visiting private schools (33.8 percent); and
- a house of worship (26.5 percent).

Although the Department issues a press release each May that lists the schools participating in the Choice program and that is reported in Milwaukee news media, only 6.6 percent of respondents learned about their child’s school from the media.

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Table 13

**How Families Learned About Participating Schools\***

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A Friend or Relative	62	41.1%
A Private School	51	33.8
Church or Other House of Worship	40	26.5
The Media – Newspaper, TV or Radio	10	6.6
Department of Public Instruction	7	4.6
Neighborhood Posters or Flyers	6	4.0
The Internet	3	2.0
Other Methods	22	14.6

\* Based on 151 responses to this question; percentages total more than 100 because respondents could choose more than one answer.

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These families' responses were consistent with the participating schools' responses to questions about their methods of publicizing their participation in the Choice program. Ninety-four percent of responding schools indicated reliance on word-of-mouth as a source of publicity; 78.6 percent used letters to families of current pupils; and 57.1 percent used bulletins, newsletters, or mailings to members of the school's affiliated group or congregation. In contrast, only 19.0 percent of the responding schools reported using radio or television, and 14.3 percent reported using citywide newspapers to reach potential Choice pupils.

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**Most families considered only one private school before making a Choice selection.**

Out of 150 respondents who answered a question about how many private schools they considered before making a selection, 104 (69.3 percent) answered that they considered only one private school. These responses suggest that many families either already knew where they wanted to send their children, decided to enroll their children in the first school they visited, or were not aware of the number of schools available through the Choice program.

### **Pupil Mobility in the Choice Program**

Although frequent pupil mobility among schools is generally perceived to be undesirable, one purpose of the Choice program is to provide families with the opportunity to transfer between schools to seek the best education for their children. As a result, it is not clear whether mobility among schools indicates program success or failure. Although we could obtain data on pupil mobility from the Department, interpreting those data would require knowing why each child left each school. In addition, pupil mobility data available for MPS are not comparable to those available for the Choice program, so that expected levels of pupil mobility are difficult to determine.

One measure of parental satisfaction with the Choice program and with participating schools would be the rate at which pupils voluntarily leave schools. However, pupils can leave schools during the school year or can fail to return to schools between school years for reasons other than dissatisfaction with the school, such as family reorganization or relocation; completion of the program offered by the school, or a change in the pupil's needs. In addition, a pupil may leave the Choice program but not the school if changes in the family's financial situation make the pupil no longer eligible for the program, or the school or family arrange a different source of tuition assistance.

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**Some schools have higher rates of pupil departures than others do.**

Despite such restrictions on interpretation, available data indicate that most participating schools experienced relatively few pupil departures during the school year. We compared September 1998 and January 1999 enrollment lists and found that no pupils left 23 of the 86 participating schools during that period. However, in 3 of the 86 participating

schools, more than 25 percent of the Choice pupils present in September 1998 were no longer present as Choice pupils in January 1999. The average among the other 83 schools was 5.5 percent.

It is difficult to determine an expected rate of mobility among Choice pupils, and it can be expected that some schools will have higher mobility rates than others. For example, one of the three schools with a relatively high rate of mid-year pupil departures, Learning Enterprise High School, serves older teenagers who are parents and at risk of failure to graduate by the age of 20. Another one of the three schools, Medgar Evers Academy, has been the focus of concern regarding educational quality and high staff turnover and is among the three private schools participating in Choice for which PAVE will not provide privately funded scholarships.

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## COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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### **Schools are to comply with statutory requirements related to eligibility, equal access, and performance.**

To ensure accountability for the expenditure of public funds in private schools, the Legislature established requirements for participating schools in three general areas: restricting eligibility to pupils who meet certain requirements; ensuring equal access to all eligible pupils; and ensuring the schools' compliance with performance standards. In ruling that the Choice program was constitutional, the Wisconsin Supreme Court stated in 1998 that "enforcement of these minimal standards will require the State Superintendent to monitor the quality of secular education at the sectarian schools participating in the plan."

In practice, schools' compliance with the statutory requirements and the extent of the State Superintendent's monitoring authority have been matters of considerable debate. Two groups, the People for the American Way Foundation and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, filed a formal complaint with the Department in 1999 alleging that 17 schools had violated program requirements, including those that require random admissions, prohibit fees, and require schools to allow pupils to opt out of religious activities. The Department is investigating the charges. In addition, questions about the extent of the State Superintendent's monitoring authority were raised in 1998 after the Superintendent proposed that Choice schools, including religious schools, should comply with all standards and requirements applicable to public schools. After discussions by the interested parties, the State Superintendent maintained his position but has required schools to provide evidence of compliance with only those requirements included in the Choice program statutes. In survey responses and interviews, the comments of choice school administrators regarding the Department's recent handling of administrative matters were generally positive.

While opponents of the program believe that expanded oversight to ensure compliance with program requirements is necessary, supporters are concerned that any expansion of existing oversight authority could affect the 1998 Supreme Court ruling that the program was constitutional because the existing level of regulation and oversight did not create a legal entanglement between the State and the religious schools.

In the Department's existing oversight efforts, staff:

- communicate and explain program guidelines to participating schools through a detailed series of program memoranda, in response to questions raised by schools and matters initiated by the Department;
- review Notices of Intent, pupil application forms, admissions plans, and other documents submitted by the schools and provide comments and consultation to assist the schools in compliance;
- meet with the participating schools' Pupil Assignment Council to provide guidance and respond to questions; and
- investigate complaints.

### **Determination of Pupils' Eligibility**

As noted, statutes establish three eligibility requirements: applicants must live within the school district; family income must be below 175 percent of the federal poverty level; and pupils must meet prior-year enrollment requirements, which vary depending on grade level. The Department has, through administrative rule and policy directives, established procedures for schools to follow in determining whether these eligibility requirements are met.

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**Eight households with Choice pupils lived outside the City of Milwaukee.**

In general, we found schools to be following family residency requirements. We reviewed the addresses reported by the Department for 4,536 households with one or more Choice pupils in the 1998-99 school year and found 41, or fewer than 1 percent, that could not be recognized as being within the city of Milwaukee. We found eight addresses that were outside Milwaukee city limits: three in West Allis; two in Greenfield; and one each in Brown Deer, Caledonia, and St. Francis. In addition, there were 33 households with mailing addresses from which Milwaukee residency could not be determined, such as post office boxes. In a separate management letter to the Department, we have suggested improvements to procedures for verifying that each pupil is a resident of the City of Milwaukee. These improvements include changing the Department's database so that it automatically rejects addresses outside of Milwaukee and instituting procedures to ensure the Department does not make payments for pupils whose reported home addresses are questionable, incomplete, or nonexistent.

The Choice program is intended to serve low-income residents of the school district, and statutes establish income limits at 175 percent of the federal poverty level. As shown in Table 14, the limits for eligibility in the 1999-2000 school year range from \$19,355 for a household of two to \$39,095 for a household of six.

Table 14

**Family Income Eligibility Requirements**  
1999-2000 School Year

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Maximum Yearly Income</u>
1*	\$14,420
2	19,355
3	24,290
4	29,225
5	34,160
6**	39,095

\* For income eligibility purposes, foster children and other children who are living with adults who are not legally responsible for their economic support are considered to be households of one.

\*\* For each additional family member over six members, add \$4,935.

**Income eligibility is not precisely defined in statutes or rule.**

Neither statutes nor administrative rules governing the Choice program define income; specify the time period for which the schools should document families' income, such as monthly income at the time of application or annual income during the preceding calendar year; or specify whom to include in the determination of family or household size. However, the Department has provided written guidance suggesting how schools might determine applicants' income eligibility. Schools are encouraged first to request that families provide copies of their federal tax returns for the previous year. If families did not file federal tax returns, which is possible among low-income families, schools may require other forms of documentation for current income, such as earnings statements, disability payment stubs, or documents providing evidence of eligibility for food stamps. The Department does not review either the schools' procedures for determining families' incomes or their records of such determinations.

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**We found no significant noncompliance with income eligibility requirements.**

In our visits to 18 participating schools, we reviewed records of income-eligibility determinations so that we could determine the types of documentation required and whether the documentation was maintained. We observed adequate practices in each school. Like our school survey, which indicated schools accept various forms of documentation to verify income, our site visits found documentation that included tax returns, wage statements, and public assistance benefit statements. In addition, the Department of Revenue conducted, at our request, a review of state income tax returns filed by 340 randomly selected families participating in the Choice program in 1998-99. This review found 25 families that might not have been able to qualify for the program in 1998-99 based on their 1997 income. However, it is possible that these families might have qualified based on their income at the time they applied. The Department of Revenue's review found no families with reported incomes in excess of \$64,000, the level that would have disqualified the largest family in the sample.

Participating schools' accuracy in determining eligibility based on grade level and prior enrollment was more difficult to ascertain. School administrators report that prior enrollment is determined not only by statements provided on the Choice application form, but also as part of the transfer of records that takes place when a pupil enrolls in a new school.

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**By court order, exceptions to the prior-enrollment eligibility requirement were made in 1998-99.**

For the 1998-1999 school year, which provided the basis for most of the analysis in this report, a significant exception was provided to those pupils who had been eligible for the Choice program in the 1994-95 school year, but who had since enrolled in private schools. When the Wisconsin Supreme Court lifted an August 1995 injunction that had prohibited the participation of religious schools, it ruled that children who had been eligible to participate while the injunction was in force and who subsequently enrolled in private schools were eligible for the program when the injunction was lifted. As a result, these pupils could be admitted in 1998-99, the year we examined, without meeting the statutory criteria relating to prior enrollment.

## Ensuring Equal Access

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**Each school's ability to select among Choice pupils is limited by statute.**

To prevent schools from making admissions decisions on any criteria other than those established in statute, such as academic achievement or religious preference, statutes require that all eligible applicants must be admitted by a school if space is available, that a random selection process must be used if the number of eligible applicants exceeds space available, that applicants may attend at no cost to the family and that pupils may choose not to attend religious instruction or activities. To ensure that schools are complying with these requirements, the Department has provided guidance through administrative rule and policy directives.

### Current Admission Process

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**Schools cannot impose entrance requirements beyond the statutory eligibility criteria.**

The Department requires each participating school to submit an annual written plan describing its intended method for ensuring that, except for continuing pupils and their siblings, applicants will be accepted on a random basis. Schools may not participate until the Department has approved their plans. In memoranda to participating schools, the Department has established the following requirements:

- By May 1, each school is to report how many Choice pupils it will be able to enroll in each grade before an application period begins.
- Each school is to set at least one open application period, during which Choice applications will be received but admission decisions will not be made. Admitting applicants on a first-come, first-served basis and closing the application process as soon as all available Choice capacity are filled is considered violations of random admissions requirements.
- Applications must be on forms prescribed by the Department and must be accompanied by proof of income and, for kindergarten applicants, age.
- If all available Choice capacity is not filled during the first application period, the school must admit all applicants and set a second open applications period.

- If the number of applications exceeds the available Choice capacity, the school must conduct a random selection and may conduct separate drawings by grade level.
- After enough names have been drawn to fill the available Choice capacity in each grade level, the selection process is to continue until all applications are assigned to a waiting list.
- Because statutes require schools to notify families of admissions decisions within 60 days of when the application was submitted, the entire open application period must be completed no more than 60 days after it began.
- During the year, as pupils leave the school for any reason, the school must turn first to a waiting list with a randomly determined order.
- At the end of a school year, any remaining waiting list is cancelled, so that any pupils who remained on the waiting list must reapply.

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**Only 11 schools reported conducting random selection for 1998-99.**

In responding to our survey, 11 schools reported conducting random selection among eligible applicants for the 1998-99 school year, and 72 schools reported having sufficient capacity to accept all applicants.

To prevent schools from placing impermissible admissions requirements on Choice pupils, or from discouraging some from applying, the Department has directed that Choice families may not be asked to submit any information that is not required on the Department's application form, such as information related to race, ethnic background, religion, or test scores. The Department reviews each school's written description of its admission process to determine whether anything is requested of applicants that is not specified in statutes. It has rejected plans that did not conform to recommended guidelines, including a proposed plan that used an application form inquiring about the applicant's physical, emotional, social, and academic needs. Similarly, the Department rejected a proposed plan that included an application form inquiring about the child's date of baptism and the church the child attended.

In order to comply with the Department's guidelines, schools need to determine, before beginning the application process, whether each family will apply for admission through the Choice program or through the school's normal procedures. If a family is not interested in the Choice program, the school and family may freely exchange

information. Families and school officials are allowed to discuss the child's needs and services offered by the school. The school is also allowed to inform the family of any requirements or expectations it may have established, such as pledges of support for school goals, family participation expectations, or other school rules. However, if a family is interested in seeking a Choice seat, the school officials must provide it with the Department's Choice application form and may not request any information about the child's needs. A school is to accept completed applications only after the beginning date of its open application period. After the end of the school's open application period, the family can be notified of the child's eligibility for the Choice program and admission into the school or notified that the child has been placed on a waiting list.

Strict compliance with these requirements may be difficult, if not impossible, because a single application form is used both to determine eligibility for the Choice program and to make admissions decisions for specific schools. Therefore, a school currently must be able to predict the outcome of the eligibility determination before each family submits an application, or each family must make a choice between applying for regular admission or admission to a Choice seat without knowing whether its child would be found eligible for the Choice program. However, responses to our family survey and our interviews with school administrators indicate that only rarely do families contact schools specifically seeking admission as Choice pupils; families are more likely to contact schools seeking general information about the school or its admissions process.

Limitations on the exchange of information between schools and families is made more significant because of the differences among the participating private schools, their educational programs, and the services they offer. As indicated, while all participating private schools must provide core instruction as required by s. 118.165(1), Wis. Stats., the schools vary widely in their provision of special services and in educational approach. This variety of approaches and services reflects one of the purposes of the Choice program—to make the educational choices that have been available to more affluent families available to low-income families. However, because the availability of specialized services varies among schools, some schools may not meet the needs of some pupils, much as is the case in MPS, where many schools also specialize. However, unlike the MPS district as a whole, the Choice program as a whole is not required to provide all services, such as some highly specialized special education services, to pupils with such needs, and some families may therefore be unable to find a school acceptable to them.

While the intent of the Department's restrictions on the type of information that interested families and Choice schools may exchange is to ensure that all eligible pupils have an equal chance of admission into

the program and that schools do not discourage eligible pupils from entering the program, limitations on that exchange may make it difficult for families to determine which schools best meet their children's needs. In addition, under the current process, schools are effectively the families' primary or only source of knowledge about the Choice program and its requirements during the application and admissions process. Therefore, some families may not understand that if they meet the statutory criteria of residence, income, and prior attendance at MPS, they must either be admitted to a Choice school if space is available or placed in a lottery if applications exceed available space. Without such knowledge, the potential exists that some schools may attempt to discourage some families from applying.

