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| 1989 | The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) or “voucher” program was enacted in 1989 Act 336.  
- The initial program was limited in scope with few requirements.  
- The program was open to pupils in the City of Milwaukee with a family income less than 175% of the federal poverty level (FPL).  
- Initially, private schools had to be nonsectarian and located in the City of Milwaukee.  
- Originally, no more than 1% of the enrollment in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) could participate in the program, and no more than 49% of a choice school's enrollment could consist of choice pupils. |
| 1995 | Expansion in 1995 Act 27 allowed sectarian schools to participate in the program, increased the participation limit to 15% of MPS enrollment and deleted the percentage limit on the share of choice pupils in a choice school. |
| 2005 | Expansion in 2005 Act 125 increased the allowable enrollment to 22,500 pupils. |
| 2009 | Vouchers schools are required to administer state assessment (WKCE) to choice pupils. |
| 2011 | Expansion in 2011 Act 32 deleted the enrollment limit and raised the income threshold to 300% of the federal poverty level.  
- The 300% of FPL income cap was inserted by the legislature, replacing the Governor’s proposal to completely eliminate the income requirement.  
- A married family of four can make up to $77,000 a year and still qualify for a voucher. The average Wisconsin family makes $47,000 a year.  
- Program is expanded to Racine. |
- A new voucher program would become available statewide. Initially, it would be limited to 500 students the first year and 1,000 students every year thereafter.  
- Initially, no more than 1% of the students of any school district could.  
- The program would be available to students of families making 185% of the FPL or less. The Milwaukee and Racine programs remain capped at 300% of the FPL.  
- Voucher schools would receive $7,000 per student -- up from the current $6,442.  
- Starting in the fall of 2016, per-pupil increases for public schools and voucher schools would be linked dollar for dollar.  
- Private schools would have to operate for two years before they could accept voucher students to prevent fly-by-night operations from enrolling students.  
- Gov. Walker’s plan for creating a new way to authorize charter schools would be taken up as legislation outside of the budget so it could be modified.  
- Gov. Walker also wanted to create a statewide program for special needs students, but lawmakers would abandon that idea as part of the proposal. |