

# Wisconsin Education Challenges



**2015 Federal Funding Conference  
Jeff Pertl, Senior Policy Advisor**



# **Changing Faces of Wisconsin**

# Poverty is Growing in Wisconsin

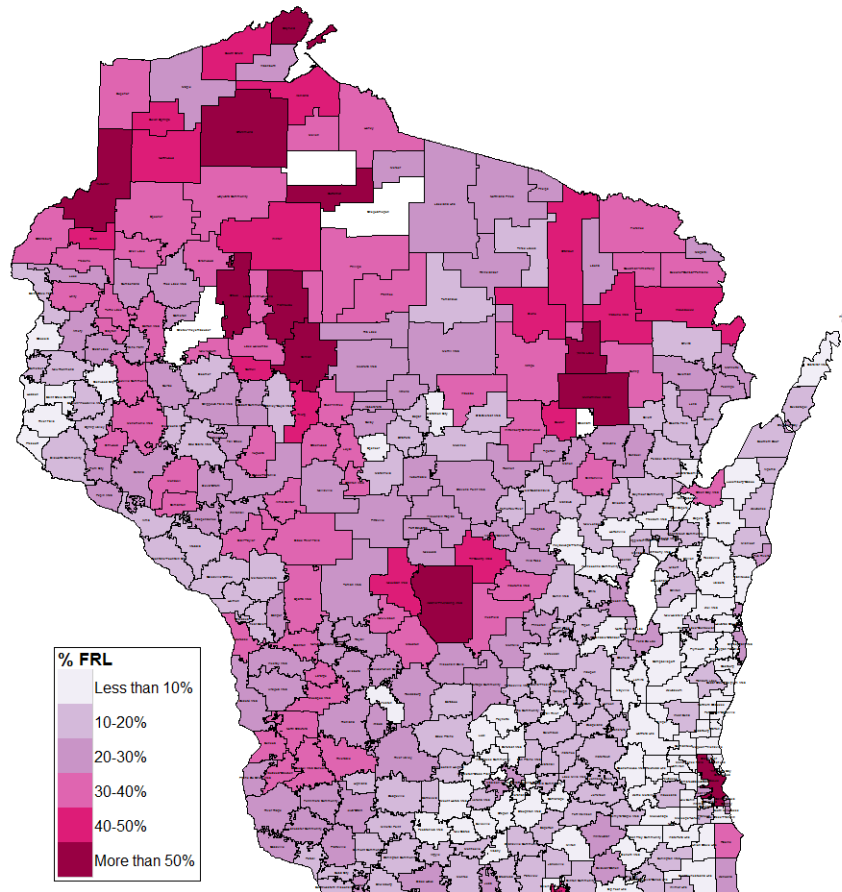
Change in Free & Reduced Lunch (2001-2012)

**Wisconsin  
FRL Rate  
Doubles**

2001: 21%

2012: 43%

Proportion of Students FRL 2001

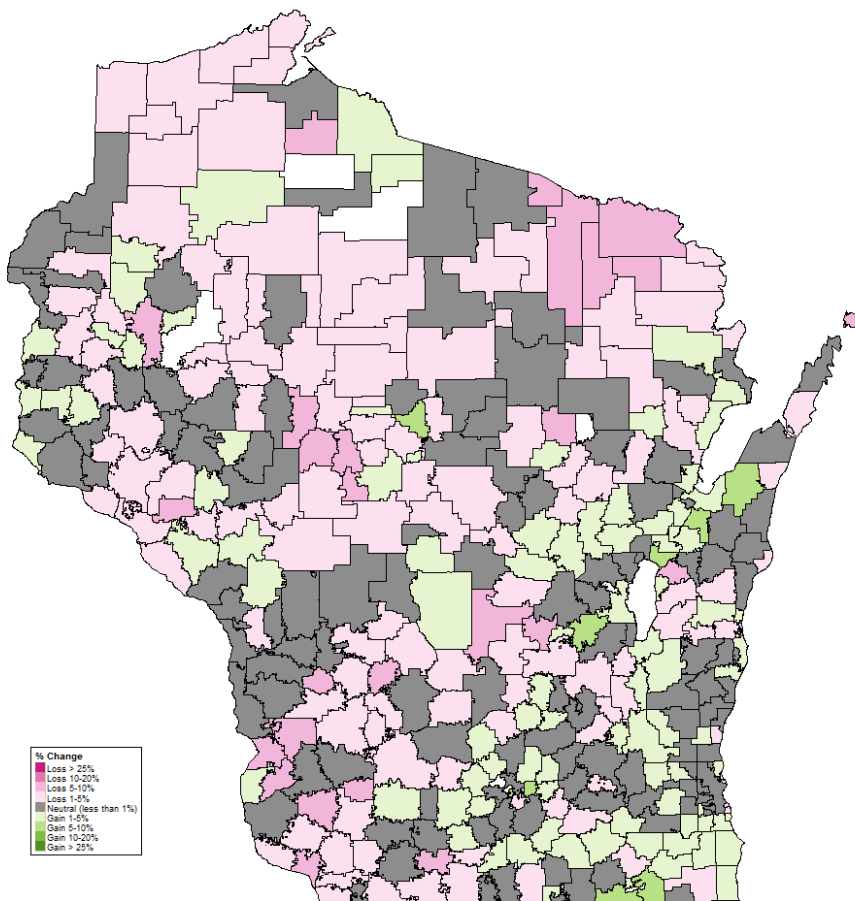


In many rural districts, more than half the students are eligible for free-and-reduced lunch.

