

Wisconsin Education Challenges



2015 Federal Funding Conference
Jeff Pertl, Senior Policy Advisor

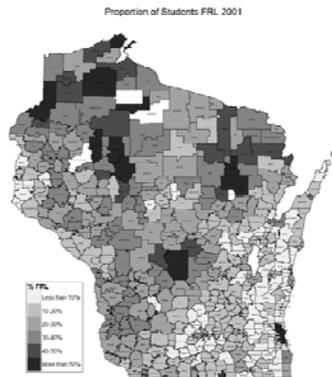


Changing Faces of Wisconsin

Poverty is Growing in Wisconsin

Change in Free & Reduced Lunch (2001-2012)

Wisconsin FRL Rate Doubles
2001: 21%
2012: 43%



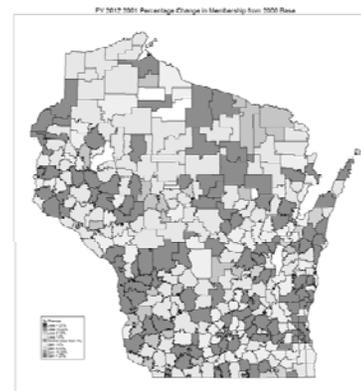
In many rural districts, more than half the students are eligible for free-and-reduced lunch.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, School Finance Maps. <http://dipi.wi.gov/sfsmaps.html>



Students are in Fewer Districts

Change Student Membership (2001-2012)



In 2001, 1/3rd of districts were in declining enrollment.

By 2012, over 2/3rds districts were in declining enrollment.

Today, 75% of our students are located in just 30% of our districts.

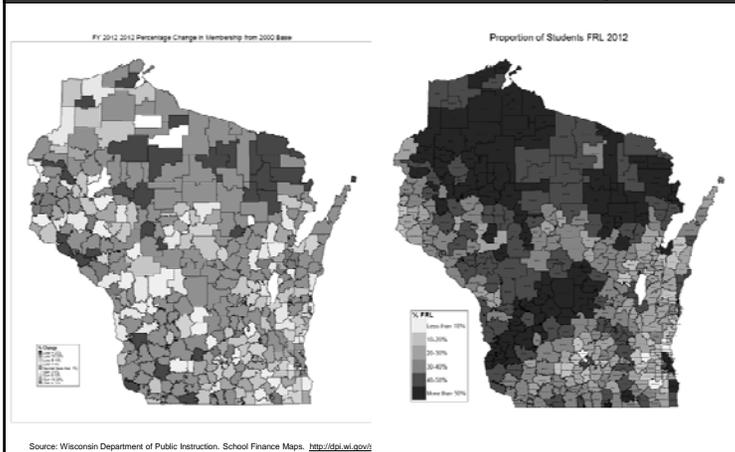
Cumulative Enrollment	Percentile	# of Districts	% of Districts
209,535	25%	8	2%
419,387	50%	41	11%
626,834	75%	114	30%
871,551	100%	424	100%

District Enrollment	% of Districts
Under 1,000	55%
Under 3,000	83%
Under 10,000	98%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, School Finance Maps. <http://dipi.wi.gov/sfsmaps.html>



Which Means Rural Districts Have Fewer Kids & Greater Poverty



...And Rural Schools Face Specific Challenges

- **Declining enrollment;**
- **Growing poverty;**
- **Staff shortages;**
- **Insufficient broadband infrastructure;**
- **Higher transportation costs; and**
- **Increasing numbers of English Language Learners (ELL).**



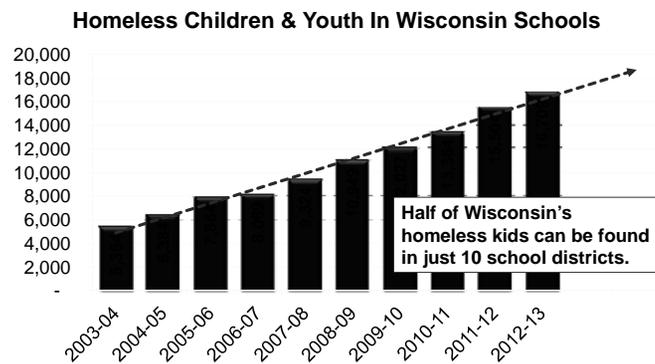
Small schools have less **economy of scale**, making technology and infrastructure investments more expensive (fewer students to absorb costs).

Rural districts generally have **fewer support staff and administrators** (*the superintendent often is a principal and business administrator*), meaning there are fewer staff to implement state and federal initiatives.

Rural educators often receive **lower compensation and wear many hats**, requiring high levels of certification and commitment.



