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**Wisconsin NAACP Education Summit  
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**VOUCHERS and MPS**

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program started in 1990:

-300 low-income students, 7 schools, costing \$700,000

2010 Voucher enrollment: **20,996 students** – 1.6% reported to have disabilities in 103 private schools,  
84% in religious

2010 MPS enrollment: approx **81,000 students** - 19% students have a disability

**Eligible students:** Family incomes of less than 175% poverty level (\$39,630 family of 4)

**Achievement**

- March, 2011, 4<sup>th</sup> year report from 5 year evaluation of voucher program found no meaningful difference between student achievement growth between voucher and MPS students
- 2011 - Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) show lower student achievement in voucher schools than in MPS

**Voucher Financing**

**\$1.1 billion** spent on vouchers since 1990

2010-11: estimated cost **\$130,772,600**

- 61.6% pd by state general revenue: income and sales tax
- 38.4% paid by reduction of MPS state aid, made up by an increase in Milwaukee local property tax

Voucher expenses are deducted from MPS state aid but voucher students are not counted in the aid formula, reducing the amount of state aid Milwaukee receives for MPS students. Milwaukee property tax payers then make up the difference, paying taxes for two school systems.

- For 2011, voucher tax levy **increased** taxes for Milwaukee taxpayers by est. \$36.5 million
- Voucher program **reduced** taxes for other taxpayers by est. \$57 million

Impact on state education funding: If assume 90% of students using vouchers would have attended MPS, one study estimates voucher program reduces education spending \$52 million

## **Accountability**

- Original program had no teacher qualifications; college degree required since 2007; no teacher certification/license requirement
- No public disclosure of attendance, suspension, expulsion or drop-out rates, staff salaries or benefits
- No minimum curriculum requirements to meet standards in reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies

### **2011 Voucher legislative proposals:**

- No cap on enrollment
- Repeals all income eligibility requirements
- Expands participating schools from schools located in City of Milwaukee to any school in Milwaukee County
- Maintains the current per pupil voucher payment of \$6,442
- Repeals requirement that voucher schools administer same test as Wisconsin public schools (WKCE) and allows use of any nationally-normed test

## **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Currently, the law permits school districts to establish charter schools:

- Instrumentality Charters: operated by the school district with school district employees
- Non-instrumentality Charters: non-sectarian entity operates and employees staff
- For City of Milwaukee, independent charter schools by 3 authorizers: UW-Milwaukee, City of Milwaukee, and MATC; UW-Parkside authorized for pilot charter in Racine.

2011 Charter legislative proposals:

- Permit independent charter schools to be established by a newly-created independent state agency
- Authorize any UW 4-year campus to establish independent charter school
- Repeal requirement that teachers have charter license; BA sufficient
- Maintains per pupil charter funding of \$7775
- No cap on virtual school enrollment
- Funding provisions would reduce state aid to public schools by add'l \$12.7 million by 2013, hitting poorest school districts hardest