Based on our review of the Department's current procedures and discussions with participants in the Choice program, it would appear that alternatives could be developed. Such alternatives would be based on separating the determination of program eligibility from admissions decisions for a particular school and could:

- provide assurance that families are informed of their rights and options during the school-selection process, before that process has been completed; and
- enable families to establish their children's eligibility for the Choice program before applying to any individual school, so that they can exchange information with the schools without fear of jeopardizing the eligibility determination.

### **Separating Eligibility Determinations from Admissions Decisions**

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**Separating eligibility and admissions decisions could help to ensure compliance with random admission requirements.**

In its guidelines for schools, the Department has attempted to ensure that all eligible pupils have an equal opportunity of selection, while preserving the families' and schools' ability to arrange suitable educational placements for children. Separating the determination of program eligibility from admissions to specific schools could help to accomplish both purposes and would eliminate the current requirement that families must have their children's eligibility determined separately by each school in which they are interested.

To accomplish this, the Department could instruct participating schools to determine any child's eligibility for a Choice voucher when an inquiry is made, rather than only during the school's designated open enrollment period, as is the current practice. Upon making an eligibility determination based on Milwaukee residency, family income, and prior enrollment, the school would inform both the family and the Department of the family's eligibility.



Participating schools would still need to select one or two dates for Choice admission decisions, as is currently done. On these dates, which would occur before the beginning of each school year, a school would either admit all eligible Choice applicants or conduct a lottery and create a waiting list. The school would then inform the Department of the admitted pupils' names, so that their tuition could be paid, and the names of the eligible pupils placed on waiting lists, so that better information concerning the demand for the program will be available.

If the determination of program eligibility were separated from the enrollment decision, it is possible these families could be better informed of their rights concerning enrollment decisions, such as the right to opt out of religious instruction. It may also be more difficult for a school to attempt to discourage enrollment of certain pupils, or to use impermissible criteria in admission decisions. The information that would be useful to families could include:

- a description of the requirements of the admission process, informing each family that no participating school with available space could refuse admission to their child and that no other conditions could be placed upon admission to a Choice seat;
- a listing of schools participating in the program, to enable families to consider and compare additional schools;
- an explanation of a family's right to opt out of religious activities;
- a list of permissible and impermissible fees; and
- a statement of the statutory requirements for participating schools, such as that a school must provide instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health. Information about these requirements might improve families' ability to assess schools before enrollment and to assess the schools' performance after enrollment.

Currently, there are no effective, reliable methods of informing families of their rights in the program. The application form contains limited information, and the Department cannot contact families directly because it is not notified of participants' names or addresses until after schools have enrolled them. However, alternative methods of informing families of their rights could be developed.

One alternative would be for the Department to direct participating schools to fully inform families of their rights. The Department currently provides schools with program brochures for distribution, but schools are not required to distribute them, and it is difficult to determine how actively all schools distribute such information.

A second alternative would be to provide information about families' rights on the application form. The form could be expanded to include information described above and designed so that once completed by the family, it could be separated so that the application information could be submitted to the school, while the program information could be retained by the family. Because this alternative would require only the additional costs of redesigning the application form, costs would be limited. However, implementation could be uneven if schools were relied on for implementation.

A third alternative would be for the Department to mail information directly to families after the schools notify them that they have met statutory eligibility criteria for Choice. In its mailing, the Department could include information on a family's rights. This alternative would require the Department's resources to mail a document to each Choice family. However, it could be an effective means of communication because the distribution of information would be handled centrally.

If any schools are currently attempting to discourage enrollment by some children, they may continue to do so in the future. However, by informing eligible families of their rights in the admissions process before that process is complete, the Department could improve the families' ability to monitor and judge the schools' compliance with admissions requirements. The Department would no longer need to limit the exchange of information about pupils' needs and schools' abilities to meet those needs, because such information could no longer affect eligibility determinations, which would already have been made.

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**Timely information could enable families to consider and apply to several schools.**

In addition, once a pupil had been determined to be eligible for the Choice program, the family could seek information about other participating schools if it wished and submit the pupil's name for inclusion in more than one random selection lottery without having to reestablish eligibility with each school. Schools could also allow families to seek admission through both the Choice lottery and their regular admissions processes. A family might choose to apply through both processes to obtain a more timely admissions decision than might be possible from the Choice process alone, or to ensure admission in the event that the child was not selected for a Choice seat but could seek another source of financial assistance.

## Academic Quality

A third general area in which the statutes establish program requirements is academic performance. When the Choice program began operation in 1990, the administrative code required that Choice pupils be given the same standardized tests as MPS pupils, in order that their academic progress could be compared. That requirement was removed when the program was modified in 1995. To ensure a minimum level of quality, statutes currently define a minimum set of subject areas that must be offered by participating schools, require that schools meet at least one of four identified standards, and require that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction monitor the performance of Choice pupils and determine whether schools are meeting one of the four standards.

### Performance Standards for Participating Schools

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**Private schools participating in Choice must meet at least one performance standard.**

Each school participating in the Choice program is required to demonstrate annually that it meets at least one of four statutory standards relating to performance established in s. 119.23(7)(a), Wis. Stats. To demonstrate achievement of these standards, each participating school is required to submit by October 15 a report to the Department describing the criteria that it will use in measuring its achievement of the standard, and to submit by June 30 information demonstrating compliance with the standard.

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**Two of the four performance standards address educational results.**

Two of the four standards directly address pupils' academic achievement. They require schools to demonstrate either:

- that at least 70 percent of the pupils in the program advance one grade level each year; or
- that at least 80 percent of the pupils in the program demonstrate significant academic progress.

For pupils in grades 9 through 12, "advance one grade level" means successful completion of at least 4 credits or the equivalent as approved by the State Superintendent during each school year. For other pupils, advancement of one grade level requires achievement of 70 percent of the instructional objectives for each grade level in reading, mathematics, and language arts as those objectives are established, evaluated, and documented by the school, or achievement of at least an .08 grade-equivalent increase for each month between the spring and fall administration of a published, nationally normed test that measures each pupil's present achievement level in comparison with age or grade level cohorts. Schools choosing to meet this standard are required to maintain

records of pupil achievement for at least three years; to pay all costs incurred in the administration, scoring, and reporting of results of the academic achievement tests; and to ensure that test security is maintained.

“Significant academic progress” is defined as requiring that a pupil demonstrate improvement in reading and mathematics in comparison to his or her performance level in the previous school year and that he or she demonstrate satisfactory performance on at least 50 percent of any new instructional concepts in reading and mathematics introduced during the current school year. Each pupil’s level of attainment is to be documented in a written record of performance at the beginning, mid-point, and end of each semester.

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**Two of the four performance standards address participation.**

The remaining two standards require the schools to demonstrate that families or pupils have participated in ways that educators generally believe to be associated with academic performance. These two standards require schools to demonstrate either:

- that their average attendance rate for pupils in the Choice program is at least 90 percent; or
- that at least 70 percent of the Choice pupils’ families meet parental involvement criteria established by the private school.

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**Schools reported meeting the performance standards they selected.**

Reports from the 84 schools that participated in the program in both 1998-99 and 1999-2000, and therefore were required to have submitted documentation of continuing eligibility before the 1999-2000 school year began, indicate that:

- all had submitted the necessary documentation to the Department;
- this documentation had been reviewed by the Department; and
- all schools reported compliance with the performance standards they had selected.

A majority (45) of these schools chose to document their compliance with one of the standards relating to educational results: 43 demonstrated that 70 percent of the Choice pupils advanced one grade level each year, and 2 demonstrated that at least 80 percent of their pupils made significant academic progress. Of the remaining schools, 33 chose to meet the attendance rate standard, and 6 chose to meet the parental

involvement standard. Currently, the Department reviews reports submitted by the schools but does not conduct site visits for independent verification.

The question of the quality of the academic programs provided by private schools participating in the Choice program has been actively debated in Milwaukee and nationally. Evaluations of choice programs in other states have resulted in mixed findings of either no differences between achievement test results for public school pupils and those participating in choice programs, or small but statistically significant achievement gains for pupils in choice programs. In addition, it should be noted that previous evaluations of academic performance of pupils in the Milwaukee Choice program were conducted in the early years of the program, when there were relatively few pupils and participating schools. However, evaluations of pupil performance are now more difficult because the requirement for standardized testing of all Choice pupils was eliminated in 1995, when the program was amended.

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**Nine schools reported  
no form of independent  
quality assurance.**

Many of the schools currently participating in the Choice program have well-established reputations in Milwaukee for providing high-quality academic programs. As noted, most participating schools are either independently accredited, use standardized testing, or both. On the other hand, there have been questions about the quality of programs in a small number of participating private schools. Nine schools serving 366 Choice pupils had no accreditation, were not seeking accreditation, and administered no standardized tests. One other school provided no information to us. Furthermore, three schools serving 282 Choice pupils—Alex’s Academic of Excellence, Medgar Evers Academy, and Texas Bufkin Academy—had indicated to the Department that they met statutory requirements but were judged unacceptable by PAVE for its scholarship pupils.

One of these schools, Alex’s Academic of Excellence, was closed temporarily in November 1999, after city building inspectors determined that its facilities did not meet applicable safety codes. In response, the Department instructed all schools participating in the Choice program to file a certificate of occupancy by February 15, 2000, showing they meet school building codes. The Department has also announced its intention to revise program rules so that schools not yet participating in the program would be required to file such certificates before they enter.

As noted, the Department relies on reviews of written reports submitted by schools to determine compliance with statutory standards, and conducts no site visits. While this approach may be reasonable for those schools that have obtained independent verification of quality through accreditation or other means, it may not be adequate for all schools, especially those about which questions have been raised by external parties, and which are not accredited or do not use standardized testing.

Department staff have indicated that in light of past controversies about the extent of their authority, and the absence of explicit statutory language referencing site visits, they do not believe they have adequate authority to conduct site visits for independent verification of schools' statements of compliance with standards. On the other hand, some might argue that the existing requirements in s. 119.23(7), Wis. Stats., which require the State Superintendent to determine whether schools are meeting one of the four performance standards, provide adequate authority to conduct such reviews when the Superintendent believes it necessary. Potential concerns by schools may be limited if the Department limited the scope of such site visits to a review of records related to the performance standard selected by the school.

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## APPENDIX I

### **Profiles of Schools Participating in the Choice Program**

1998-99 School Year

Appendix I contains brief profiles of schools that participated in the Choice program in the 1998-99 school year. These are based on information provided by the schools in response to our survey, as well as information drawn from other sources. Because response to the survey was voluntary, complete information is not available for all schools.

The operating budgets shown for some schools may not equal total enrollment figures multiplied by cost per pupil: total enrollment figures reflect reported pupil counts on the second Friday in January, whereas cost per pupil is calculated using the average of the January and September counts. In addition, total enrollment reflects head count, whereas average cost per pupil is based on full-time equivalent pupils (kindergarten pupils are counted as less than full-time pupils in higher grades.) Finally, some schools' reported annual tuition for non-Choice students may be lower than their reported per pupil costs because the schools' costs are subsidized by an affiliated church or other source of funding.

**Agape Center of Academic Excellence**  
5250 N. 35<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-4704

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1995

**Entered Choice program:** 1996-97

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 104

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 104

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	103	99%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	1	1
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	104	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$530,054

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,905

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** All were Choice pupils.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.1 miles  
Maximum:9.8 miles  
Median: 2.8 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Agape's programming includes reading, writing, science, global studies, creative arts, and math. In addition to its curriculum, Agape offers adult basic education, family counseling, consumer education, individual and group therapy, and job readiness to facilitate family involvement.



**Believers in Christ Christian Academy**  
4065 N. 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-6611

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Believers in Christ)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Accreditation pending with the Network of Independent Black Schools

**Founded:** 1990

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 258

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 129

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	127	98%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	2	2
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	129	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,243,848

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,967

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,500

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.0 miles  
Maximum: 13.0 miles  
Median: 3.1 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

The Christian Academy incorporates Christian principles into its curriculum, which includes instruction in English (literature, grammar, spelling), science, mathematics, arts, music, drama, and athletics. The program also incorporates the theory of multiple intelligences.

**Blessed Sacrament School**  
**3126 S. 41<sup>st</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215-4027**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1929

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 201

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 15

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	15	100
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	15	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,324,854

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,789

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,000 for parishioners  
\$2,000 for non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.6 miles  
Maximum: 5.0 miles  
Median: 1.9 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Blessed Sacrament School utilizes a developmentally sequential curriculum, which incorporates a variety of teaching methods, strategies, resources, and assessment tools to assist teachers in integrating the various curricular subjects.

**Blessed Trinity Catholic School**  
**5375 N. Green Bay Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-5005**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1995

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 201

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 168

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	167	99%
American Indian	1	1
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	168	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,007,628

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,951

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,950

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 11.4 miles  
Median: 3.3 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Blessed Trinity, working in conjunction with Messmer High School and Blessed Trinity Parish, incorporates Christian values in its programming.

**Blyden Delany Academy**  
**2466 W. McKinley Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53205**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Not available

**Accreditation:** Not available

**Founded:** Not available

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 33

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 29

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>29</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	29	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,132

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Not available

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.0 miles  
Maximum: 10.6 miles  
Median: 3.0 miles

No educational program information provided.

**Bruce Guadalupe Community School**  
**1028 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1990

**Entered Choice program:** 1990-91

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 500

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 10

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	10	100
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	10	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,903

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** All non-Choice pupils participated in the MPS Partnership Program.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.7 miles  
Maximum: 1.8 miles  
Median: 1.0 mile

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Bruce-Guadalupe Community School, a nonsectarian, nonprofit, private, community-based school, provides bilingual education in English and Spanish.

**Catholic East Elementary**  
**2461 N. Murray Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211-4493**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1982

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 186

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 93

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	14	15%
American Indian	1	1
Asian	1	1
Hispanic	16	17
White	61	66
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	93	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$647,238

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,537

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,450

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.1 miles  
Maximum: 15.3 miles  
Median: 1.5 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Catholic East Elementary School integrates Christian morality into its programming, which includes daily instruction in reading, language arts, math, science, religion, and social studies, as well daily computer-assisted instruction in reading, math, and problem-solving skills. The curriculum also includes weekly music, art, and physical education classes.