# Students are in Fewer Districts

## Change Student Membership (2001-2012)

FY 2012 2001 Percentage Change in Membership from 2000 Base



In 2001, **1/3<sup>rd</sup>** of districts were in **declining enrollment**.

By 2012, over **2/3<sup>rd</sup>s** districts were in **declining enrollment**.

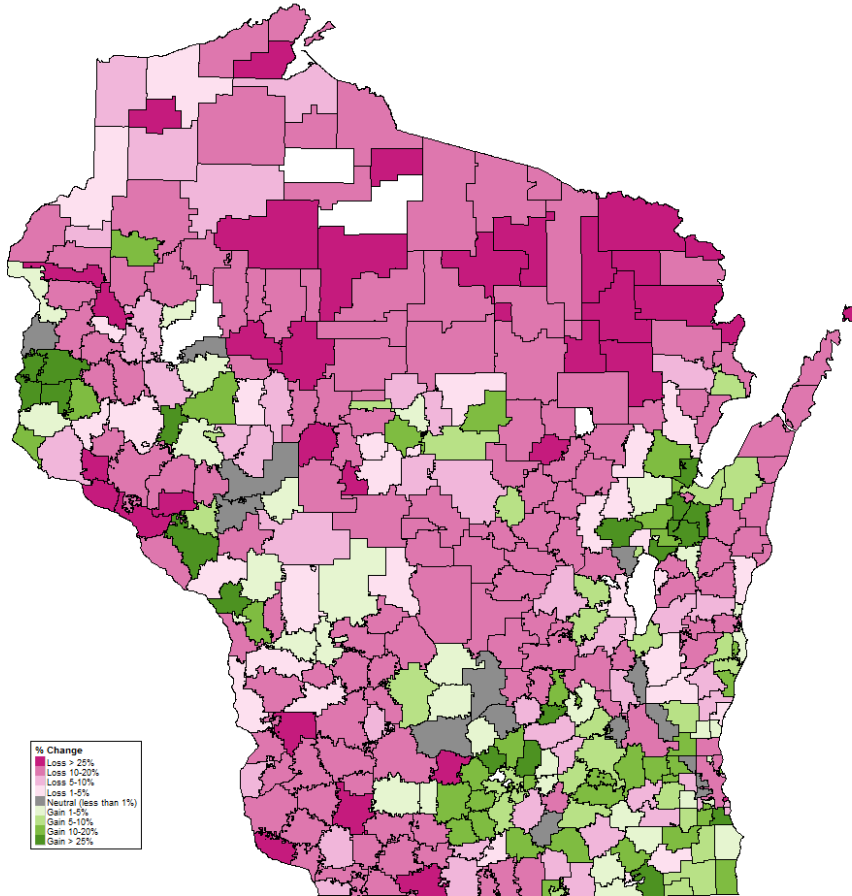
Today, **75%** of our students are located in just **30%** of our districts.

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%

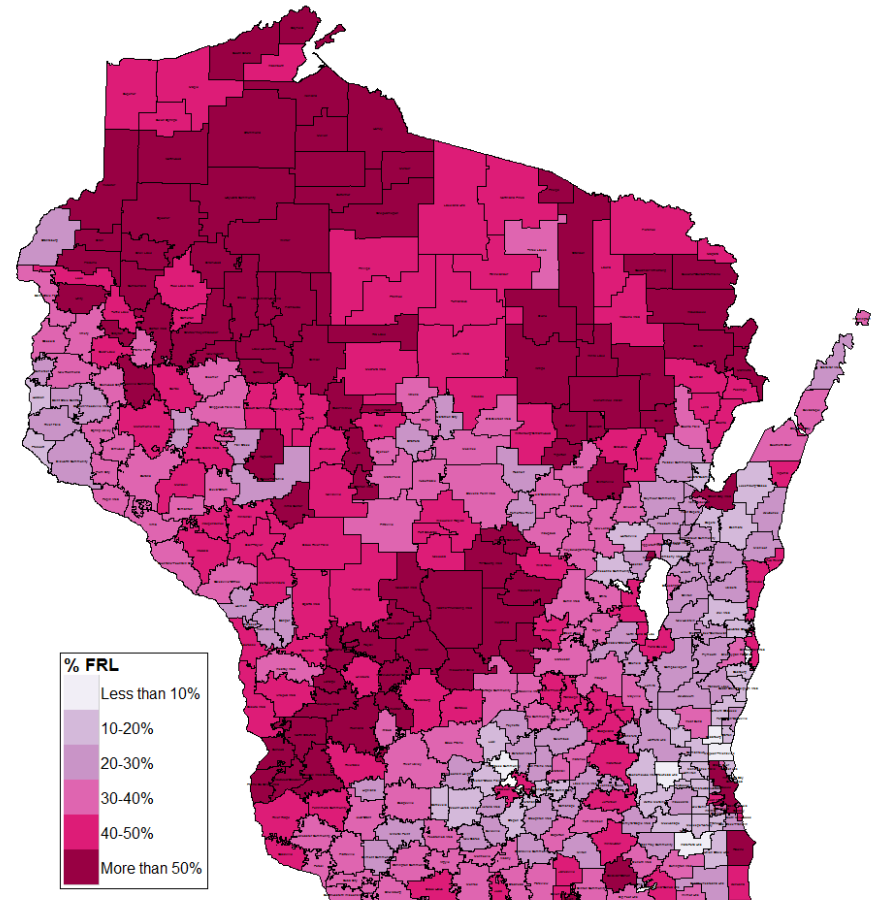
District Enrollment	% of Districts
Under 1,000	55%
Under 3,000	83%
Under 10,000	98%