The # of Homeless Kids are Growing

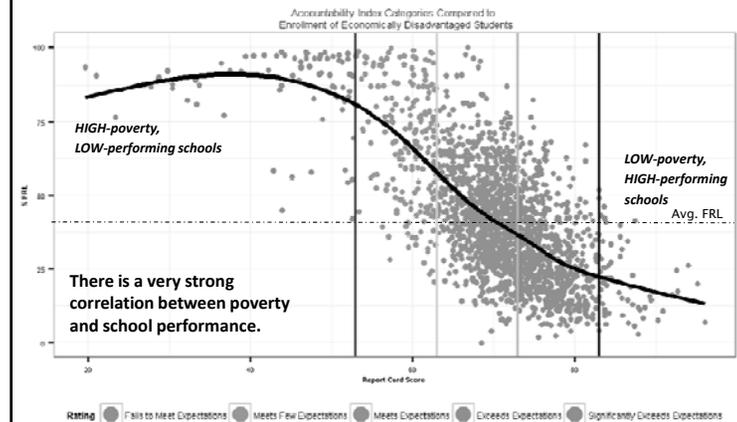


Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Homeless Children and Youth data: http://homeless.dpi.wi.gov/hmis_data



And Poverty Impacts Achievement

(2012-13 Report Card Data)

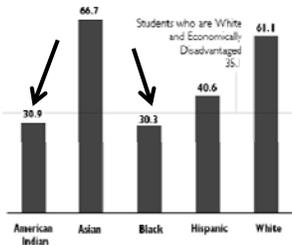


Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, School and District Report Cards <http://reportcards.dpi.wi.gov/>

But Poverty Can't Explain Any the Racial Achievement Gap

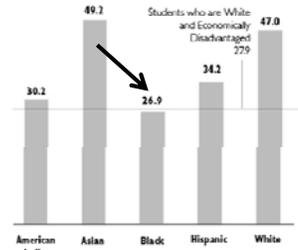
WSAS Performance 2013

Grade 8 Mathematics
Students who are not Economically Disadvantaged
Percent Proficient and Advanced

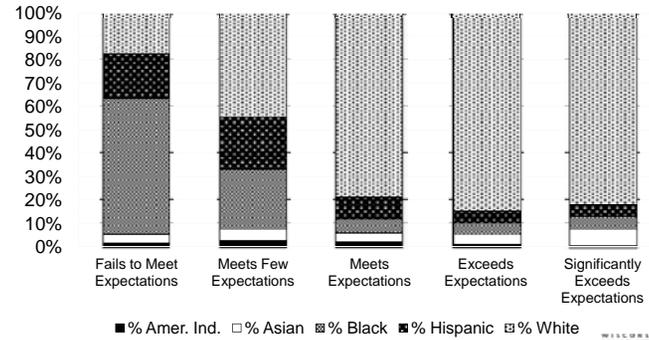


WSAS Performance 2013

Grade 3 Reading
Students who are not Economically Disadvantaged
Percent Proficient and Advanced



And Students of Color are More Likely to Attend a Low-Performing School



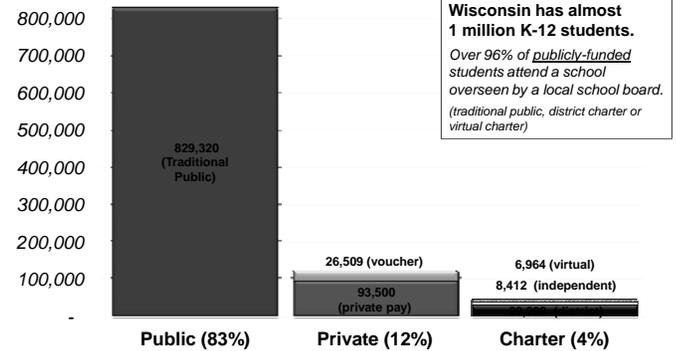
Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, School and District Report Cards <http://reportcards.dpi.wi.gov/>



Vouchers & Charters Expansion



Most Kids Attend Public School

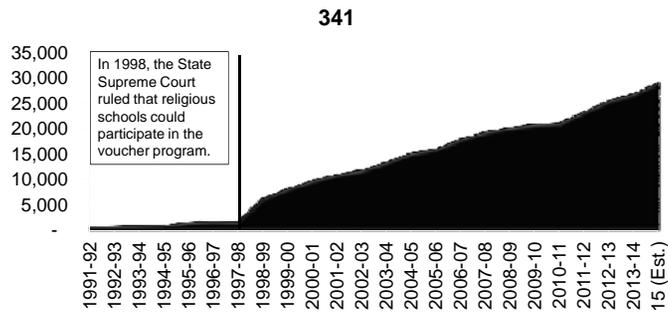


Wisconsin has almost 1 million K-12 students.
Over 96% of publicly-funded students attend a school overseen by a local school board.
(traditional public, district charter or virtual charter)