**Ceria M. Travis Academy**  
**623 W. Cherry St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** Pending with the Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1996

**Entered Choice program:** 1997-98

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 62

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 54

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	53	98%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	1	2
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	54	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$310,131

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,573

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Not available

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 10.0 miles  
Median: 3.4 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Ceria M. Travis Academy focuses on behavior improvements through smaller class sizes and counseling while utilizing the creative arts and school-to-work experiences. The curriculum includes English, geography, U.S. history, Black history, health, mathematics, physical education, music, computers, creative arts, science, and reading.

**Christ Memorial Lutheran**  
**5719 N. Teutonia Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-4198**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1945

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 115

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 38

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>38</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	38	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$886,264

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,661

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$630 for church members  
\$1,900 for non-members

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 7.3 miles  
Median: 2.4 miles

No educational program information provided.



**Clara Muhammad School**  
**317 W. Wright St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Islamic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1973

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 70

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 59

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	58	98%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	1	2
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	59	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$309,226

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,908

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$5,000

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 11.2 miles  
Median: 2.8 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Clara Muhammad School integrates knowledge and learning with Muslim teachings based on the Quran.

**Community Vision Academy LTD**  
**4316 W. North Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208-0357**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Baptist)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1996

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 39

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 34

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	34	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	34	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$246,703

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$6,246

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,750

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 10.0 miles  
Median: 1.9 miles

No educational program information provided.

**Corpus Christi School**  
**8545 W. Villard Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53225-3599**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1962

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 130

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 65

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	25	38%
American Indian	1	2
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	2	3
White	29	45
Other	8	12
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	65	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$671,038

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,484

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,675 parishioners  
\$2,325 non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.0 miles  
Maximum: 6.6 miles  
Median: 1.6 miles

The school's informational brochure includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Corpus Christi School incorporates Catholic values into classroom instruction and activities that include: liturgies, reading, English, spelling, math, science, social studies, human development and sexuality education, music, art, computers, and gym. The school also provides a special learning center for individualized remedial academic work and testing.

**Divine Savior Holy Angels**  
**4257 N. 100<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222-1313**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** Commission on Schools of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

**Founded:** 1892

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 507

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 3

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	3	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$2,863,368

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,648

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$4,988

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 3.4 miles  
Maximum: 5.4 miles  
Median: 4.4 miles

The school's informational brochure includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, an all-girls, college preparatory high school, integrates Catholic teachings into its curriculum through theology classes. The curriculum also includes English, science, math, social studies, foreign languages, art, music, business/computer applications, family and consumer studies, physical education, and seven advanced-placement course offerings.

**Early View Academy of Excellence**  
**4300 N. Green Bay Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Apostolic Christian)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1998

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 103

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 96

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>96</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	96	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$398,290

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,845

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$4,900

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 13 miles  
Median: 3.3 miles

No educational program information provided.

**Emmaus Lutheran School**  
**2818 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53206-1645**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1891

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** Not available

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 107

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	107	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	107	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$474,307

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,817

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,730

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.0 miles  
Maximum:9.7 miles  
Median: 2.0 miles

The school's informational brochure includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Using God's Word as the guide, the ministry of Emmaus Lutheran School exists to assist children and their families to realize their worth in Christ's Kingdom while engaging children in educational experiences.

**Family Academy**  
**3201 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216-3612**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1991

**Entered Choice program:** 1996-97

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 37

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 33

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	33	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	33	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$210,519

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,036

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Not available

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.0 miles  
Maximum: 5.7 miles  
Median: 2.1 miles

The school's informational brochure includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Family Academy focuses on hands-on, experiential learning within the framework of Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences. This involves a curriculum covering subject areas such as math, reading, English, spelling, science, social studies, Spanish, music, and art.

**Family Montessori School**  
**5806 W. Burleigh St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210-1516**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1978

**Entered Choice program:** 1996-97

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 43

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 26

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	21	81 %
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	2	8
White	3	11
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	26	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$141,451

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,736

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,750

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.2 miles  
Maximum:8.8 miles  
Median: 1.9 miles

The school's informational brochure includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Family Montessori School uses the Montessori approach, with a slant on traditional education, in its programming, which includes the following: Spanish, art, music, gym, field trips, science, geography, math, sign language, reading, history, and cultural enrichment.



**Gospel Lutheran School**  
**3965 N. 15<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53206-2916**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** National Lutheran School Accreditation pending

**Founded:** 1919

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 102

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 73

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	73	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	73	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$403,613

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,957

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,521

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.0 miles  
Maximum: 7.5 miles  
Median: 1.6 miles

The school's informational brochure includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Gospel Lutheran School works with Gospel Lutheran Church to integrate Christian values into a curriculum that includes reading, math, science, social studies, art, music, and an emphasis on small classes and individualized instruction.

**Gray's Child Development Center**  
**6618 N. Teutonia Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Christian)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1996

**Entered Choice program:** 1996-97

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** Not available

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 45

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	40	89%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	5	11
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	45	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$367,822

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$8,558

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** K4: \$4,992  
 K5–2nd grade: \$6,323

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
 Maximum: 6.7 miles  
 Median: 2.6 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Gray's Child Development Center, Inc., exists to provide quality, diverse services to develop assets of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area to ensure a safe and healthy future for people of all ages. Gray's Child Development Center seeks to develop the whole child—physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and morally—through learning activities and guidance according to developmentally appropriate practice involving the use of the multiple intelligences.

**Harambee Community School**  
**110 W. Burleigh St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212-2046**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1969

**Entered Choice program:** 1990-91

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 351

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 247

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	247	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	247	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$2,330,930

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$6,742

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,500 for one child  
\$2,000 for two children  
\$2,050 for three or more children

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 13.0 miles  
Median: 3.0 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Harambee Community School provides a curriculum inclusive of Afrocentricity, multiculturalism, and family values.

**Hickman's Academy Preparatory School**  
**6401 W. Capitol Dr.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1997

**Entered Choice program:** 1997-98

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 93

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 82

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	79	96%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	3	4
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	82	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$354,377

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,882

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Not available

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 1.1 miles  
Maximum: 8.9 miles  
Median: 3.2 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Hickman Preparatory School's utilization of educational technology and an accelerated curriculum helps children develop positive learning attitudes, master academic skills, and internalize values that foster a love for life-long learning.

**Holy Redeemer Christian Academy**  
**3500 W. Mother Daniels Way**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Church of God in Christ)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Association of Christian Schools International, Church of God in Christ—  
Department of Education, and Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting  
Association

**Founded:** 1990

**Entered Choice program:** 1996-97

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 286

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 242

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	234	97%
American Indian	3	1
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	3	1
White	2	1
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	242	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,310,342

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,841

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$4,995

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 9.0 miles  
Median: 2.4 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Holy Redeemer Christian Academy incorporates Christian principles into its general curriculum that emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics, and developing a positive self-image.

**Holy Spirit School**  
**2251 S. 31<sup>st</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1903

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 58

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 26

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	4	15%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	13	50
White	9	35
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	26	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$531,369

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,960

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$4,300

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 5.6 miles  
Median: 0.7 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Holy Spirit School incorporates Christian teaching into its curriculum in an effort to teach an understanding of cultural diversity and global awareness.

**Immaculate Conception School**  
**1051 E. Russell Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207-1820**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1886

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 175

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 38

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	2	5%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	9	24
White	27	71
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	38	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** Not available

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,100

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 4.4 miles  
Median: 0.4 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

The educational goals of Immaculate Conception School are formulated with emphasis on Catholic Christian values, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills within a framework of sound discipline.

**Keal Preparatory School**  
**326 W. Brown St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212**

**Type of school:** For profit; religious (Christian)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1998

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 11

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 9

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	9	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	9	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$39,043

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,774

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$3,500

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.9 miles  
Maximum: 5.1 miles  
Median: 2.8 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

The curriculum at Keal is designed to promote excellence in various academic areas; foster positive social interactions; and develop healthy self-images, values, morals, and ethical beliefs. Specifically, the curriculum includes courses in the following: language arts, reading, social studies, science, health/physical education, music, art, computers, human relations, and mathematics.



**Lakeshore Montessori School**  
**1841 N. Prospect Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1972

**Entered Choice program:** 1990-91

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 31

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 11

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	8	73%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	1	9
White	2	18
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	11	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$71,450

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,496

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Half-day K4: \$3,088, plus \$20 application fee  
 Full-day K5: \$4,750, plus \$20 application fee

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.4 miles  
 Maximum: 11 miles  
 Median: 4.5 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Lakeshore Montessori School is a small school by design, in order to be less intimidating to young children. The Montessori educational approach and philosophy are used with the teachers, acting as guides, leading children through presentations of academic work that is in sequence to allow assurance of success with the next level of achievement. Problem-solving skills, self direction, and the ability to accept cultural diversity as social richness are concepts that are addressed in a focused manner. Self assessment, a skill required for life-long successful achievement, is an important element in Lakeshore's curriculum.

**Learning Enterprise High School**  
**4744 N. 39<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1988

**Entered Choice program:** 1992-93

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 205

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 76

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	76	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	76	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,220,627

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$7,775

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Not available

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 13.2 miles  
Median: 3.0 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Learning Enterprise High School places a strong emphasis on individualized instruction. Teachers develop an educational plan of action for each student and use materials and techniques that best help students obtain their high school diplomas. Learning Enterprise offers integrated curricula, cooperative learning, and school-to-work transition. The curricula combine the use of printed material, audio-visual aids, and computer-assisted instruction with the personalized attention of certified teachers and a 15:1 ratio. Learning Enterprise also provides child care. Vocational courses offered include cosmetology, home mechanics, day care certification, food service, desk-top publishing, auto mechanics, small engines, and photography. The core curriculum includes courses in foreign language, music, art, and physical education.

**Louis Tucker Academy**  
**331 S. 68<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1997

**Entered Choice program:** 1997-98

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 49

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 48

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	47	98%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	1	2
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	48	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$148,597

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,835

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$3,500

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 2.8 miles  
Maximum: 9.5 miles  
Median: 5.3 miles

No educational program information provided.

**Lutheran Special School**  
**9700 W. Grantosa Dr.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222-1407**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1958

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 25

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 9

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	5	56%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	4	44
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	9	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$192,193

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$7,845

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,900 for members  
 \$3,600 for non-members

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 1.7 miles  
 Maximum: 9.1 miles  
 Median: 5.7 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Lutheran Special School is a special education program designed to help children with learning difficulties experience success in a variety of settings. Housed in various Lutheran schools throughout the Milwaukee area, Lutheran Special School offers a variety of programs including a self-contained classroom, a resource room, a teacher consultant program, as well as in-service opportunities for parents and teachers. Each program focuses on the strengths of the child and uses an assortment of teaching techniques to help the child progress at his or her own rate of speed. It is the goal of Lutheran Special School programs to assist teachers of special needs students to enable these children to remain in their age-appropriate classrooms whenever possible.

**Marquette University High School**  
**3401 W. Wisconsin Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208-3842**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** Jesuit Secondary Education Association, National Catholic Educational Association, and North Central Association of Secondary Schools

**Founded:** 1857

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 974

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 11

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	4	36%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	5	46
White	2	18
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	11	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$7,660,191

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$7,853

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$5,460

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 2.8 miles  
Maximum: 6.7 miles  
Median: 3.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Marquette University High School is a Catholic, urban, college preparatory school in the Jesuit tradition. The focus of the academic program is the college bound student, fortified by both accelerated courses and the advanced placement program which offer college credit options for 15 courses. In addition, students must fulfill yearly volunteer service requirements. The school also offers 46 organizations and clubs, 36 interscholastic teams in 13 different sport areas (including one club sport), and four different intramural activities.

**Marva Collins Preparatory School**  
**2449 N. 36<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1997

**Entered Choice program:** 1997-98

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 179

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 155

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>155</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	155	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$844,308

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,260

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Tuition was based on a sliding fee scale.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.0 miles  
Maximum:9.9 miles  
Median: 2.1 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

The Marva Collins Preparatory School is a nonprofit, non-sectarian, private elementary school based on the philosophy of famed Chicago educator Marva Collins. Collins' methods are framed around her conviction that children with high self esteem will live up to what is expected of them. Utilizing Collins' curriculum and teacher training, the school opened with kindergarten and first grade classes and will add grades each year up to eighth grade.

**Medgar Evers Academy**  
**2200 N. 12<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53205-1396**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1986

**Entered Choice program:** 1995-96

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 47

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 47

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	47	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	47	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$187,095

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,906

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** All were Choice pupils.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.7 miles  
Maximum: 14.2 miles  
Median: 2.4 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, Medgar Evers Academy incorporates Christian teachings into a traditional curriculum while emphasizing smaller class size and more individualized attention. To reflect this, it has changed its name to Medgar Evers Baptist Academy.

**Messmer High School**  
**742 W. Capitol Dr.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53206**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** Independent Schools Association of the Central States

**Founded:** 1926

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 349

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 154

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	152	99%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	2	1
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	154	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,738,585

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,953

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,800

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.4 miles  
Maximum: 12.5 miles  
Median: 3.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Messmer High School, a Catholic high school, features a college prep curriculum that prepares graduates for both college and the work world. The graduation requirement is 24.5 credits in English, math, science, social studies, foreign language, physical education and health, fine arts, computer, theology, and electives. Additional attention, including mandatory, faculty-supervised, after-school study periods and daily or weekly report cards, is provided to students having academic difficulty. Teachers make regular contact with parents (usually by telephone) to apprise parents of student progress.



**Milwaukee Montessori School**  
**345 N. 95<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1962

**Entered Choice program:** 1992-93

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 190

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 17

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	12	71%
American Indian	1	6
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	4	23
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	17	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$10,933

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$4,200

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 4.1 miles  
Maximum: 12.3 miles  
Median: 9.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Milwaukee Montessori School focuses on individual instruction and offers comprehensive year-round programming for children ages 18 months to 14 years of age. It is one of only 150 schools in the U.S. with a Montessori junior high program. Students work together in classes that span a three-year age group, typically ages 3 to 6, 6 to 9, 9 to 12, and 13 to 14 years, which allows each one to learn at his/her own pace regardless of chronological age.

**Milwaukee Multicultural Academy**  
**2700 N. 54<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 6th grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1998

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 31

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 28

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	28	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	28	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$106,703

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,529

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Not available

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.0 miles  
Maximum: 6.1 miles  
Median: 2.7 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

The mission of Milwaukee Multicultural Academy is to promote and integrate the quest for knowledge, wisdom, global awareness, learning, social and leadership skills necessary to engage in creative critical thinking, better understanding and respect of multi-cultural diversity of origins, and the ability to exhibit mastery of academic skills necessary to be a successful leader. Milwaukee Multicultural Academy emphasizes two core areas in its curriculum: multicultural education and technology. It has chosen Direct Instruction (DISTAR) as its curriculum and instructional design model. The curriculum is designed to build a strong academic foundation for students at the elementary level to prepare them for advanced studies in junior high school.