# Which Means Rural Districts Have Fewer Kids & Greater Poverty

FY 2012 2012 Percentage Change in Membership from 2000 Base



Proportion of Students FRL 2012



# ...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.

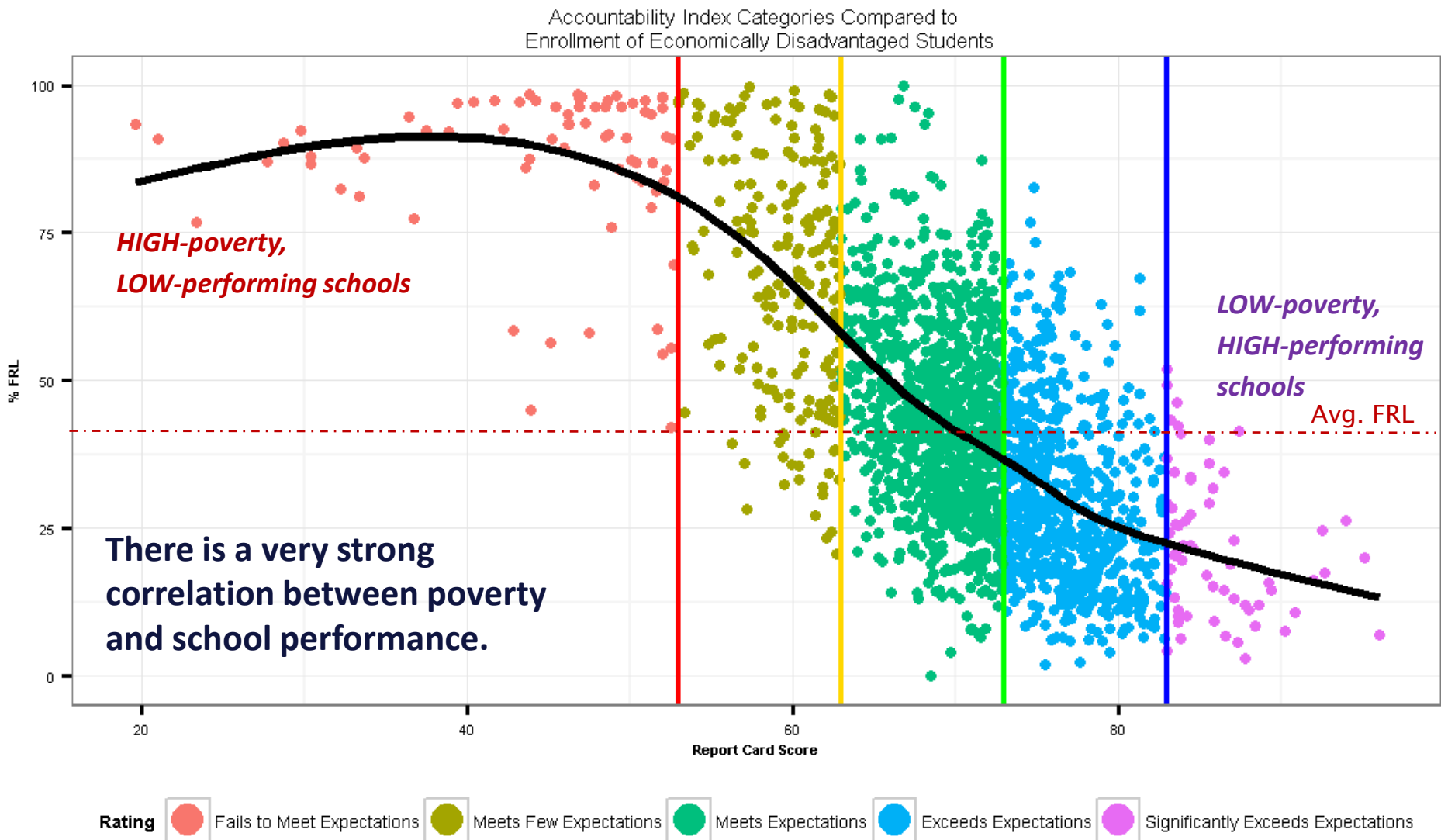
# The # of Homeless Kids are Growing

## Homeless Children & Youth In Wisconsin Schools



# And Poverty Impacts Achievement

(2012-13 Report Card Data)