Source: Department of Public Instruction, Public School Enrollment Data http://bstat.dpi.wi.gov/bstat_pubdata3
Private School Enrollment Data http://bstat.dpi.wi.gov/bstat_privdata



Voucher Programs Started Small, But Have Grown Over Time



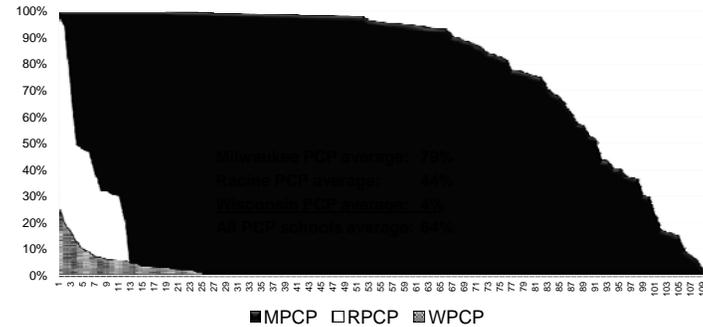
In 1990-91, the Voucher Program cost \approx \$734,000
 In 2014-15, the Voucher Program will cost: \approx \$212,000,000

Source: Department of Public Instruction, Private School Choice Programs - Facts & Figures. <http://dps.wi.gov/private-school-choice-facts-statistics>



Most Students in Voucher Schools are Publicly-Funded

2013-14 % Voucher Enrollment in Choice Schools
 (September Pupil Count)



The % of voucher-funded students in participating schools (particularly K-8 schools) tends to grow over time.

Source: Department of Public Instruction, Private School Choice Programs - Facts & Figures. <http://dps.wi.gov/private-school-choice-facts-statistics>



A Voucher in Every Backpack?

What would universal vouchers with public school funding parity cost? *Let's do the math...*

New Cost for Tuition-Paying Students				
Number of Private Pay Students	X	Public School Revenue Limit	=	Marginal Cost for Universal Vouchers
93,000	X	\$10,000	=	\$930,000,000

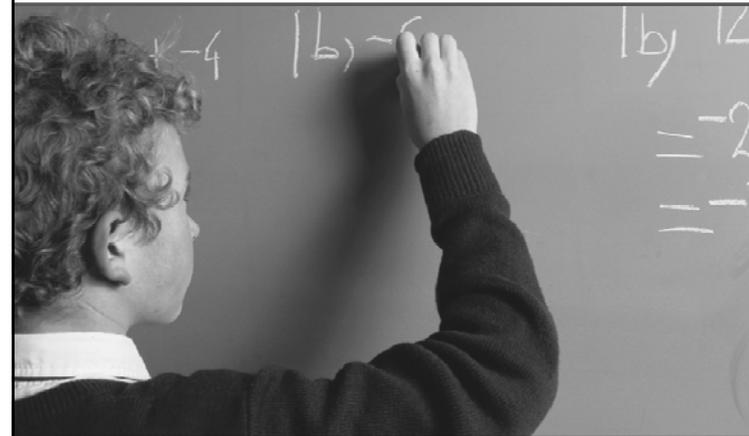
Increased Cost for Current Voucher Students (2013-14)							
Grade	Public School Revenue Limit	Voucher Amount	Difference	X	Voucher Enrollment	=	Marginal Cost
K-8	\$10,000	\$7,210	\$2,790	X	23,616	=	\$65,888,700
9-12	\$10,000	\$7,856	\$2,144	X	5,184	=	\$11,114,500
			Total		28,800		\$77,003,200

Total additional (marginal) cost for universal vouchers: \$ 1,007,003,200 (\$1 billion)

Source: Department of Public Instruction, 2013-15 State Budget Information. http://news.dpi.wi.gov/news_2013-15-state-budget-information
 Note: calculations are updated to determine marginal, rather than total program costs.