**Mother of Good Counsel**  
**3001 N. 68<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210-1252**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1925

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 453

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 87

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	33	38%
American Indian	1	1
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	5	6
White	48	55
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	87	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$3,563,643

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,383

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,794

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.0 miles  
Maximum:8.7 miles  
Median: 2.0 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Mother of Good Counsel incorporates Catholic teachings into its curriculum, which includes religion, language arts, handwriting, science, health, art, Spanish, reading, spelling, mathematics, and social studies. The school also offers a range of extracurricular activities, including academic clubs, band, drama and theater, and a computer lab with instruction. The school also offers before- and after-school care.

**Mount Calvary Lutheran School**  
**2862 N. 53<sup>rd</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** National Lutheran School Accreditation

**Founded:** 1925

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 192

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 110

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	94	85%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	16	15
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	110	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$881,760

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,741

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,065

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.2 miles  
Maximum:9.3 miles  
Median: 1.5 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Mount Calvary Lutheran School works with the church, home, and community, incorporating Christian values, to educate the whole child and prepare students to become productive, moral members of society.

**Nazareth Lutheran School**  
**8242 N. Granville Rd.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1991

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 33

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 11

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>11</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	11	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,662

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Tuition ranged from \$750 to \$2,000 on a sliding fee scale.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 6.4 miles  
Median: 2.2 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

The mission of Nazareth Lutheran School is to provide a quality Christian education.

**North Milwaukee Christian School**  
**8731 W. Burleigh St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222-3736**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Christian)

**Grades served:** Not available

**Accreditation:** Gold Model Status from the School of Tomorrow

**Founded:** Not available

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 37

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 7

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	3	42%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	2	29
White	2	29
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	7	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** Not available

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Not available

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 3.1 miles  
Maximum: 6.2 miles  
Median: 4.8 miles

No educational program information provided.

**Notre Dame Middle School**  
**1420 W. Scott St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204-2269**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1996

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 61

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 45

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	45	100
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	45	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$467,862

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$7,426

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$900

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.1 miles  
Maximum:7.1 miles  
Median: 1.3 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

The Notre Dame Middle School emphasizes small class size and personal attention. The school schedule runs 10 hours, from 8:00 AM to 6:10 PM, with classes and an after-school program of athletics, art, sewing, Girl Scouts, and study hall with volunteer tutors. The curriculum incorporates Christian values into the instruction of English language skills and Spanish.

**Oklahoma Avenue Lutheran School**  
**5335 W. Oklahoma Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** National Lutheran School Accreditation

**Founded:** 1983

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 77

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 14

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	3	21%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	11	79
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	14	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$504,357

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,725

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,676

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.5 miles  
Maximum: 6.3 miles  
Median: 2.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Oklahoma Avenue Lutheran School works with parents to provide a Christian education including a comprehensive program that develops pupils' talents and skills for Christian living and service.



**Our Lady of Good Hope School**  
**7140 N. 41<sup>st</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-2296**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1953

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 187

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 31

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	17	55%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	1	3
White	13	42
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	31	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$885,429

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,694

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,300 for parishioners  
\$1,500 for non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 6.9 miles  
Median: 0.9 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Our Lady of Good Hope School is dedicated to providing a Catholic environment which instills moral and spiritual values, basic integrity, respect for self and others, and recognition of cultural diversity. The school teaches a full academic curriculum using current textbooks and materials that stress development in basic skills, critical thinking, and problem solving. Phonics is included as part of the reading program, and technology is used to enhance the curriculum. Our Lady of Good Hope School uses a traditional approach to teaching that includes large and small group instruction, cooperative learning, and the theory of multiple intelligences.

**Our Lady of Sorrows School**  
**4059 N. 64<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216-1147**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1958

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 159

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 58

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	28	48%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	2	4
White	28	48
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	58	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,165,259

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,792

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,205 for parishioners  
\$2,278 for non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.3 miles  
Maximum: 8.7 miles  
Median: 1.8 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Our Lady of Sorrow School emphasizes parental collaboration to develop the child spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically. As part of this, Our Lady of Sorrow School incorporates Christian moral values into its teaching and provides opportunities for faith development.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish**  
**3222 S. 29<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1948

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 231

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 50

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	20	40
White	30	60
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	50	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$2,564,930

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,733

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$988

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 5.5 miles  
Median: 1.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Our Lady Queen of Peace School incorporates academics, religious celebration, and Christian service into its programming. The school philosophy has been dedicated to educating the child holistically in the areas of academics, Christian living, Catholic faith, physical well-being, and appropriate social behavior.

**Parklawn Christian School**  
**3725 N. Sherman Blvd.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Christian)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Accreditation pending with the Association for Christian Teachers and Schools

**Founded:** 1995

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 52

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 18

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>18</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	18	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$383,722

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$8,721

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$3,750

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.4 miles  
Maximum: 5.5 miles  
Median: 1.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Parklawn Christian School has adopted an approach to teaching that is based on developmental research and respects the individual child's developmental timetable. The curriculum involves children in activities which help them construct knowledge about the world and how things work. Children learn facts, but more importantly, they learn how to use them to solve problems in the real world. Children work towards achieving traditional goals in an innovative and interesting way. All age and grade level curriculum areas are taught using this approach to teaching.

**Pius XI High School**  
**135 N. 76<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213-3560**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** North Central Association of Secondary Schools

**Founded:** 1929

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 1,493

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 29

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	7	24%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	2	8
Hispanic	10	34
White	10	34
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	29	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$7,635,521

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,084

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$4,350

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 1.2 miles  
Maximum: 11.1 miles  
Median: 6.3 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Pius XI High School is a Catholic, co-educational high school offering a range of courses. For the college-bound, the curriculum features nine courses that are either advanced placement or are otherwise designed to help students achieve college credit. Pius also offers a program for students with learning and physical difficulties and courses that prepare students to enter advanced training or jobs in industry or business, or to develop consumer skills. It also has a work-based learning program for both college bound and non-college bound students.

**Resurrection Catholic Academy**  
**5140 N. 55<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53218-4299**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1997

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 239

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 145

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	121	84%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	3	2
Hispanic	2	1
White	19	13
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	145	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,523,771

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,298

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,200

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 8.0 miles  
Median: 2.1 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Resurrection Catholic Academy is in its second year of existence and is the result of the merger of Mother of Perpetual Help and St. Stephen Martyr Schools in 1997. Although Resurrection Catholic Academy is a Catholic school, only 40 percent of the students are Catholic. Students with special needs are served by small group instruction in subject areas in which they are lacking skills.

**St. Adalbert School**  
**1913 W. Becher St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215-2611**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1908

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 214

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 179

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	10	6%
American Indian	7	4
Asian	20	11
Hispanic	110	61
White	32	18
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	179	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$978,488

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,972

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$3,000

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.0 miles  
Maximum: 11.1 miles  
Median: 0.7 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Adalbert relies heavily on theories of multiple intelligences and hands-on learning to meet the needs of its diverse student body. Phonics is an integral part of the curriculum since many students learn English as a second language. Students also participate in community service projects as part of the religious instruction they receive in Catholic teachings.

**St. Alexander School**  
**3344 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215-4902**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1925

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 154

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 18

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	3	17
White	13	72
Other	2	11
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	18	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,884,099

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,218

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$955 for parishioners  
\$1,500 for non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.1 miles  
Maximum:3.8 miles  
Median: 1.25 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

St. Alexander School incorporates Catholic Christian values into its programming.



**St. Anthony School**  
**1747 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204-3585**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1872

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 272

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 185

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	2	1%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	12	6
Hispanic	171	93
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	185	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,028,128

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,084

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$800

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.1 miles  
Maximum:4.8 miles  
Median: 0.8 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

St. Anthony School incorporates Catholic Christian values into its programming.

**St. Augustine School**  
**2507 S. Graham St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207-1609**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1888

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 110

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 16

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	3	19
White	13	81
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	16	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$649,376

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,903

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,100

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.0 miles  
Maximum: 1.5 miles  
Median: 0.5 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Augustine School incorporates Catholic Christian values into its curriculum, using theories of multiple intelligences to lay the foundation for life-long learning. This method incorporates real-life situations. In addition to the arts, students participate in weekly computer lab and physical education classes. St. Augustine School recently merged with Immaculate Conception School to form St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Academy.

**St. Barbara Grade School**  
2075 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215-2108

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1932

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 72

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 31

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	2	6%
American Indian	1	3
Asian	2	6
Hispanic	10	32
White	16	53
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	31	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$517,164

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,168

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$4,300

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.1 miles  
Maximum:6.7 miles  
Median: 0.5 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Barbara School, which has merged with Holy Spirit School, incorporates Christian teaching into its curriculum in an effort to teach an understanding of cultural diversity and global awareness.

**St. Bernadette School**  
**8202 W. Denver Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223-4998**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
 Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1965

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 207

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 37

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	21	57%
American Indian	3	8
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	1	3
White	12	32
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	37	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,634,274

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,891

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,499 for first child of parishioners;  
 sliding scale for additional children  
 \$1,803 for first child of non-parishioners;  
 sliding scale for additional children

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.3 miles  
 Maximum: 6.9 miles  
 Median: 2.3 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

At St. Bernadette School, students receive daily instruction in reading; spelling; math; social studies; science; and religion, which emphasizes Catholic teachings. Students also take courses in physical education, foreign languages (for grades 3 through 8), and music, as well as participate in community service projects. Students also attend weekly student liturgy. The school offers extracurricular activities including band and athletics.

**St. Catherine of Alexandria**  
**8660 N. 76<sup>th</sup> Pl.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1865

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 200

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 56

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	12	21%
American Indian	1	2
Asian	3	5
Hispanic	4	7
White	36	65
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	56	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$978,122

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,010

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,300

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.8 miles  
Maximum: 17.3 miles  
Median: 1.8 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Catherine of Alexandria School incorporates Catholic teachings into its curriculum designed for the mastery of basic skills and the ability to make and analyze decisions. Students participate in weekly liturgies, physical education, community service projects, and computer lab and instruction.

**St. Catherine School**  
**2647 N. 51<sup>st</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210-2306**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1924

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 179

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 125

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	103	82%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	5	4
White	15	12
Other	2	2
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	125	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$849,359

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,884

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,560

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.0 miles  
Maximum:8.2 miles  
Median: 1.2 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Catherine School incorporates Catholic teachings into its curriculum, which includes reading, language arts, math, science, social studies, art, music, physical education, and computers. The school also offers a range of extracurricular activities, including choir, a newspaper, arts club, computer club, debate club, a DARE Program, and athletics. The school also offers before- and after-school care.

**St. Helen Grade School**  
**3329 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215-2796**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1925

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 139

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 30

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	3	10%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	3	10
White	24	80
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	30	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,204,799

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,654

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$985 for parishioners  
\$2,000 for non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.2 miles  
Maximum:7.5 miles  
Median:0.3 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Helen School offers a basic academic curriculum, including Catholic religious instruction, language arts, math, social studies, art, science, and family life, in a self-contained classroom setting. Departmental classes are held in junior high. The school also offers computer instruction, music, a choir, physical education, and athletic programs.

**St. Joan Antida High School**  
**1341 N. Cass St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** North Central Association of Schools and Colleges

**Founded:** 1954

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 400

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 94

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	39	42%
American Indian	1	1
Asian	9	10
Hispanic	22	23
White	23	24
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	94	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$2,138,049

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,386

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$3,000

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 15.9 miles  
Median: 4.3 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Joan Antida High School works to provide a Catholic secondary education for young women using theories of multiple intelligences. The school also offers a variety of extra-curricular activities, including athletics, forensics, drama, art club, choir, campus ministry, and student publications.



**St. John Kanty School**  
**2840 S. 10th St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215-3919**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** Not available

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 166

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 59

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>59</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	59	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,141,889

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,096

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$875

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.0 miles  
Maximum: 19 miles  
Median: 0.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. John Kanty School offers a standardized curriculum covering all academic areas, focusing on the all-around development of its students. In addition, the school offers before- and after-school care.

**St. Josaphat Parish School**  
**801 W. Lincoln Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215-3222**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1888

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 172

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 92

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	5	5%
American Indian	2	2
Asian	10	11
Hispanic	50	55
White	25	27
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	92	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$732,359

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,321

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,050

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 12.3 miles  
Median: 0.8 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Josaphat Parish School offers a standardized curriculum covering all academic areas that incorporates Catholic teachings. In addition, the school offers free/reduced lunch for qualified students, after-school care, computer instruction, art, music, and physical education.

**St. Lawrence Grade School**  
**1418 S. Layton Blvd.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215-1923**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
 Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1890

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 125

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 71

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	2	3%
American Indian	2	3
Asian	18	25
Hispanic	34	48
White	15	21
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	71	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$630,989

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,154

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$925

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
 Maximum: 5.8 miles  
 Median: 0.9 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Lawrence School, which has merged with St. Matthew Catholic Schools to form Prince of Peace School, uses theories of multiple intelligence in a curriculum that incorporates the values of Catholic Christian faith. In addition to textbooks, programming includes supplementary books, computers, learning kits, manipulative materials, games, audio-visual resources, and field trips.

**St. Leo Catholic Urban Academy**  
**2458 W. Locust St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53206-1134**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1901

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 222

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 202

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	202	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	202	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,833,355

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,177

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,500

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 9.9 miles  
Median: 1.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Leo Catholic Urban Academy integrates Catholic values into its curriculum. The school has developed academic standards and performance objectives in the areas of reading, language arts, and mathematics. The curriculum is aligned with these performance objectives to stress the basics and address student needs through theories of multiple intelligence. The school also offers before- and after-school care and special programs, including art, forensics, physical education, student council, music, community service projects, and computer lab and instruction.

**St. Marcus Evangelical Lutheran School**  
**2215 N. Palmer St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212-3299**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1876

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 93

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 64

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	51	80%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	13	20
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	64	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$412,126

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,921

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Kindergarten: \$600 for church members,  
 \$918 for non-members  
 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade: \$600 for church members,  
 \$1,770 for non-members

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
 Maximum: 16.4 miles  
 Median: 2.3 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

St. Marcus Lutheran School incorporates Lutheran Christian values and teachings into an elementary level curriculum that includes, math, science, language, art, music, and social science.