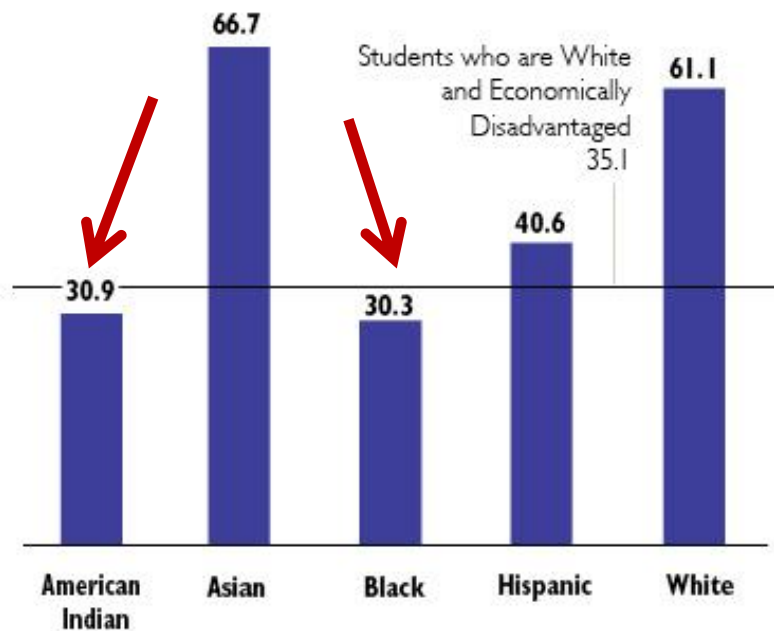


# But Poverty Can't Explain Any the Racial Achievement Gap

## WSAS Performance 2013

### Grade 8 Mathematics

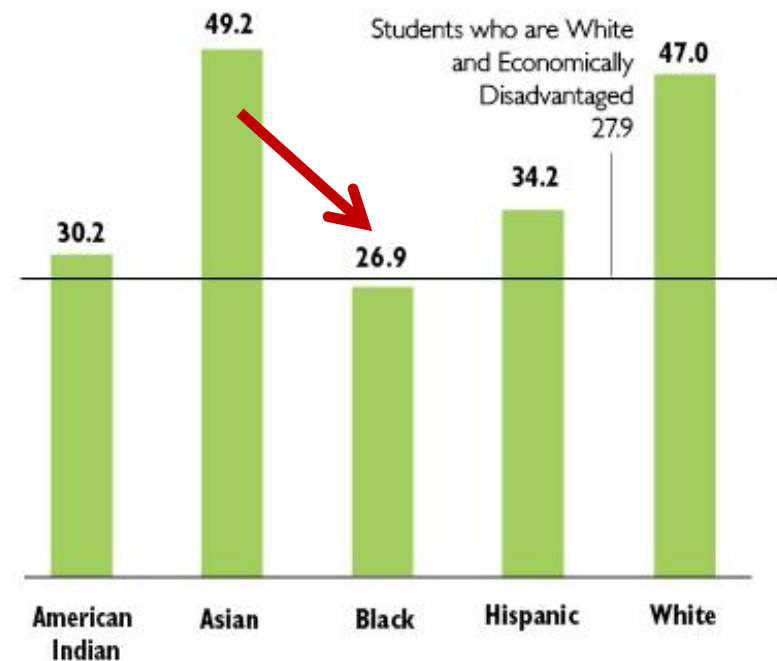
Students who are not Economically Disadvantaged  
Percent Proficient and Advanced