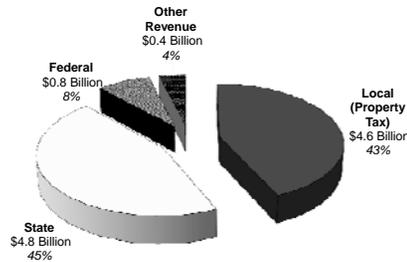
School Finance Challenges



2012-13 Wisconsin School Revenue

Revenue

\$10.7 Billion



- 88% of schools' funds come from state and local sources.
- State and local funding efforts are roughly split 50-50.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, School District Revenue Limits http://dfs.dpi.wis.gov/dfs_revlim
2013-15 State Budget: http://news.dpi.wis.gov/news_2013-15-state-budget-information



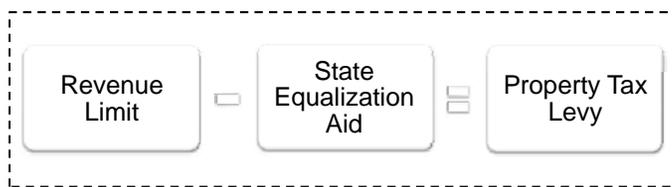
Ten Largest State Programs (General Fund)

Category	% of State Budget
1. K-12 General and Categorical School Aids (\$5.2 billion)	32.4%
2. Medical Assistance	15.1%
3. University of Wisconsin System Operations	7.0%
4. State Correctional Operations	6.4%
5. School Levy/First Dollar Tax Credits (\$897.4 million)	5.6%
6. Shared Revenue Payments (Aid to Municipalities)	5.3%
7. Technical College System Aids	3.2%
8. Appropriation Obligation Bonds	2.5%
9. Local Community/Juvenile Correctional Services	1.9%
10. State Judicial/Legal Services	1.6%
Everything else (agency operations, choice programs, etc.)	19%

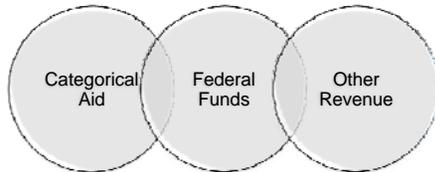
Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau



School Funding – Simplified!

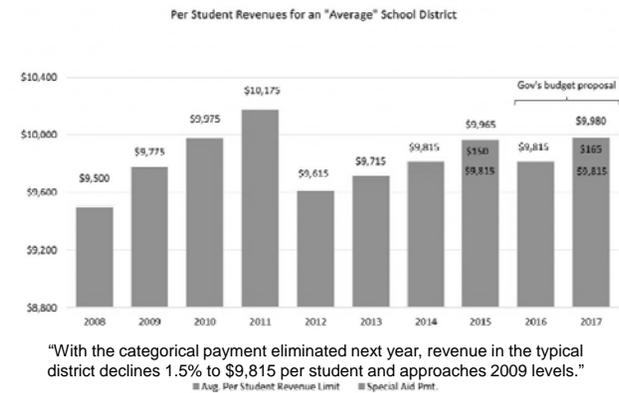


Outside the Revenue Limit



Proposed 2015-17 Budget

Funding Approaches the 2009 Levels

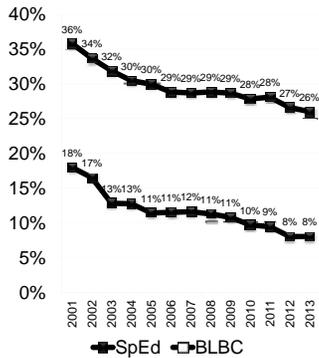


"With the categorical payment eliminated next year, revenue in the typical district declines 1.5% to \$9,815 per student and approaches 2009 levels."

Source: WisTax, "School revenues under state budget proposal" <http://wistax.org/blog/school-revenues-under-state-budget-proposal>



Special Education & Bilingual Reimbursement Rates are Falling



Special Education & Bilingual/Bicultural (BLBC)

This budget would mean 6 years of flat funding for students with special needs and ELL students

This budget will mean almost a decade of flat funding.

Reimbursement rates dropped 10 percentage points since 2000-01

Special Education (36% to 26%)
Bilingual-Bicultural (18% to 8%).

Source: Department of Public Instruction, 2011-13 State Budget, http://pb.dpi.wi.gov/pb_11-13_budget
2013-15 State Budget, http://news.dpi.wi.gov/news_2013-15-state-budget-information



Proposed 2015-17 Budget

Cuts & Policy Changes Stir Controversy

Rural Schools See Small Increases

Increases in Sparsity and High Cost Transportation
Funding for TEACH 2.0 and Broadband Expansion

Voucher & Charter Expansion

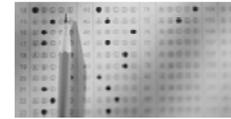
New funding mechanism from district aid
Statewide charter authorizing board