**St. Margaret Mary School**  
**3950 N. 92<sup>nd</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222-2587**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
 Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1959

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 438

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 47

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	14	30%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	6	13
White	27	57
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	47	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$4,230,768

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,792

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Kindergarten: \$1,095 for parishioners,  
 \$1,610 for non-parishioners  
 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade: \$1,395 for parishioners,  
 \$3,020 for non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.3 miles  
 Maximum: 7.7 miles  
 Median: 1.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Margaret Mary School incorporates Catholic Christian values into a core curriculum that includes language arts, mathematics, and science. In addition, programming offers art, forensics, athletic programs, physical education, foreign languages, music, band, computer lab and instruction, choir, student council, and weekly student liturgy. The school also provides before- and after-school care.

**St. Martini Lutheran School**  
**1557 W. Orchard St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Accreditation pending with Missouri Synod—Lutheran Schools Association for Accreditation

**Founded:** 1883

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 127

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 104

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	5	5%
American Indian	5	5
Asian	1	1
Hispanic	55	53
White	38	36
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	104	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$650,191

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,832

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$2,000

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 20.7 miles  
Median: 1.2 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

St. Martini Lutheran School incorporates Lutheran Christian values into its programming.

**St. Matthew School**  
**1114 S. 25<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204-1940**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1910

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 107

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 52

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	4	8%
American Indian	1	2
Asian	16	31
Hispanic	15	28
White	16	31
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	52	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$653,916

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$6,336

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$925

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.1 miles  
Maximum:4.9 miles  
Median: 0.7 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Matthew School, which recently merged with St. Lawrence School to form Prince of Peace School, uses theories of multiple intelligence in a curriculum that incorporates the values of the Catholic Christian faith. In addition to textbooks, programming includes supplementary books, computers, learning kits, manipulative materials, games, audio-visual resources, and field trips.



**St. Paul Catholic School**  
**3945 S. Kansas Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207-4723**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1921

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 143

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 12

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	1	8
White	11	92
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	12	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,985,148

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,457

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,215

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.4 miles  
Maximum:3.7 miles  
Median: 1.8 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Paul Catholic School incorporates Catholic Christian teachings into a curriculum that includes daily instruction in the following: religion, reading/literature, mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, art, music, physical education, and health. The curriculum is augmented by field trips, computer instruction, classroom and school projects, and community service projects. Extracurricular activities include altar servers, athletics, and Scouts. The school also offers extended before- and after-school care.

**St. Peter Immanuel Lutheran School**  
**7801 W. Acacia St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223-5698**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** Not available

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 260

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 47

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	22	47%
American Indian	2	4
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	1	2
White	22	47
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	47	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$836,107

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,565

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$909 for members  
 \$2,196 for non-members

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.3 miles  
 Maximum: 7 miles  
 Median: 3.1 miles

No educational program information provided.

**St. Philip Neri Catholic School**  
**5501 N. 68th St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53218-2947**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1961

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 194

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 118

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	74	63%
American Indian	1	1
Asian	4	3
Hispanic	11	9
White	28	24
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	118	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$869,134

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,928

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,710 for parishioners  
\$1,980 for non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 6.6 miles  
Median: 1.2 miles

No educational program information provided.

**St. Roman Grade School**  
**1810 W. Bolivar Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53221-2336**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1958

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 456

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 22

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	2	9%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	3	14
White	17	77
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	22	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$2,679,975

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$6,168

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,400

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.1 miles  
Maximum:4.6 miles  
Median: 1.7 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Roman Grade School integrates Catholic Christian teachings into the curriculum through prayer, liturgies, and community outreach activities. The curriculum includes reading, phonics, and a writer's workshop. It is augmented by music, art, and physical education. Remediation is available for those students who need it.

**St. Rose Catholic Academy**  
**514 N. 31<sup>st</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** Not available

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 205

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 168

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	100	60%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	31	18
Hispanic	34	20
White	3	2
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	168	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$2,319,187

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,192

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,000 for one child  
\$1,250 for two children  
\$1,500 for three or more children

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.0 miles  
Maximum: 11.2 miles  
Median: 1.3 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Rose Catholic Academy incorporates Catholic teachings into a curriculum intended to reflect the diversity of the community it serves. In addition to providing reading, writing, and math, the school provides after-school extracurricular activities for students, as well as computer, GED, parenting, and literacy courses for parents.

**St. Sebastian School**  
**1747 N. 54th St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208-1657**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
 Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1921

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 443

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 64

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	13	20%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	3	5
Hispanic	6	9
White	42	66
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	64	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$3,887,776

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,144

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** The school operates on a pledge system for parishioners; the recommended pledge is 5% of family income. Tuition is \$2,650 for non-parishioners

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.3 miles  
 Maximum: 10.1 miles  
 Median: 1.1 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

St. Sebastian School integrates Catholic Christian values into its curriculum.

**St. Veronica School**  
**341 E. Norwich St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207-4415**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee and  
Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1926

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 420

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 13

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	1	8%
American Indian	2	15
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	10	77
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	13	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,956,831

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,859

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,290

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 5.8 miles  
Median: 1.7 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Veronica School incorporates Catholic Christian values into its programming, which includes weekly liturgy and prayer services; parish and community service; and a basic curriculum augmented by physical education, art, music, and computer instruction. The school also offers a range of extracurricular activities, including altar servers, safety cadets, student council, school newspaper, forensics, drama, stamp club, junior choir, handbell choir, scouts, music lessons, and athletics.

**St. Vincent Pallotti – East**  
**5510 W. Bluemound Rd.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** Not available

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 86

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 16

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	4	25%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	2	12
Hispanic	0	0
White	10	63
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	16	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,694

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,842 for the first child; family rates available for two or more children

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 3.9 miles  
Median: 1.2 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Vincent Pallotti East incorporates Catholic Christian values into a core curriculum that includes language arts, mathematics, and science. In addition, programming offers art, forensics, athletic programs, physical education, foreign languages, music, band, computer lab and instruction, choir, student council, and weekly student liturgy. The school also provides before- and after-school care and special needs programming.



**St. Vincent Pallotti – West**  
**7632 W. Stevenson St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Catholic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

**Founded:** 1926

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 201

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 20

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	4	20
White	16	80
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	20	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,283,743

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,694

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,842 for the first child; family rates available for two or more children

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 12.1 miles  
Median: 1.8 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

St. Vincent Pallotti West incorporates Catholic Christian values into a core curriculum that includes language arts, mathematics, and science. In addition, programming offers art, forensics, athletic programs, physical education, foreign languages, music, band, computer lab and instruction, choir, student council, and weekly student liturgy. The school also provides before- and after-school care and special needs programming.

**Salam School**  
**4707 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53221-2405**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Islamic)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** National Private School Association

**Founded:** 1992

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 197

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 121

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>121</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	121	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,273,637

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$3,858

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$1,800

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.0 miles  
Maximum: 23.5 miles  
Median: 3.3 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Salam School seeks to serve the Islamic community of Milwaukee by providing religious and academic instruction.

**Seeds of Health – Windlake Elementary School**  
**2433 S. 15<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1996

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 204

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 20

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	1	5%
American Indian	1	5
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	9	45
White	9	45
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	20	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,060

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** All non-Choice pupils participated in the MPS Partnership Program.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 3.0 miles  
Median: 0.8 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Seeds of Health—Windlake Elementary School utilizes an interactive play-oriented approach that enhances creativity, self-esteem, and skills needed for life-long learning. The Windlake School fosters respect for individual differences, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.

**Seeds of Health – Hilltop Elementary School**  
**1445 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1998

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 64

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 64

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	3	4%
American Indian	2	3
Asian	1	2
Hispanic	39	61
White	19	30
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	64	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$2,088,663

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,060

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** All were Choice pupils.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 5.9 miles  
Median: 1.0 mile

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

Seeds of Health—Hilltop Elementary School utilizes an interactive play-oriented approach that enhances creativity, self-esteem, and skills needed for life-long learning. Hilltop Elementary School fosters respect for individual differences, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.

**Seeds of Health – Grandview High School**  
**1445 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1988

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 223

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 15

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	2	13%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	10	67
White	3	20
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	15	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** Not available

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,060

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** All non-Choice pupils participated in the MPS Partnership Program.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.5 miles  
Maximum: 6.5 miles  
Median: 2.0 miles

The school's response to our survey described its educational program as follows:

The mission of Seeds of Health—Grandview High School is to provide at-risk students, particularly school-age parents, the opportunity to continue or re-enter and finish their secondary education. The program is a full-day comprehensive high school program which offers students a complete range of academic and elective courses that meet Milwaukee Public School graduation requirements. Courses stress written and oral communication skills, analytical processes, creative thinking, and problem solving. Computer skills are taught and technology is stressed throughout the curriculum. Support services provide information, advocacy, and support to students and their families. Individual action plans are developed for each student in need. A Women, Infants, and Children Special Supplemental Food Program is located in the same facility and provides health and nutrition education for all pregnant teens and their children up to age five.

**Sharon Junior Academy**  
**1369 W. Meinecke Ave.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53206**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Seventh Day Adventist)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists Department of Education

**Founded:** 1963

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 39

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 38

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	38	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	38	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$184,561

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,769

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Kindergarten: \$205 for constituents, \$237 for non-constituents  
1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: \$167 for constituents, \$200 for non-constituents  
4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade: \$182 for constituents, \$214 for non-constituents  
7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade: \$194 for constituents, \$225 for non-constituents

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 10.8 miles  
Median: 2.6 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Sharon Junior Academy incorporates Christian (Seventh-Day Adventist) teachings into its curriculum.

**Sherman Park Preschool**  
**2703 N. Sherman Blvd**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Lutheran)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten

**Accreditation:** Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association and  
National Association for the Education of Young Children

**Founded:** 1970

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 43

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 33

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	30	91%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	3	9
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	33	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$165,028

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,842

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Half-day kindergarten: \$1,235  
Full-day kindergarten: \$1,710

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.2 miles  
Maximum: 9.7 miles  
Median: 2.1 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Sherman Park Preschool incorporates Christian values into its curriculum for preschool age children. Activities include art, music, physical activities and play, religious activities, science, and reading readiness.

**Tamarack Community School**  
**921 N. 49<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208-3017**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Developing Waldorf School status from the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America

**Founded:** 1996

**Entered Choice program:** 1996-97

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 100

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 67

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	11	16%
American Indian	2	3
Asian	2	3
Hispanic	2	3
White	50	75
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	67	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$466,545

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,052

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** Half-day kindergarten: \$3,600  
 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade: \$4,500

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 1.0 mile  
 Maximum: 11.4 miles  
 Median: 5.7 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

The Tamarack Community School utilizes a Waldorf curriculum based on the pedagogical work of Rudolf Steiner. The school offers a range of activities for kindergarteners, including baking, painting, and music. For students in the grade school, each day begins with a two-hour "main lesson" in mathematics, language arts, sacred teachings and mythologies, botany, fairy tales, house building, or history. Students also participate in music and art activities.



**Texas Bufkin Academy**  
**6619 W. Capitol Dr.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216**

**Type of school:** For profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1998

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** Not available

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 49

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>49</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	49	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$220,932

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,559

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** All were Choice pupils.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.3 miles  
Maximum: 7.9 miles  
Median: 3.2 miles

No educational program information provided.

## Urban Day School

3774 N. 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53205

1441 N. 24<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53205

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1967

**Entered Choice program:** 1990-91

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 498

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 401

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	400	100%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	1	0
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	401	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$3,156,772

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,754

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$980

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:**

<u>12<sup>th</sup> St. Campus</u>	<u>24<sup>th</sup> St. Campus</u>
Minimum: 0.0 miles	Minimum: 0.1 miles
Maximum: 13.3 miles	Maximum: 9.7 miles
Median: 2.5 miles	Median: 2.7 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Urban Day School emphasizes small class size in a curriculum that includes language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, Spanish, art, music, and physical education. In addition, the school provides an extended day program that includes arts and crafts, drama, computers, plants, choir, and drill team.

**Woodlands School**  
**1669 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** Independent Schools Association of the Central States

**Founded:** 1954

**Entered Choice program:** 1990-91

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 224

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 59

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	19	32%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	2	3
Hispanic	24	41
White	14	24
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	59	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,080,108

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$5,001

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$3,580

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum:0.2 miles  
Maximum: 14.1 miles  
Median: 4.0 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Woodlands School emphasizes a low student-to-teacher ratio in its curriculum, which includes language arts, mathematics, science, social science, and creative arts. This is augmented by a specialty curriculum that includes art, French, a library program, music, and physical education.

**The Woodson Academy**  
**3027 N. Fratney St.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212-2220**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; secular

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** None

**Founded:** 1994

**Entered Choice program:** 1995-96

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** Not available

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 225

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	216	96%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	9	4
White	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	225	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$893,630

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$4,794

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** All were Choice pupils.

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 14.2 miles  
Median: 4.0 miles

No educational program information provided.

**Yeshiva Elementary School**  
**3447 N. 51<sup>st</sup> Blvd.**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216**

**Type of school:** Not for profit; religious (Jewish)

**Grades served:** Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Accreditation:** North Central Association of Schools and Colleges

**Founded:** 1989

**Entered Choice program:** 1998-99

**Total enrollment in January 1999 (headcount, all pupils):** 165

**Total Choice enrollment, January 1999:** 67

<b>Ethnic composition of Choice enrollment:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African-American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	67	100
Other	0	0
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	67	100%

**1998-99 operating budget:** \$1,033,436

**1998-99 cost per full-time equivalent pupil (all pupils):** \$6,700

**1998-99 annual tuition for non-Choice pupils:** \$4,200

**Distance traveled to school by Choice pupils:** Minimum: 0.1 miles  
Maximum: 6.7 miles  
Median: 0.4 miles

The school's informational material includes the following information about the school's educational program:

Yeshiva Elementary School combines Orthodox Jewish teachings with a general curriculum.

APPENDIX II

**Schools New to the Choice Program**  
1999-2000 School Year

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades Served</u>	<u>December 1999 Enrollment</u>
Academic Solutions Center for Learning 3295 North Martin Luther King Drive	6 <sup>th</sup> through 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	54
Alex's Academic of Excellence 3133 West Mount Vernon Street	Kindergarten through 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	89
Beautiful Savior Lutheran School 2012 North Horton Street	Kindergarten through 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	55
Bridging the Gap Learning Center* 1017 North 17 <sup>th</sup> Street	Kindergarten through 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	7
D.L. Hines College Preparatory Academy of Excellence 8605 West Good Hope Road	Kindergarten through 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	91
Eastbrook Academy 5353 North Green Bay Avenue	Kindergarten through 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	14
Gregory B. Flood Christian Academy 4260 North Teutonia Avenue	Kindergarten	10
King's Academy Christian School 7750 North 60 <sup>th</sup> Street	Kindergarten through 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	9
St. Charles Borromeo School 3100 West Parnell Avenue	Kindergarten through 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	11
St. Gregory the Great School 3132 South 63 <sup>rd</sup> Street	1 <sup>st</sup> through 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	15
Victory Preparatory Academy 3132 North Martin Luther King Drive	Kindergarten through 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	18

\* Previously participated from 1995-96 through 1996-97.