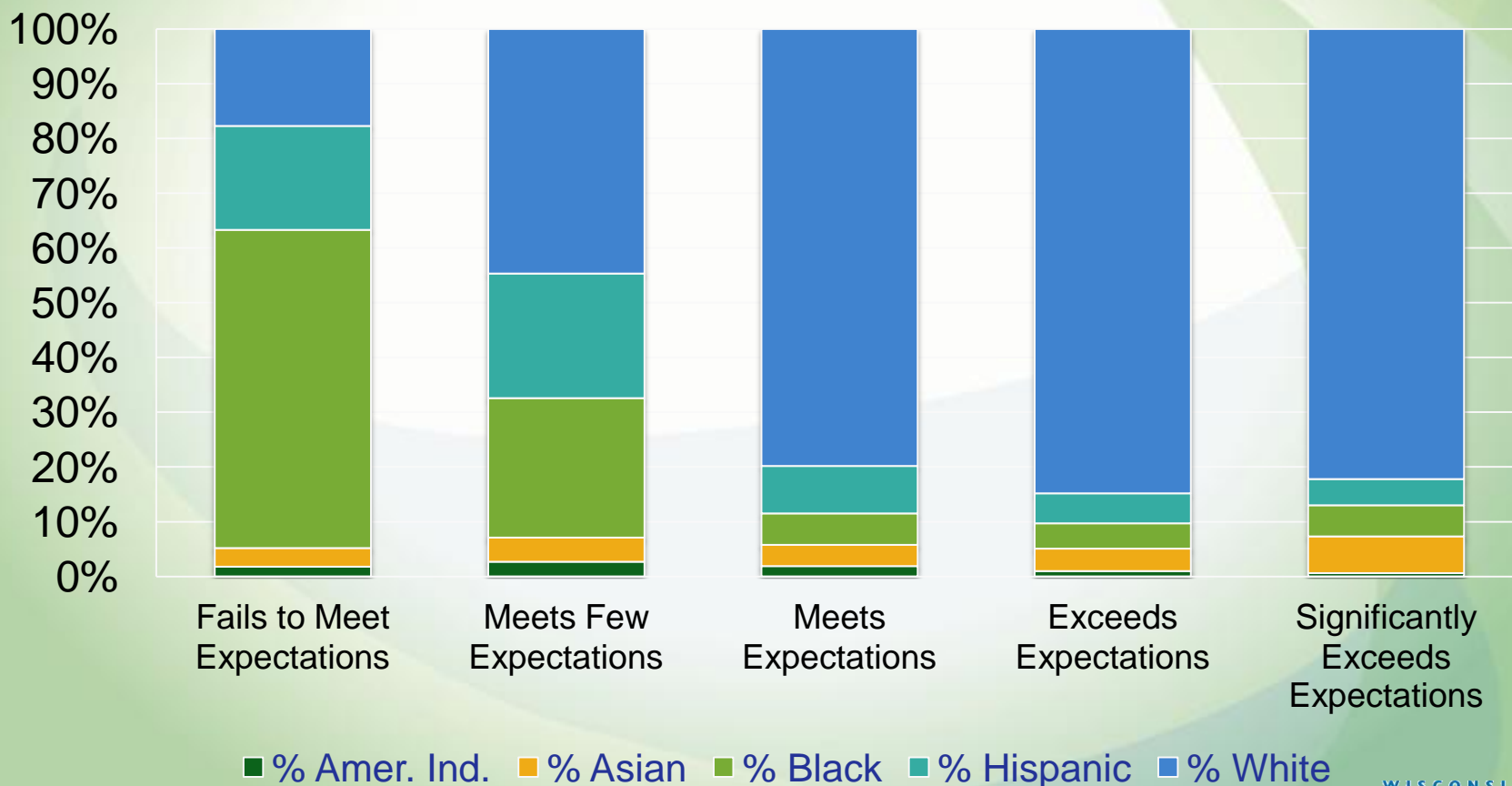
## WSAS Performance 2013

### Grade 3 Reading

Students who are not Economically Disadvantaged  
Percent Proficient and Advanced



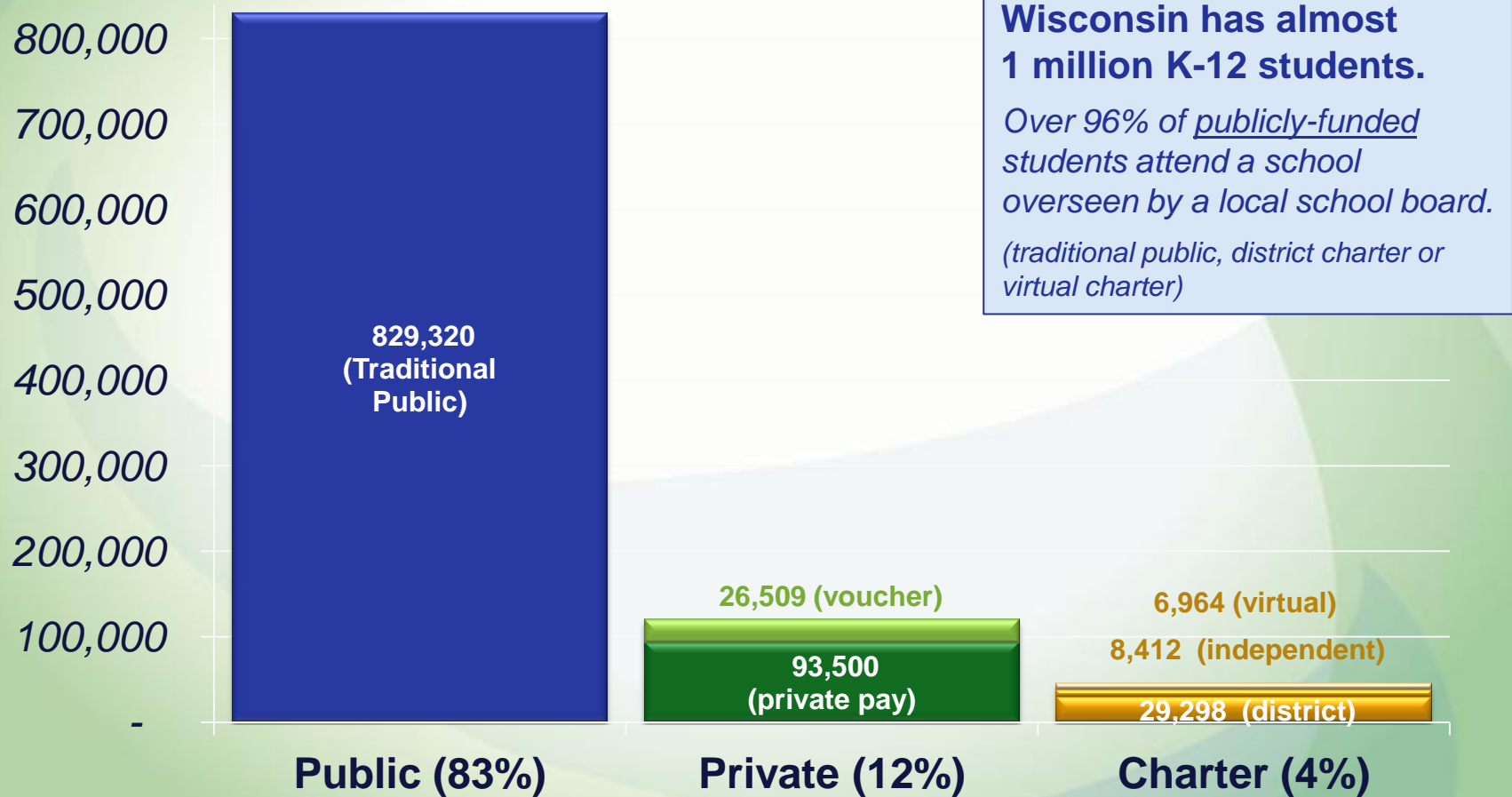
# And Students of Color are More Likely to Attend a Low-Performing School