New Test; Different Report Cards

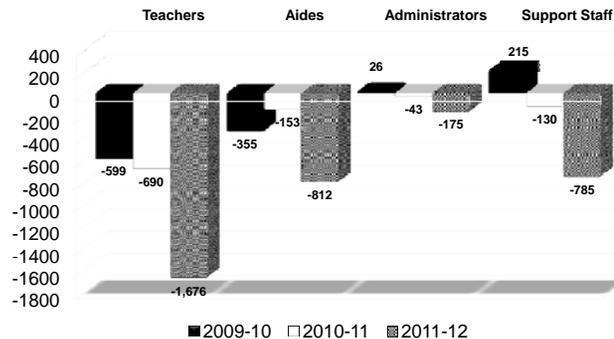
Eliminate SBAC in 2015-16
Modifies state report cards
New "alternative" licenses

Major cuts to UW & ECB

-\$300M to UW; Eliminates shared governance
-\$5.4M to Education Communication Board (ECB)



Wisconsin Lost 3,000 Educators During the Great Recession



Wisconsin schools cut more than 3,000 educators during the Great Recession.

Source: Department of Public Instruction, 2011-13 State Budget, http://pb.dpi.wi.gov/pb_11-13_budget
2013-15 State Budget, http://news.dpi.wi.gov/news_2013-15-state-budget-information



And an Increased Reliance on Referenda

Overall	Passed	1,423	52%
	Failed	1,328	48%
	Total	2,751	

Debt	Passed	955	54%
	Failed	800	46%
	Total	1,755	

Non-recurring	Passed	314	56%
	Failed	242	44%
	Total	556	

Recurring	Passed	154	35%
	Failed	286	65%
	Total	440	

There have been over 2,750 referenda since the 1990s.

80% of referenda are in rural schools.

Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau



Is There a Better Way Forward?



"The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place and I don't care how tough you are it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard ya hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward."

– Rocky Balboa



Finish What We Started: Every Child a Graduate College & Career Ready

Standards & Instruction

- *What and how should kids learn?*
 - *Common Core State Standards*

Assessments and Data Systems

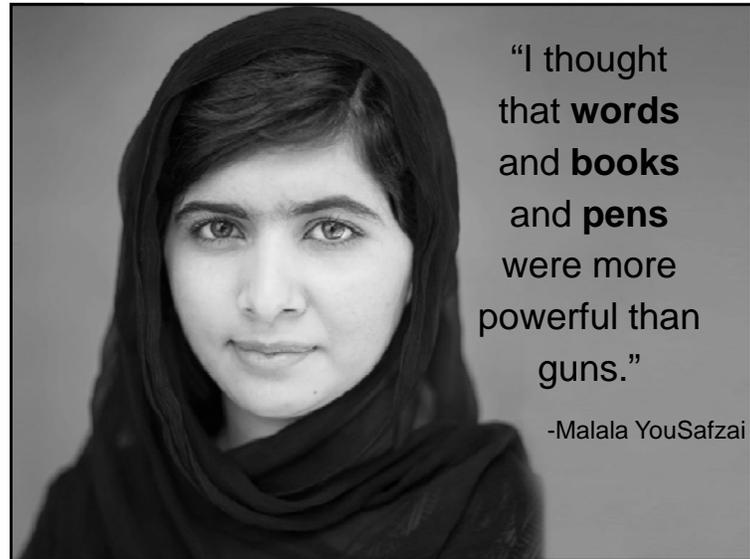
- *How do we know if they learned it?*
 - *Next Generation Assessments*

Accountability

- *How do we support improvement?*
 - *Personalized learning, Rtl & PBIS*
 - *New educator effectiveness system*
 - *Accountability system reform*

School Finance

- *How should we pay for schools?*
 - *Fair Funding for our Future*



"I thought that **words** and **books** and **pens** were more powerful than guns."

-Malala YouSafzai

Shift Focus to Classrooms & Kids: Achievement Gap Task Force

The strategies and best practices advanced in the “**Promoting Excellence for All**” report and website are from educators, for educators.

The strategies span four categories:

- **Effective instruction;**
- **Student-teacher relationships;**
- **Family and community engagement; and**
- **School and instructional leadership.**

From the *Angel List* and *Focused Events* to *Cultural Competency and Relationship Building*, they are tried and tested by Wisconsin educators.

They work. They can make a difference for your students tomorrow.



Bottom Line

Wisconsin must meet the challenge of growing poverty and increasingly diverse classrooms.

- *Students and families have more options and choices than ever before (neighborhood schools, charters, vouchers, open enrollment, or virtual charters).*
- *But we have to close our achievement gaps and expand personalized learning for all students.*
- *And rural schools deserve the resources to meet the needs of their students without continuous referenda.*

Together, we can do better....