## APPENDIX III

### Responses to School Survey

June 1999

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A total of 85 out of 86 schools responded to this survey and other communications. Some schools did not answer every question or did not answer questions completely. Further, some questions allow for multiple answers. Schools were contacted, in some cases several times, to obtain as complete responses as possible. The number of schools responding is indicated after each question; the number of schools selecting each answer within a question appears in parentheses, unless otherwise noted.

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1. In what year was the school founded? **79 responses**

<i>Before 1900</i>	<b>11</b>
<i>1900 – 1929</i>	<b>17</b>
<i>1930 – 1959</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>1960 – 1989</i>	<b>17</b>
<i>1990 – 1998</i>	<b>25</b>
<i>Unknown</i>	<b>6</b>

2. Who owns the school? **84 responses**

Owned by a religious entity	<b>69.0%</b>	<b>(58)</b>
Privately owned	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>(16)</b>
Parent-owned	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Other	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>(8)</b>

3. Is this school for profit or not for profit? **85 responses**

Not for profit	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>(83)</b>
For profit	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>(2)</b>

4. What official governing body has direct authority for operating the school, if any? **83 responses**

Board of Directors	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>(35)</b>
Other	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>(32)</b>
Board of Education	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>(15)</b>
No governing body	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>(1)</b>

5. Please enter the number of Choice students and the number of non-Choice students enrolled in each grade level. Use the pupil count for the second Friday in January 1999. **84 responses**

**January 1999 School Enrollment**

	K4*	K5*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Choice	<b>10.9%</b> (661)	<b>12.7%</b> (769)	<b>12.9%</b> (780)	<b>11.1%</b> (676)	<b>10.0%</b> (603)	<b>9.6%</b> (582)	<b>8.2%</b> (493)	<b>8.0%</b> (481)	<b>7.0%</b> (424)	<b>3.1%</b> (185)	<b>2.5%</b> (154)	<b>1.5%</b> (91)	<b>0.9%</b> (53)	<b>1.5%</b> (89)	<b>100.0%</b> (6,041)
Non-Choice	<b>5.2</b> (531)	<b>7.8</b> (798)	<b>7.0</b> (714)	<b>6.4</b> (655)	<b>6.1</b> (624)	<b>6.7</b> (687)	<b>6.5</b> (670)	<b>6.7</b> (685)	<b>6.4</b> (658)	<b>7.7</b> (793)	<b>9.8</b> (1007)	<b>8.3</b> (852)	<b>7.8</b> (805)	<b>7.6</b> (778)	<b>100.0</b> (10,257)

6. Please enter the number of Choice students by race/ethnicity enrolled in each grade level. Use the pupil count for the second Friday in January 1999. **76 responses**

**January 1999 Choice Student Enrollment**

	K4*	K5*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grade Un-known**	Total
Black	<b>11.1%</b> (423)	<b>12.0%</b> (456)	<b>12.3%</b> (467)	<b>9.8%</b> (373)	<b>8.9%</b> (338)	<b>9.0%</b> (342)	<b>6.6%</b> (252)	<b>6.2%</b> (235)	<b>5.0%</b> (190)	<b>2.6%</b> (98)	<b>3.1%</b> (117)	<b>1.6%</b> (59)	<b>1.0%</b> (38)	<b>2.0%</b> (75)	<b>8.8%</b> (333)	<b>100.0%</b> (3,796)
Hispanic	<b>9.4</b> (76)	<b>12.9</b> (104)	<b>11.1</b> (89)	<b>10.2</b> (82)	<b>8.7</b> (70)	<b>7.6</b> (61)	<b>9.6</b> (77)	<b>9.7</b> (78)	<b>8.3</b> (67)	<b>4.1</b> (33)	<b>2.2</b> (18)	<b>2.0</b> (16)	<b>0.7</b> (6)	<b>1.0</b> (8)	<b>2.5</b> (20)	<b>100.0</b> (805)
Asian	<b>4.2</b> (6)	<b>11.1</b> (16)	<b>9.0</b> (13)	<b>10.4</b> (15)	<b>13.2</b> (19)	<b>9.0</b> (13)	<b>9.7</b> (14)	<b>10.4</b> (15)	<b>9.7</b> (14)	<b>4.9</b> (7)	<b>1.4</b> (2)	<b>1.4</b> (2)	<b>2.8</b> (4)	<b>2.1</b> (3)	<b>0.7</b> (1)	<b>100.0</b> (144)
American Indian	<b>5.0</b> (2)	<b>17.5</b> (7)	<b>7.5</b> (3)	<b>22.5</b> (9)	<b>5.0</b> (2)	<b>10.0</b> (4)	<b>5.0</b> (2)	<b>5.0</b> (2)	<b>5.0</b> (2)	<b>7.5</b> (3)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>2.5</b> (1)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>7.5</b> (3)	<b>100.0</b> (40)
White	<b>7.1</b> (82)	<b>8.3</b> (95)	<b>9.9</b> (82)	<b>10.1</b> (116)	<b>8.8</b> (101)	<b>8.4</b> (96)	<b>8.4</b> (96)	<b>8.6</b> (99)	<b>9.3</b> (107)	<b>1.7</b> (20)	<b>1.5</b> (17)	<b>1.2</b> (14)	<b>0.3</b> (4)	<b>0.3</b> (3)	<b>16.1</b> (185)	<b>100.0</b> (1,149)
Other	<b>16.7</b> (3)	<b>5.6</b> (1)	<b>11.1</b> (2)	<b>11.1</b> (2)	<b>27.8</b> (5)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>11.1</b> (2)	<b>5.6</b> (1)	<b>5.6</b> (1)	<b>5.6</b> (1)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>100.0</b> (18)
Unknown	<b>7.5</b> (10)	<b>15.7</b> (21)	<b>9.0</b> (12)	<b>12.7</b> (17)	<b>4.5</b> (6)	<b>6.7</b> (9)	<b>7.5</b> (10)	<b>3.7</b> (5)	<b>6.7</b> (9)	<b>4.5</b> (6)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>0.0</b> (0)	<b>21.6</b> (29)	<b>100.0</b> (134)

\*K4 is four-year-old kindergarten, and K5 is five-year-old kindergarten.

\*\*Includes 232 Black pupils (180 elementary and 52 middle), 15 Hispanic pupils (10 elementary and 5 middle), one Asian pupil (elementary), and 168 white pupils (153 elementary and 15 middle).



7. How many applications did you receive for Choice seats during the open enrollment period(s) for school year 1998-99 by grade level?  
**75 responses**

**Choice Applications for 1998-99 School Year**

	K4*	K5*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grade Un-known	Total
Applications	<b>10.6%</b> <i>(563)</i>	<b>12.6%</b> <i>(670)</i>	<b>12.1%</b> <i>(644)</i>	<b>10.1%</b> <i>(533)</i>	<b>9.3%</b> <i>(493)</i>	<b>8.8%</b> <i>(465)</i>	<b>7.8%</b> <i>(411)</i>	<b>6.4%</b> <i>(340)</i>	<b>5.5%</b> <i>(292)</i>	<b>2.4%</b> <i>(129)</i>	<b>2.9%</b> <i>(156)</i>	<b>1.9%</b> <i>(99)</i>	<b>1.3%</b> <i>(70)</i>	<b>1.8%</b> <i>(96)</i>	<b>6.4%</b> <i>(340)</i>	<b>100.0%</b> <i>(5,923)</i>

8. Did the number of applications received for the Choice program for any single grade exceed the number of seats that this school estimated to DPI would be available during the open enrollment period(s) for the 1998-99 school year? **84 responses**

No **78.6%** *(66)*  
 Yes **21.4%** *(18)*

If you answered yes, please check which of the following actions you took for those grade levels where applications exceeded estimated seats available for Choice students: **18 responses**

Increased the number of seats available for Choice students and also used random selection to assign seats to applicants **50.0%** *(9)*  
 Increased the number of seats available for Choice students and accepted all eligible applicants **33.3%** *(6)*  
 Used random selection to assign seats to applicants **11.1%** *(2)*  
 Other **5.6%** *(1)*

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\* K4 is four-year-old kindergarten, and K5 is five-year-old kindergarten.

9. Please enter the number of students in each grade who enrolled as Choice students any time after the end of the open enrollment period(s) for the 1998-99 school year. **45 responses**

K4*	K5*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grade Unknown	Total
<b>13.7%</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>(100)</b>	<b>(96)</b>	<b>(95)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(61)</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>(46)</b>	<b>(37)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>(693)</b>

10. What was the amount of tuition charged in the 1998-99 school year for each student who was not in the Choice program? **102 responses**

*Minimum =*                 **\$ 167**  
*25th Percentile =*       **\$1,096**  
*Median =*                   **\$1,782**  
*75th Percentile =*       **\$2,732**  
*Maximum =*                **\$5,460**

11. What fees were charged to each Choice student during the 1998-99 school year? (Check all that apply). **60 responses**

Fees for field trips	<b>80.0%</b>	<b>(48)</b>
Fees for extracurricular activities	<b>35.0</b>	<b>(21)</b>
Other fees	<b>26.7</b>	<b>(16)</b>
Gym/physical education fees	<b>10.0</b>	<b>(6)</b>
Fees for snacks	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(0)</b>

12. During what month or months are the school's open enrollment periods for the 1999-2000 school year? **Responses not tabulated here**

13. In what month did you begin publicizing that this school would be participating in the Choice program in the 1999-2000 school year?  
**Responses not tabulated here**

14. What methods have you used to publicize that this school is participating in the Choice program in the 1999-2000 school year? (Check all that apply).

**84 responses**

Word of mouth	<b>94.0%</b>	<b>(79)</b>
Letters to homes of current students	<b>78.6</b>	<b>(66)</b>
Bulletin, newsletter, or mailings to members of religious organization or congregation	<b>57.1</b>	<b>(48)</b>
Other	<b>56.0</b>	<b>(47)</b>
Neighborhood or community newspaper	<b>41.7</b>	<b>(35)</b>
Radio or TV	<b>19.0</b>	<b>(16)</b>
Posters	<b>17.9</b>	<b>(15)</b>
Citywide newspaper	<b>14.3</b>	<b>(12)</b>
Mailings to other organizations	<b>6.0</b>	<b>(5)</b>

15. Does this school administer any standardized tests of student achievement? **84 responses**

No	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>(16)</b>
Yes	<b>81.0</b>	<b>(68)</b>

If you answered yes, please name all standardized tests administered and at what grade level they are given: **67 responses**

<i>Iowa Tests of Basic Skills</i>	<b>77.6%</b>	<b>(52)</b>
<i>COGAT</i>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>(14)</b>
<i>Other</i>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>(11)</b>
<i>3rd Grade - Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test</i>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>(10)</b>
<i>Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS)</i>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>(6)</b>
<i>PSAT/NMSQT</i>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>(5)</b>
<i>PLAN</i>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>(5)</b>
<i>Metropolitan</i>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>(5)</b>

16. What documentation has this school accepted to verify the income eligibility of Choice applicants? (Check all items requested). **84 responses**

Federal or state tax return	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>(81)</b>
Pay stub	<b>67.9</b>	<b>(57)</b>
W-2 (Wisconsin Works) statement	<b>60.7</b>	<b>(51)</b>
Foster Care verification	<b>53.6</b>	<b>(45)</b>
Disability Income statement	<b>50.0</b>	<b>(42)</b>
Unemployment Compensation statement	<b>36.9</b>	<b>(31)</b>
Kinship Care verification	<b>28.6</b>	<b>(24)</b>
Other	<b>14.3</b>	<b>(12)</b>

17. Have you ever denied enrollment in the Choice program because the applicant's income was too high? **84 responses**

No	<b>42.9%</b>	<b>(36)</b>
Yes	<b>57.1</b>	<b>(48)</b>

18. Is this school currently accredited? **85 responses**

No	<b>43.5%</b>	<b>(38)</b>
Yes	<b>55.3</b>	<b>(47)</b>

If you answered yes, please name the organization that issued the accreditation: **47 responses**

<i>Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (WNSAA)</i>	<b>76.6 %</b>	<b>(36)</b>
<i>Archdiocese of Milwaukee</i>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>(26)</b>
<i>Other</i>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>(6)</b>
<i>North Central Association of Secondary Schools</i>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<i>North Central Association of Schools and Colleges</i>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<i>Independent Schools Association of the Central States</i>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<i>National Lutheran School Accreditation</i>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<i>National Catholic Educational Association</i>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>(1)</b>

If this school is not accredited, has this school submitted an application for which accreditation is pending? **38 responses**

No        **73.7%**    **(28)**  
Yes        **26.3**        **(10)**

If yes, please name the organization to which this school has submitted an application: **10 responses; one applied to more than one agency.**

<i>Other</i>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>(5)</b>
<i>Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (WNSAA)</i>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<i>National Lutheran School Accreditation</i>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<i>Archdiocese of Milwaukee</i>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>(1)</b>

19. What was the total estimated operating budget for this school for the 1998-99 school year? **Responses not tabulated here**
20. Briefly describe the educational approach, philosophy, purpose, or emphasis of the school and whether a particular population is served or targeted. (If this information is covered in your response to question 23, you may skip this question.) **Responses not tabulated here**
21. Briefly describe the history and mission of the school. (If this information is covered in your response to question 23, you may skip this question.) **Responses not tabulated here**
22. The report for which this survey is being conducted will be addressed to the State Legislature. Are there additional comments you would like to make about this school's participation in the School Choice program or about the School Choice program in general? **Responses not tabulated here**
23. Please include a copy of the brochure or other descriptive material about this school that is given to prospective Choice applicants. **67 schools provided descriptive material.**

APPENDIX IV

Responses to Family Survey

July 1999

We surveyed a random sample of 606 families whose children participated in the Choice program in 1998-99. From these families, we received 159 usable responses; that number was the basis for the analyses discussed in the report. However, some usable responses did not include answers to every question or included incomplete answers. Further, some questions allow for multiple answers. The number of parents that responded to each question is indicated after each question; the number that selected each answer within a question appears in parentheses.

