



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873
Email: fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov • Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

May 3, 2018

TO: Representative Katrina Shankland
Room 304 West, State Capitol

FROM: Christa Pugh, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: History of Funding for the Private School Choice Programs

At your request, I am providing a history of funding for the private school choice programs.

Under the private school choice programs, state funds are used to pay for the cost of eligible children to attend private schools. In 2017-18, the per pupil payment is equal to \$7,530 for a pupil in grades K-8 and \$8,176 for a pupil in grades 9-12.

Since the beginning of the Milwaukee private school choice program, the Department of Public Instruction has been required by law to reduce the general aid for which the Milwaukee Public Schools is eligible in each year by a percentage of the estimated total cost of the program. (An aid reduction to fund the program also applied to other school districts in 1999-00 and 2000-01, but was eliminated under 2001 Act 16.) The aid reduction equals 22.4% of the total cost of the program in 2017-18 and 19.2% in 2018-19. This percentage will be reduced by 3.2 percentage points each year until no aid reduction is made beginning in 2024-25.

In 2011-12 and 2012-13, the Racine private school choice program was also partially funded through an aid reduction. That reduction was eliminated beginning in 2013-14, and in 2013-14 and 2014-15 no aid reduction applied for the Racine or statewide programs. Beginning in 2015-16, payments for new pupils in the Racine or statewide programs are fully funded through a reduction in the general aids that would otherwise be paid to those pupils' school districts of residence. School districts are able to count those pupils for general aid purposes on a prior year basis, and receive a revenue limit adjustment for the current year equal to the amount of the aid reduction. Payments for pupils who first participated in the Racine and statewide programs prior to the 2015-16 school year are fully funded with state GPR.

Payments made for each program are shown in the following table. The table also shows aid reductions made in each year.

TABLE

**Funding for the Private School Choice Programs, 1990-91 to 2017-18
(in Millions)**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Milwaukee</u>		<u>Racine</u>		<u>Statewide</u>	
	<u>Total Paid</u>	<u>Aid Reduction</u>	<u>Total Paid</u>	<u>Aid Reduction</u>	<u>Total Paid</u>	<u>Aid Reduction</u>
1990-91	\$0.7	\$0.7				
1991-92	1.4	1.4				
1992-93	1.6	1.6				
1993-94	2.1	2.1				
1994-95	2.5	2.5				
1995-96	4.6	4.6				
1996-97	7.1	7.1				
1997-98	7.0	7.0				
1998-99	28.7	28.7				
1999-00	39.1	39.0*				
2000-01	49.2	49.0*				
2001-02	59.4	26.7				
2002-03	65.6	29.5				
2003-04	76.2	34.3				
2004-05	87.4	39.3				
2005-06	93.7	42.2				
2006-07	110.5	49.7				
2007-08	120.3	54.1				
2008-09	128.8	58.0				
2009-10	130.1	54.1				
2010-11	130.8	50.2				
2011-12	144.3	55.4	\$1.6	\$0.6		
2012-13	154.6	59.4	3.2	1.2		
2013-14	161.1	56.7	7.5	0.0	\$3.2	
2014-15	191.0	61.1	12.2	0.0	7.3	
2015-16	196.4	56.6	15.1	4.2	18.4	\$11.9
2016-17	203.7	52.1	18.3	8.8	22.6	16.7
2017-18	213.3	47.8	22.4	14.0	33.9	28.8

* Includes aid reduction to other districts and MPS.

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

CP/lb