# Vouchers & Charters Expansion

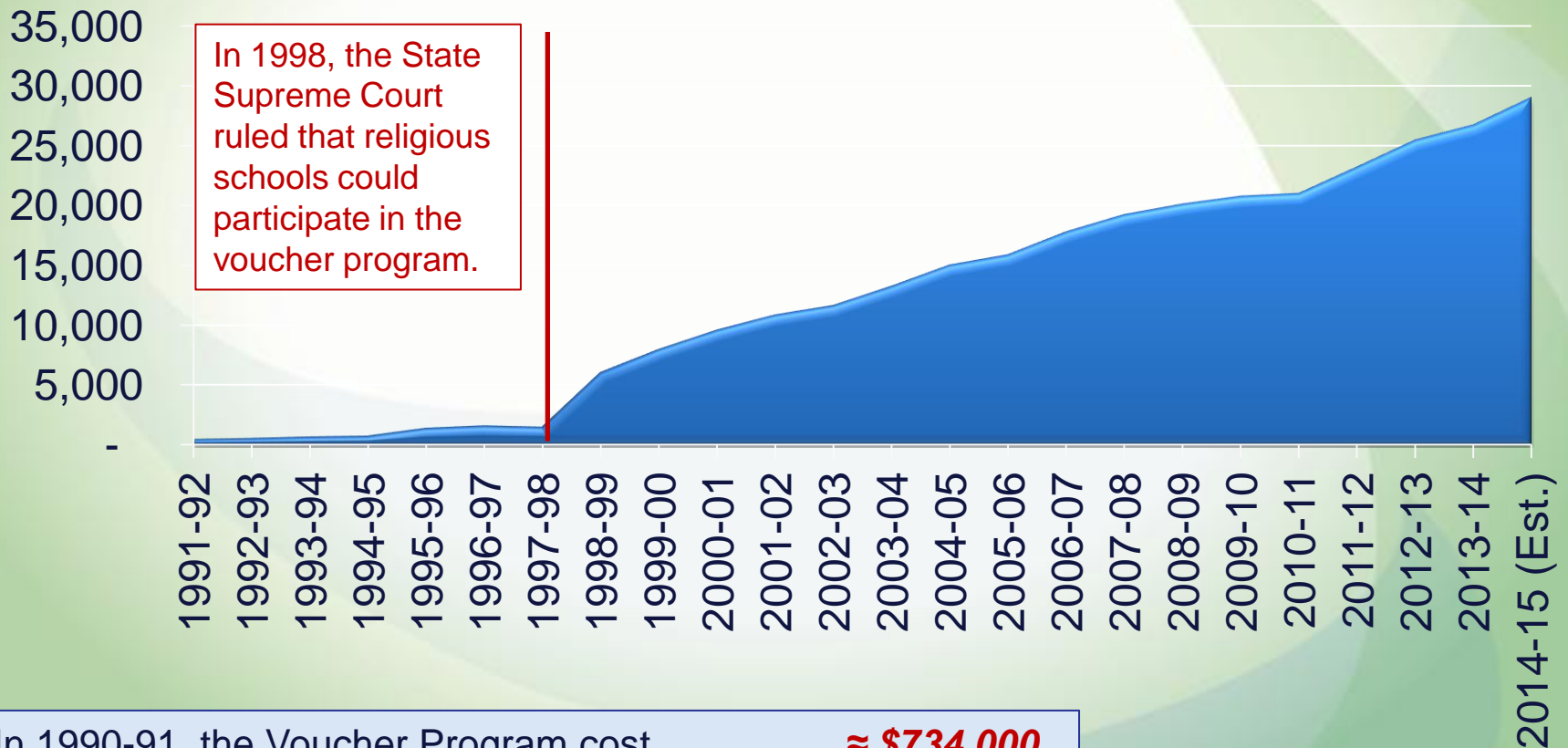


# Most Kids Attend Public School



Source: Department of Public Instruction. Public School Enrollment Data [http://lbstat.dpi.wi.gov/lbstat\\_pubdata3](http://lbstat.dpi.wi.gov/lbstat_pubdata3)  
Private School Enrollment Data [http://lbstat.dpi.wi.gov/lbstat\\_privdata](http://lbstat.dpi.wi.gov/lbstat_privdata)