**Information about this child**

A1. How many of the children you are responsible for attend a private school through the Choice program? **155 responses**

1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children	more than 5 children
<b>(84)</b>	<b>(38)</b>	<b>(19)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>

Instructions to families: *If you have one child attending a Choice school, please continue to question A2. If you have more than one child attending a private school through the Choice program, please answer the rest of the questions in the survey with the oldest child in mind.*

A2. What private Choice school did this child attend in the school year that just ended (1998-99)? (**Responses not tabulated here**)

A3. What grade was this child in during the 1998-99 school year? **159 responses**

<b>(10)</b> 4-year-old kindergarten	<b>(13)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	<b>(5)</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>(13)</b> 5-year-old kindergarten	<b>(10)</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> grade	<b>(5)</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>(15)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	<b>(14)</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	<b>(2)</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>(15)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	<b>(21)</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	<b>(2)</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>(19)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	<b>(15)</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	

**Before this child was in the Choice program**

B1. What was the last type of school this child attended before he/she entered the Choice program?

**152 responses**

- (50) A public school in the Milwaukee Public School system (MPS)
- (57) A private school, with tuition assistance from the PAVE (Partners Advancing Values in Education) organization
- (10) A private school, without tuition assistance from the PAVE organization
- (23) My child started school in the Choice program.
- (12) Other (Please explain.) \_\_\_\_\_

B2. What was the last grade this child attended at a public school? **156 responses**

- |                              |                           |                            |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| (5) 4-year-old kindergarten  | (8) 4 <sup>th</sup> grade | (1) 9 <sup>th</sup> grade  |
| (13) 5-year-old kindergarten | (9) 5 <sup>th</sup> grade | (1) 10 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| (7) 1 <sup>st</sup> grade    | (6) 6 <sup>th</sup> grade | (0) 11 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| (9) 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade    | (6) 7 <sup>th</sup> grade |                            |
| (12) 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade   | (6) 8 <sup>th</sup> grade |                            |

(72) My child has never attended a public school

**Why you decided not to enroll this child in a public school**

C1. Which one of the following best describes the reason that you chose not to enroll this child in a Milwaukee public school? **158 responses**

- (1) There was no space in a public school for my kindergarten-age child. (If you checked this answer, skip to question C3.)
- (16) I tried to get my child assigned to a public school that I wanted, but my child was not assigned to that school. (If you checked this answer, skip to C3.)
- (141) Neither of the above. (Please answer question C2.)

C2. What were the most important reasons you chose not to send this child to a public school? (Please check all that apply.) **139 responses**

- (64) I knew of a private school that I very much wanted for my child.
- (15) I wanted a full-day kindergarten rather than half-day.
- (13) I needed on-site before- or after-school day care.
- (88) The public school does not teach the morals and values that I want in school.

I was not satisfied with the public school's:

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| (31) curriculum.            | (67) safety.                                   |
| (16) distance from my home. | (45) quality of teaching staff.                |
| (47) academic standards.    | (30) students' test score results.             |
| (66) class size.            | (38) ability to meet my child's special needs. |
- (15) The public school that my child would have attended was not acceptable in some other way. (Please explain.)

- C3. How did you find out that this child could get his/her tuition to a private school paid by the Choice program? (Please check all that apply.) **156 responses**
- (43) From either the newspaper, television, or radio (Please write name of paper or channel)
  - (12) By reading flyers or posters in my neighborhood
  - (33) Through my church, synagogue, mosque, or other house of worship
  - (50) From a friend or relative
  - (0) From the public school my child used to attend
  - (2) From the Milwaukee Public School administration
  - (98) From the private school my child now attends
  - (8) Through the State Department of Public Instruction
  - (9) Other (Please explain.) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>How and why you selected the school this child now attends</b>
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- D1. How did you learn about the private school where this child is currently enrolled? (Please check all that apply.) **151 responses**
- (10) From either the newspaper, television, or radio
  - (29) Through the private school my child already attended
  - (6) By reading flyers or posters in my neighborhood
  - (27) By visiting private schools that I had heard about
  - (40) Through my church, synagogue, mosque, or other house of worship
  - (62) From a friend or relative
  - (3) By looking on the Internet
  - (7) From the list of schools prepared by the Department of Public Instruction
  - (22) Other
- D2. Did you consider more than one private school? **150 responses**
- (104) No, I knew which private school I wanted.
  - (46) Yes, I learned about several different private schools and picked one.



- D3. What were the most important reasons for choosing the private school where this child is currently enrolled? (Please check all that apply.) **152 responses**
- (108) Provides higher educational standards
  - (103) Is safe and orderly
  - (107) Has good teachers
  - (57) Is located in my neighborhood
  - (35) Students score well on standardized tests
  - (29) Offers full-day kindergarten classes
  - (99) Provides religious instruction
  - (23) Employs a certain teaching method (Montessori, Waldorf, “the basics”, etc.)
  - (22) Focuses on a certain ethnic identification
  - (36) Provides on-site before- or after-school care
  - (86) Has fewer children in each classroom
  - (25) Other reason(s) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Your experience with the Choice program</b>
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- E1. How many years has this child been attending a private school through the Choice program (not PAVE)? **149 responses**
- |              |             |             |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| (120) 1 year | (6) 4 years | (1) 7 years |
| (13) 2 years | (1) 5 years | (2) 8 years |
| (4) 3 years  | (2) 6 years | (0) 9 years |
- E2. My child (check all that apply): **135 responses**
- (127) Has stayed in the first private school we chose.
  - (4) Left a previous Choice school because he/she reached a grade level that the first school did not provide.
  - (0) Has been expelled or asked to leave another Choice school.
  - (14) Left a previous Choice school because it was not meeting his/her needs.
- E3. About how far is this child’s school from your home? **152 responses**
- (41) Less than 1 mile    (46) 1 to 3 miles    (50) More than 3 miles    (15) Do not know
- E4. How is transportation to this child’s school provided? **155 responses**
- (24) My child walks or bicycles to school.
  - (9) My Choice school or MPS provides and pays for transportation.
  - (5) I pay my Choice school for the transportation it provides.
  - (30) I provide for transportation and am paid back by MPS
  - (93) I provide transportation and am not paid for my expenses.
- E5. Is there anything else you think we should know about your experience with the Choice program? (**Responses not tabulated**)

## APPENDIX V

### **Fiscal Effects of the Choice Program On Milwaukee Public Schools**

The Choice program and the methods by which it has been funded have affected both the revenue received by MPS and the costs incurred by the district. Estimates of the amount and direction of these fiscal effects can vary depending upon assumptions regarding whether Choice pupils were formerly enrolled in MPS and where they might have enrolled had the Choice program not been available. In addition, the amount of revenue that MPS has received from both state aids and property tax levies has been affected by other factors during the existence of the Choice program.

#### **Effects on Equalization Aid**

Equalization aid is the largest state school aid program and is intended to even out differences in property tax base per pupil among school districts. The most direct effect of the Choice program on equalization aid provided to MPS has been the subtraction of the amount needed to operate the Choice program. That amount—an estimated \$26.9 million in 1998-99—was calculated using the number of full-time equivalent pupils in the Choice program and the per pupil amount of equalization aid Milwaukee was to receive, or \$4,894.

However, the amount of equalization aid from which that \$26.9million was subtracted had been calculated based on the combined enrollments of the Choice program and MPS, so that the amount of equalization aid authorized for both programs was greater than the amount that would have been allocated from statewide school aids to MPS based on its enrollment alone.

The amount gained for each additional Choice pupil that was included was less than the amount subtracted for each Choice pupil's tuition payment because other factors in the State's equalization aid formula—including a district's property tax base per pupil, the State's guaranteed support for each pupil, and a measure of a district's prior-year costs—work to limit the additional amount a school district receives as the result of the inclusion of an additional pupil in its aid calculation.

The following illustration provides a simplified example of how the inclusion of an additional pupil changes the amount a district receives through the equalization aid formula. This illustration does not demonstrate the complex nature of the state aid formula; it is intended only as a simplified illustration. In reality, the calculation shown would have to be performed three separate times based on three different state-guaranteed values that reflect the State's use of a three-tiered formula for allocating equalization aids.

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### **Illustration of the Effects of Adding Pupils in the Equalization Aid Formula**

In order to equalize the property tax base for all districts, each year the State determines an amount of property tax base support for each pupil, regardless of district. That amount is called the “state guaranteed value” per pupil. In the equalization aid formula, a district’s property tax base per pupil is deducted from this state-guaranteed value to represent the portion of the guaranteed tax base the State will provide. The difference of these two figures is multiplied by the district’s per pupil shared costs expressed as a percentage of the state-guaranteed value, which reflects changes in aid for changes in district spending.

Basically, the formula is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{(State Guaranteed Value minus District Equalized Value Per Pupil)} \\ & \quad \text{multiplied by} \\ & \text{(Total Shared Cost divided by State Guaranteed Value)} \\ & \quad \text{equals Equalization Aid} \end{aligned}$$

For the purposes of illustration, let us assume that in 1998-99, the State’s primary guaranteed valuation per pupil was \$2.0 million. Assuming that a district has an equalized property tax base of \$200.0 million and a membership of 1,000 pupils, the district’s equalized value per pupil would equal \$200,000. Assuming prior-year shared costs of \$1.0 million, the district’s aid would be calculated as follows, according to the previous equation:

$$\text{Equalization Aid} = (\$2,000,000 - \$200,000) \times (\$1,000,000 / \$2,000,000) = \$900,000$$

In this case, the district would receive \$900,000, or \$900 per pupil, in equalization aid.

However, if all the factors remain the same except that one pupil was added to the district’s membership, the district’s equalized value per pupil would drop to \$199,800, and its aid would be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Equalization Aid} = (\$2,000,000 - \$199,800) \times (\$1,000,000 / \$2,000,000) = \$900,100$$

That is, the district would receive \$100 more for the additional pupil, an amount less than the full per pupil amount that can be calculated by dividing the total amount of aid by the total number of pupils.

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### **Effects on the MPS Property Tax Levy Limit**

For MPS, as for all other school districts in Wisconsin, a revenue limit is calculated each year that represents the total amount of revenue the school district may collect from general state aids (equalization aid, integration aid, and special adjustment aid) and the property tax levy. The limit on the amount that a district may collect in property taxes is, basically, the difference between the total amount of revenue the district is permitted and the amount of general aids the State provides. For example, if a district had a total revenue limit of \$100.0 million and was provided \$75.0million in general aids, that

district could then levy \$25.0 million in property taxes. If a district's total revenue limit were to remain unchanged, an increase in its general aids would reduce the amount it could collect in property taxes, and a decrease in general aids would have the opposite effect.

To alleviate the revenue effects caused by pupils leaving MPS to enroll in the Choice program, MPS has been allowed to adjust enrollment figures used in calculating its revenue limits to include some Choice pupils. Of the district's \$702.0 million revenue limit in 1998-99, \$5.1 million resulted from this adjustment. Additionally, because a district is allowed to increase property taxes to make up the difference between the general state aids it receives and its revenue limit, MPS was also allowed to levy as property taxes the \$26.9 million that was subtracted from its equalization aid to fund the Choice program. In total, this means the district was allowed to levy \$32.0 million more than if no funding adjustments had been made to reflect Choice program enrollment. MPS actually levied \$6.0 million less than it was allowed in 1998-99, but it still levied \$26.0 million more than it might have if no allowances had been made for the Choice program. This amount is equal to 97 percent of the equalization aid that was subtracted from the district to fund the Choice program, minimizing the effect on MPS total revenues.

### **Effects on School Costs**

Although a complete analysis of the effect of the Choice program on MPS finances would have to consider cost savings, several factors prevent such an analysis. First, even if it could be assumed that every Choice pupil had previously been enrolled in MPS or would have enrolled in MPS in the absence of the Choice program, estimating the costs MPS avoided is complicated by the fact that many costs, such as teacher compensation and facilities, are difficult to allocate on a per pupil basis and can be reduced only over several years in response to pupil departures.

In addition, it is difficult to make reasonable assumptions regarding pupil enrollment in the absence of the Choice program, although such assumptions are necessary to estimate cost savings that MPS might have been able to achieve. Although the Department has estimated that 1,430 of the pupils participating in the Choice program in 1998-99 attended an MPS school during the previous school year, estimating the MPS costs avoided as a result of these pupils' enrollment in the Choice program would require knowing which school and grade level these pupils would have attended had they remained in MPS, and how many would have left MPS even in the absence of the Choice program. Because the Choice program served a number of high school pupils that was equal to only 1.7 percent of the number served by MPS in 1998-99, it is unlikely that MPS was able to avoid any significant costs at the high school level as a result of these pupils' enrollment elsewhere. It is more likely that MPS may have been able to avoid costs at the elementary level. The Choice program was serving a number of elementary-level pupils equal to 8.4 percent of MPS elementary enrollment, so that the district's costs for kindergarten through the fifth grade would likely have been higher in the absence of the Choice program.

## **Other Factors Affecting MPS Revenues**

Although the district's finances have been affected by the Choice program, other factors have had a greater financial effect. During the period in which the Choice program has been funded by reductions in equalization aid authorized for Milwaukee, MPS experienced a net increase in both equalization aid and total state aids, largely because of the State's policy of funding 66.7 percent of certain school costs beginning in the 1996-97 school year. Equalization aid to MPS has increased each year since the inception of the Choice program, by a total of 122 percent. Likewise, total state aids to MPS have continually grown, increasing to nearly \$560.0million in the 1998-99 school year, or 88 percent since 1989-90. During this same time period, MPS enrollment increased by 10 percent, meaning that state aids and total expenditures calculated on a per pupil basis have also increased.

While MPS recouped in property taxes approximately \$44.9million used to fund the Choice program since 1995-96, Milwaukee taxpayers have seen an overall drop of 13 percent in their property taxes since the Choice program began operating, and 33 percent since 1993-94, again largely due to the State's funding of 66.7 percent of revenues. Local receipts now fund 21.4 percent of the district's total costs, compared to 36.1 percent in 1989-90.

Modifications in the distribution of general state aids, beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, will further reduce the fiscal effects of the Choice program on MPS. MPS will no longer count Choice pupils in its equalization aid or revenue limit calculations, and state aids designated for the Choice program will be provided in equal parts from the amount designated for MPS and the amount designated for all other districts statewide. Both MPS and other school districts will be able to replace this amount with property taxes if the school boards choose to do so, within allowable revenue limits.

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## APPENDIX VI

### Summary of Voucher Programs in Other States

In addition to the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, there are four other programs in the United States in which public funds are used to pay tuition at private schools. The programs in Cleveland and Florida allow students to attend religious schools, although neither program's constitutionality has been approved through judicial action. Courts have declined to require the inclusion of religious schools in the programs operating in Maine and Vermont. A number of other jurisdictions, including Texas, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and New York City, have had private school choice initiatives under consideration, but none has been implemented.

