

## K-12 Education

### Wisconsin K-12 Rankings

- #6 in High School Graduation Rate
- #6 in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Scores
- #8 in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Scores

### Historic K-12 Investment

- Increased state aid by over \$630 million, totaling \$11.5 billion.
- Money directly into the classroom: A typical classroom will see an increase of \$8,340
- Increased funding for Sparsity Aid by over \$100 million in the next six years

### Tools for Success

- \$3.7 million in Performance Funding aid
- Improved Summer School Programing
- Matching funds for computers
- Expanded eligibility for high-cost transportation aid
- Opportunities for certificates and training in information technology and computer skills
- Increased state civics passing score
- Funded Robotics Leagues Participation Grants

### Encouraging the Best Teachers

- Lifetime Licensure for teachers
- Funding for Paraprofessionals to become licensed teachers
- Innovative School Leadership Loan Program prepares students for careers as principals and superintendents
- Allows employers to implement merit raises

**Myth:** Republicans slash school funding.

**Fact:** Democrats fail to remember that prior to Gov. Walker, Gov. Doyle slashed school funding by \$284 million in 2009 and used one-time federal stimulus dollars to backfill the school aid. In addition, he allowed property taxes to rise by \$1.5 billion.

In 2011, Republicans gained control and faced tough choices. They quickly implemented necessary reforms such as Act 10 that have saved the tax-payers and school districts \$3.2 billion. Now, more tax dollars go to the direct benefit of the student and their education while providing employees with high quality health care at prices far below the private sector.

Last year, Republicans included over \$634 million in additional school aid during the 2017-19 budget, the largest investment to education in a decade. They also implemented more reforms ensuring funding is going directly into the classroom for the benefit of the students. A typical classroom in Wisconsin will receive an additional \$8,340 over the biennium. (LFB Memo)

**Myth:** Schools are worse off than they were almost a decade ago.

**Fact:** In the past ten years, Wisconsin's graduation rates have increased 2.9%, surpassing not only the national average, but also Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana.

In addition, the number of students taking the ACT has increased 30% due to Republican reforms and student scores rank top 3 among the 17 states requiring all students to take the exam. Student participation in Advance Placement exams for college credit has doubled in high schools throughout the state and since 2011, the achievement gap has been on a steady decline, dropping 1.3%.

\*Due to a change in proficiency tests offered, equivalent 10-year data is not available, but fourth graders beat the national average in math by 6.4% and reading by 2.1% while eighth graders beat the average in reading by 8.7% and 6.3%.

**Myth:** The choice program is draining public schools of vital funding and harming our state budget.

**Fact:** The choice program empowers low-income families to find a school that is best for their child when there are few to no options. The program exists because parents want it. The total cost of the choice program is 1.1% of the gross GPR in 2017-19.

The program is funded with state dollars but hold the public school harmless in regards to general state aid. For example, when a child leaves a public school for the choice program, the school district no longer receives categorical aid for that child but can still count the child for general state aid. In addition, the child will still be included in the district's three year rolling average for revenue limit purposes. In conclusion, the school district continues to receive funding for a child they are not educating.

**Myth:** The choice program fails to produce results.

**Fact:** Studies have shown students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) are more likely to graduate than their Milwaukee Public School (MPS) counterparts. They are also 4% more likely to score proficient or above in math and 5% in reading while independent charter schools were 5% more likely in reading and 8% in math. In ACT scores, choice schools outperformed their MPS counterparts by 1.413 point in voucher schools, 2.717 in non-instrumentality charters, and 4.208 point in intendent charters. Numerous studies have shown choice programs lead to more ethnic and racial integration within schools - <https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/empirical-research-literature-on-the-effects-of-school-choice/#segregation>

**Myth:** Republican reforms create disparity among schools, leaving poor districts struggling to survive.

**Fact:** On top of the over \$634 million in school aid, Republicans increased sparsity aid by \$130 million over the next six years. The budget also included \$9.2 million in matching grants to provide computers to students, \$1 million to connect future teachers with rural school districts facing shortages, and expanded eligibility for high-cost transportation aid. The budget also provided additional funds for paraprofessionals to become licensed teachers.

## **Resources:**

[https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_coi.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_coi.asp)

<http://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/portalHome.jsp>

<https://www.will-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/apples-to-apples-2-april-2018.pdf>

<http://www.maciverinstitute.com/2018/03/education-data-release-more-wisconsin-high-school-students-graduating-in-four-years-but-proficiency-rates-down-slightly/>

<http://www.maciverinstitute.com/2018/07/is-walker-the-education-governor/>

\*<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/economy/2018/02/08/geographic-disparity-states-best-and-worst-schools/1079181001/>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/wisconsin>

LFB Memo Comparative Costs for School Districts and Additional Funding for Schools Under Selected 2017 Acts

<http://www.maciverinstitute.com/2018/08/since-act-10-school-districts-have-saved-3-2-billion-in-benefits-costs/>

<http://www.maciverinstitute.com/2018/08/since-act-10-school-districts-have-saved-3-2-billion-in-benefits-costs/>

[https://meps.ahrq.gov/data\\_stats/summ\\_tables/instr/state/series\\_2/2017/tiic3.pdf](https://meps.ahrq.gov/data_stats/summ_tables/instr/state/series_2/2017/tiic3.pdf)

[https://meps.ahrq.gov/data\\_stats/summ\\_tables/instr/state/series\\_2/2017/tiid3.pdf](https://meps.ahrq.gov/data_stats/summ_tables/instr/state/series_2/2017/tiid3.pdf)

<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/12-6full.pdf>

<http://www.maciverinstitute.com/2010/12/debating-doyles-legacy/>

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational\\_papers/january\\_2017/0024\\_state\\_aid\\_to\\_school\\_districts\\_informational\\_paper\\_24.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2017/0024_state_aid_to_school_districts_informational_paper_24.pdf)

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational\\_papers/january\\_2017/0024\\_state\\_aid\\_to\\_school\\_districts\\_informational\\_paper\\_24.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2017/0024_state_aid_to_school_districts_informational_paper_24.pdf)

<http://www.will-law.org/npr-report-school-choice-wrong/>