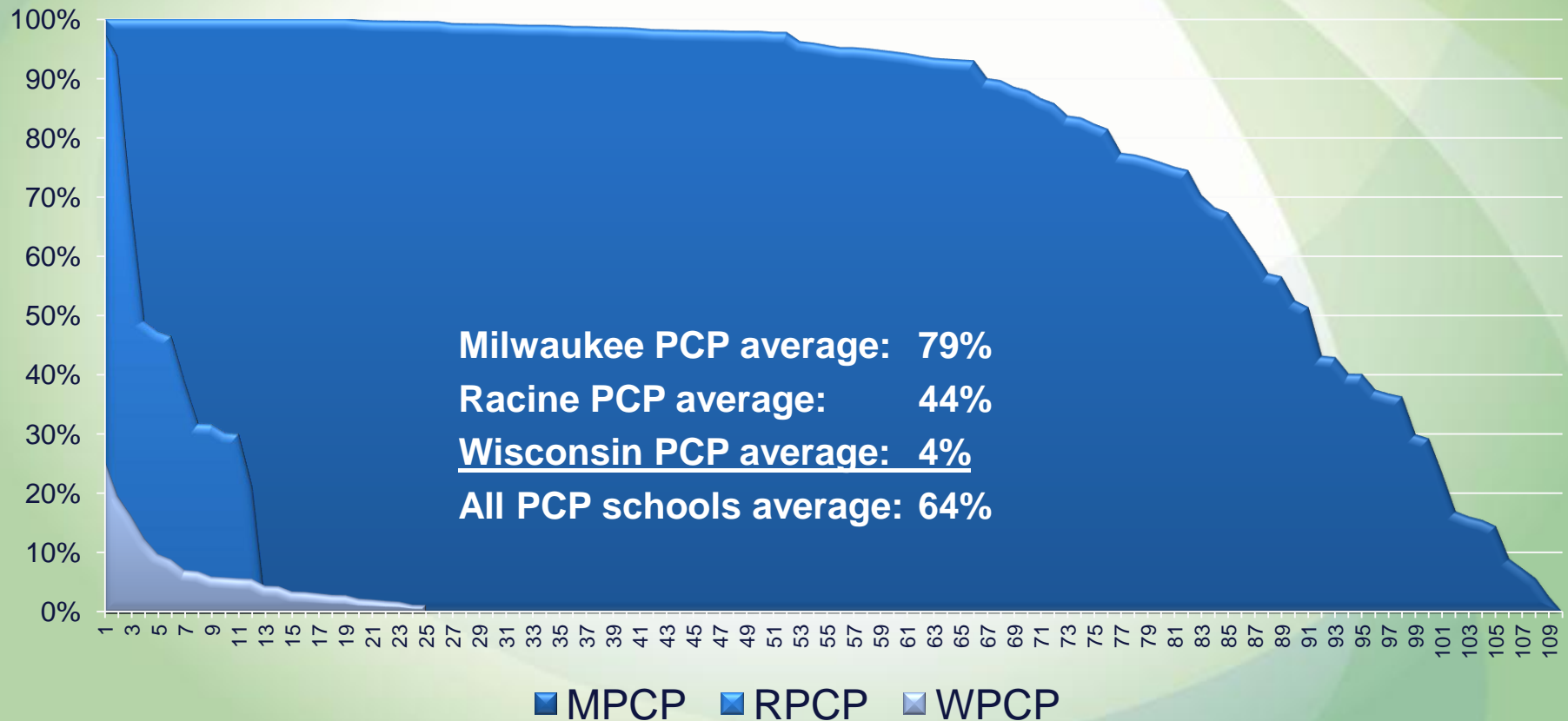
# Voucher Programs Started Small, But Have Grown Over Time



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

# 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.***

# 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	=	<b>\$930,000,000</b>

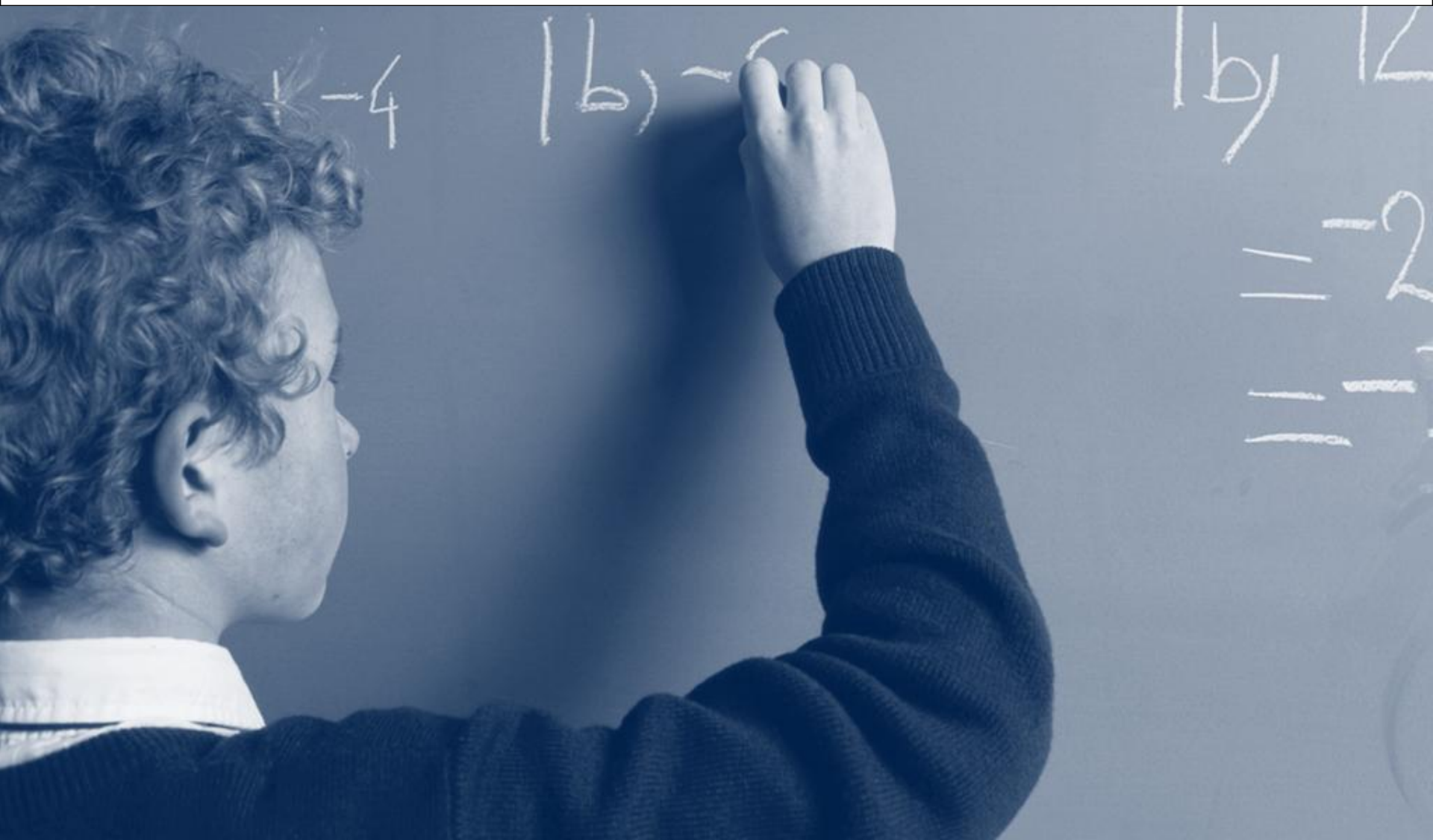
## Increased Cost for Current Voucher Students (2013-14)