#### **Cleveland**

The State of Ohio began paying for students in the city of Cleveland to attend private secular and religious schools in the 1996-97 school year. In 1998-99, 3,674 pupils attended 59 participating schools. Although the law defines no income limit, priority is to be given to all eligible low-income students, and up to 50 percent of the new vouchers awarded each year may go to students already in private schools. New vouchers are given only to students in kindergarten through 3<sup>d</sup> grade, although students already receiving vouchers may use them through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Vouchers cover between 75 percent and 90 percent of the cost of tuition at a private school, up to \$2,250 per pupil.

In May 1999, the Ohio Supreme Court invalidated the Cleveland choice program on procedural grounds, although in its opinion the court noted that the program's inclusion of religious schools did not violate religious prohibitions in either the state or federal constitutions. The Ohio legislature enacted the program again in July 1999, but the United States District Court in Cleveland again ruled it to be unconstitutional in December 1999 and allowed only current participants to participate until appeals are resolved.

#### **Florida**

Beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, any student at a Florida public school that is deemed by that state to be failing on a measure of standardized test scores may receive tuition from the state to attend any better-performing public school or any participating private secular or religious school. Two public schools in Pensacola have been classified as failing for the 1999-2000 school year, and 136 pupils are participating in the program. Of those 136 pupils, 58 are attending 5 participating private schools, 4 of which are Catholic. Each participating student receives approximately \$3,400.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union, the state affiliate of the National Education Association, the American Jewish Congress, and People for the American Way filed a lawsuit against the plan in Leon County Circuit Court, claiming that the program violates the state and federal constitutions. The American Federation of Teachers has filed a separate lawsuit.

**Maine**

For almost 200 years, under a program known as “tuitioning,” Maine has paid the private school tuition of students who live in 55 rural towns without public schools. Eligible students may attend any public or private secular school, in-state or out-of-state. In 1998-99, there were 11 private schools in Maine in which 60 percent or more of the students were funded through public tuition payments. In 1998-99, the maximum tuition funded at elementary schools was approximately \$4,000, and the maximum tuition funded at secondary schools was \$5,600.

Two lawsuits filed by parents of students in “tuitioning” towns contended that the program’s exclusion of religious schools violates constitutional protections for parents’ rights to the free exercise of religion and equal protection under the law. In April 1999, the Maine Supreme Court upheld a previous ruling by Cumberland County Superior Court that rejected the parents’ arguments in one of the lawsuits. In the other case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, based in Boston, rejected the constitutionality of direct payments to religious schools. Although both cases were appealed to the United States Supreme Court, in October 1999 the Supreme Court refused to hear either case.

**Vermont**

Since 1869, under a program known as “tuitioning,” Vermont has paid the private school tuition of students who live in about 90 rural towns without either a public school or an affiliation with a school district. Eligible students may attend any public or private secular school, in-state or out-of-state, that has been approved by the state. For private schools, maximum tuition reimbursement is generally based on the announced tuition rates of public schools accepting such students or the average per pupil costs of the schools.

In June 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that the town of Chittenden could not reimburse parents for the cost of tuition for students who attend religious schools. The court ruled such reimbursement would violate the state constitution’s prohibition against compelled support for religion. No appeal to the United States Supreme Court is possible because the case was decided solely on state constitutional grounds.

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## APPENDIX VII

### **Legal History of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program**

The legal challenges that led to the 1998 determination of the constitutionality of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program began shortly after the program's creation. In May 1990, the Wisconsin Supreme Court was petitioned by several organizations representing the interests of teachers, parents, and administrators to review the legality of the program. Petitioners included the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, Inc.; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Milwaukee Branch; the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators; and the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers. The petitioners contended that the program was unconstitutional because:

- it violates the doctrine that public funds may be expended only for public purposes;
- it allows substantially different standards of education for children participating in the program and, therefore, violates Article X, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, which requires schools be as uniform as practicable; and
- it violates Article IV, Section 18 of the Wisconsin Constitution because it is a private or local provision that was passed by the Legislature as part of a multi-subject bill.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court denied the petition for review of the Choice program on June 26, 1990.

As the program was being implemented, concerns were again raised. This time they focused on the administrative requirements imposed by the Department of Public Instruction. To address these concerns, several parents and six private, secular schools in Milwaukee that wished to participate in the program filed suit in Dane County Circuit Court in an attempt to compel the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement Choice without imposing any additional requirements on participating schools beyond those specified in statutes. In addition, the parties that previously petitioned the Supreme Court to review the program joined the circuit court action as intervenors and sought a declaration that the law was unconstitutional.

The plaintiffs argued that the administrative requirements imposed by the Department on private schools that wished to participate in the program were onerous and inconsistent with the laws governing the program. Specifically, the Department had required participating schools to complete and submit a notice of their intent to participate on a form that required each school to guarantee compliance with a variety of state and federal laws, including:



- the Wisconsin Pupil Nondiscrimination Act;
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended;
- the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended;
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended;
- the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act;
- the Drug-Free School and Communities Act of 1986; and
- the Education for All Handicapped Children Act.

On August 6, 1990, the circuit court ruled that: 1) the program did not violate the Wisconsin Constitution; 2) the program was the Legislature's attempt to improve the quality of education to benefit the entire state; 3) the program had sufficient accountability to maintain its public purpose; and 4) the Legislature had considered the school choice proposal in an appropriate manner. In addition, while the circuit court ruled that the legislation establishing the program provided sufficient accountability, it also ruled that the private schools participating in the program do not become public school districts through acceptance of public funds and, therefore, are not required to meet the same legal obligations as public school districts. The Circuit Court ruled that private schools must comply with most of the laws identified in the Department's intent to participate form, but it also ruled that while schools may not discriminate against individuals with disabilities, private schools should not be required to provide full programs to all handicapped individuals.

A group of parents, teachers, and administrators that contended the program was unconstitutional appealed the ruling to the court of appeals, which reversed the circuit court decision in a ruling issued November 13, 1990. The court of appeals found that the Choice program was unconstitutional because it was a local or private provision inappropriately passed by the Legislature as part of a multi-subject bill in violation of Article IV, Section 18 of the Wisconsin Constitution. The court of appeals did not address the other two constitutional issues—the provision of public funds for private purposes and the potential for lack of uniform education resulting from implementation of the program.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court reversed the court of appeals' decision on March 3, 1992, ruling that the Choice program:

- was not created through consideration of a private or local bill, and thus is not subject to the procedural requirement of Article IV, Section 18 of the Wisconsin Constitution;
- does not violate Article X, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, which requires the establishment of uniform school districts; and
- does not violate the public purpose doctrine, which requires that public funds be spent only for public purposes.

In 1995 Wisconsin Act 27, the Legislature changed the program to allow the participation of religious schools and changed certain other program requirements. In August 1995, two new actions were filed in Dane County Circuit Court, alleging that the amended statute violated both the United States Constitution and the Wisconsin Constitution with respect to establishment of religion and equal protection of the laws, that it violated provisions of the Wisconsin Constitution with respect to uniform school districts and private legislation, and that it violated Wisconsin's public purpose doctrine. The Wisconsin Supreme Court was requested to take original jurisdiction in these actions, which it accepted. On August 25, 1995, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued a preliminary injunction preventing implementation of the amended law while it considered the issues. On March 29, 1996, the court issued a decision stating that it was evenly divided on the issues and returned the matter to the circuit court.

On August 15, 1996, the Dane County Circuit Court made permanent the injunction relating to the expansion of the program to religious schools, but it lifted the injunction with regard to secular schools, which allowed the provisions of Act 27 to take effect for secular schools. On January 15, 1997, the circuit court issued a ruling that found that expansion of the program to religious schools violated Article I, Section 18 of the Wisconsin Constitution, which prohibits state support for religious societies, and the public purpose doctrine. Although the court determined the program as it related to secular schools to be constitutional, the court also determined that the Act 27 provisions relating to the program were a local or private bill in violation of Article IV, Section 18 of the state constitution.

Under the terms of a stipulation, the Choice program continued to operate as modified by Act 27 for secular schools in 1996-97 and 1997-98. On August 22, 1997, the court of appeals concluded that the expansion of the Choice program to religious schools was invalid because it directed payments of money from the state treasury for the benefit of religious societies. On June 10, 1998, the Wisconsin Supreme Court reversed the decision of the court of appeals and ruled that the Choice program, as amended, did not violate:

- the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution;
- the religious establishment provisions of the Wisconsin Constitution;

- the procedural requirement of the Wisconsin Constitution that prohibits private or local bills;
- the uniformity provision of the Wisconsin Constitution; or
- the public purpose doctrine, which requires that public funds be spent only for public purposes.

In accordance with this ruling, the injunction barring implementation of the amended program was dissolved, and the program expansion took effect in 1998. The Wisconsin Supreme Court also ruled that children who had been eligible for the program when the court's August 1995 injunction was issued, and who subsequently enrolled in private schools, were eligible for the program when the injunction was lifted. Finally, on November 9, 1998, the United States Supreme Court declined, without comment, to hear an appeal stemming from the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision. No further challenges alleging that the Wisconsin program violates constitutional provisions have been filed in state or federal courts. However, decisions in the legal challenges that are being pursued in Ohio and Florida could ultimately affect the Wisconsin program.

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**John T. Benson**  
State Superintendent

**Steven B. Dold**  
Deputy State Superintendent

January 25, 2000

Janice Mueller  
State Auditor  
Legislative Audit Bureau  
131 West Wilson Street  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Ms. Mueller:

I have reviewed the recently completed audit of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) and appreciate the thoughtful and professional approach reflected in the audit report. The report highlights the current administration of the program and will be a valuable resource to legislators and others interested in gaining a better understanding of the program's current status. My response will first address two management issues raised by the Audit Bureau. I will also comment on three important policy issues I believe should receive legislative attention.

One of the management issues addressed in the audit report is how to provide interested parents with more information about the Choice program and about participating private schools and their programs. The surveys conducted by the LAB of participating schools and parents provide much useful information concerning how families have learned about the Choice program and participating schools and why they chose the private schools they did. The report provides some helpful alternatives to the department that could improve the amount and timeliness of information received by parents about the program. While the department will consider the alternatives included in the report, it is important to detail the information on the Choice program that the department already provides to schools and interested parents. The department provides the list of participating schools, the MPCP student application form, an informational brochure on the program, and a frequently-asked-questions (FAQ) document to participating schools and parents who contact the department. Private schools are encouraged, but are not required, to provide the parent brochure and FAQ document to parents already in the program and those interested in participating. In addition, the department issued a press release on January 13, 2000, about the program and the list of schools accepting applications for the 2000-01 school year and will issue a second press release in early May on the final list of participating schools.

A second management issue raised in the audit report is how to facilitate the free exchange of information between parents and private schools participating in the Choice program in a manner that protects the principles of random selection required by statute. Consistent with statutory requirements, the department has taken steps to limit the information schools may require of parents in the admissions process to ensure that children are not discriminated against in that process. The department does not limit the information a participating school can provide to parents about the school's academic programs, religious activities, or its willingness to provide special accommodations to meet a child's special needs (if a parent offers such information about their child). Choice program schools can and should share this information with parents so parents can learn about the programs, rules, and expectations at different schools. The department does, however, prohibit participating private schools from soliciting information from parents during the application process regarding an applicant's race, ethnicity, disability, prior school performance, or other pupil characteristics that could be used to discriminate against a pupil in admissions to the Choice program.

The first, and most important, policy-level question we believe needs legislative attention relates to whether and how the Choice schools should be required to collect and report student achievement data that can be used to document whether the program has had a positive effect on student achievement. The MPCP program has been in existence for ten years. Currently, 7,997 pupils are enrolled in 91 schools that will receive \$39 million in public funds in the current school year. However, as the audit report points out, "not all schools administer the same tests so their scores cannot be compared or used to compare the effectiveness of MPS and Choice schools." The MPCP is the largest publicly funded voucher program in the country and is often cited nationally as a model for other states to follow. We believe there is a compelling public interest in evaluating the educational outcomes of the program and reporting those outcomes to the legislature and the parents who are considering the program for their children. Requiring participating Choice schools to administer the state's standardized tests to Choice pupils would provide the schools with a useful tool to measure individual student achievement as well as provide legislators and others with valuable comparative information about individual MPCP schools and the Milwaukee Public Schools. The state has made a considerable investment in standardized tests in the belief that the data provides useful information about how public school students and schools are performing. The department believes this same level of accountability should be required of private schools participating in the Choice program. I believe the legislature should address this issue in future deliberations about the program.

A second policy question that ultimately needs to be resolved by the legislature relates to the extent to which the department should exercise regulatory authority over the Choice schools. Some Choice program advocates assert the department currently seeks to exercise regulatory authority that it does not legally possess. The audit report, however, seems to suggest there may be a need for the department to exercise greater oversight of the program related to the four performance standards (s. 119.23(7)(b), Stats.) to ensure that all participating schools offer a minimum level of academic quality. To address this issue, the report seems to suggest the

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department might conduct site visits of limited scope at selected schools that would involve a review of records related to the performance standard or standards the school has identified as being met. Although arguably there is legal authority to engage in such monitoring of pupil performance, we question whether the legislature intended the department to be so assertive in evaluating the efforts of the Choice schools in fulfilling their responsibilities under the referenced statutes. The department would welcome further discussions with legislators on this issue.

The final important policy question that needs legislative attention relates to the extent to which the MPCP provides meaningful access to children with disabilities. The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program is designed to give low-income pupils residing in the City of Milwaukee a publicly funded opportunity to attend a private school in the city rather than the Milwaukee Public Schools. Although the legislation gives a choice of private schools to all eligible pupils, as the audit report points out, some pupils do not appear to have equal access to the program. The report indicates that “information on the types of services offered (to children with disabilities), and children served is not available.” However, the report also concludes that “. . . it is more likely that the services available are lower cost services, such as those needed for children with speech and language disabilities, or learning disabilities.” This finding is not surprising, because the MPCP does not currently require participating private schools to design and deliver educational services to fully meet the individual needs of all children with disabilities. This means, in effect, that students with certain disabilities are denied a meaningful alternative to the Milwaukee Public Schools despite the intention of the Choice program to provide this opportunity to all eligible low-income children in the city. Beyond the issue of providing appropriate educational programming, there is a question of whether physical barriers in some of the Choice schools prevent full access to educational services. The legislature should address the issue of whether children with disabilities, like all other eligible children, should have a meaningful opportunity to attend private schools at public expense under the Choice program.

I appreciate the courtesy and professionalism extended to us during this audit.

Sincerely,

John T. Benson  
State Superintendent

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