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
			<b>Total</b>		<b>28,800</b>		<b>\$77,003,200</b>

**Total additional (marginal) cost for universal vouchers:**

**\$ 1,007,003,200 (\$1 billion)**

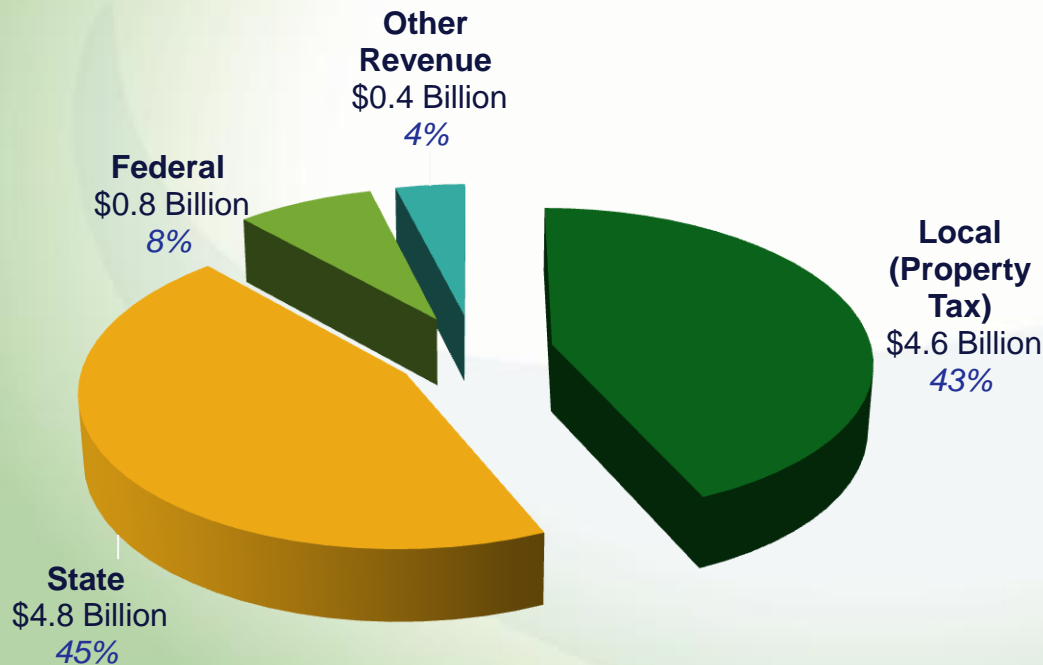
# School Finance Challenges



# 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.

# Ten Largest State Programs

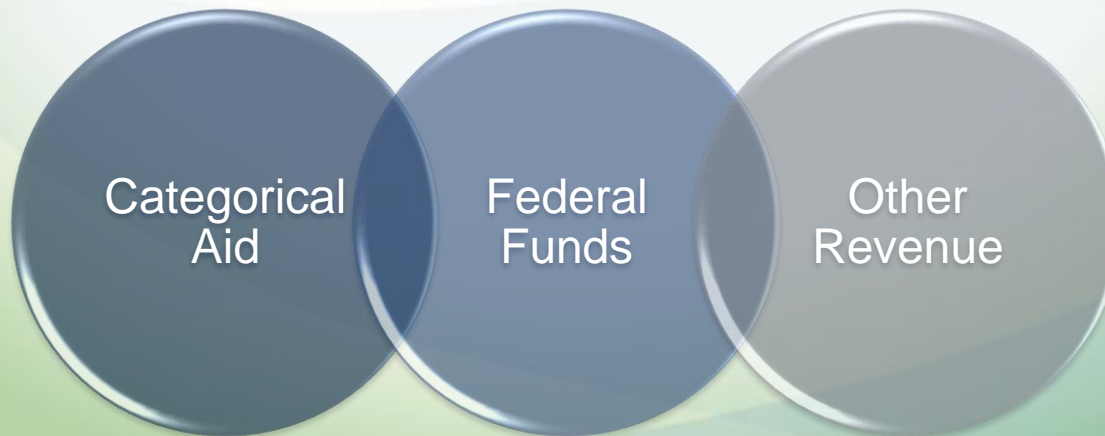
## (General Fund)

<u>Category</u>	<u>% of State Budget</u>
<b>1. K-12 General and Categorical School Aids (\$5.2 billion)</b>	<b>32.4%</b>
2. Medical Assistance	15.1%
3. University of Wisconsin System Operations	7.0%
4. State Correctional Operations	6.4%
<b>5. School Levy/First Dollar Tax Credits (\$897.4 million)</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
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%

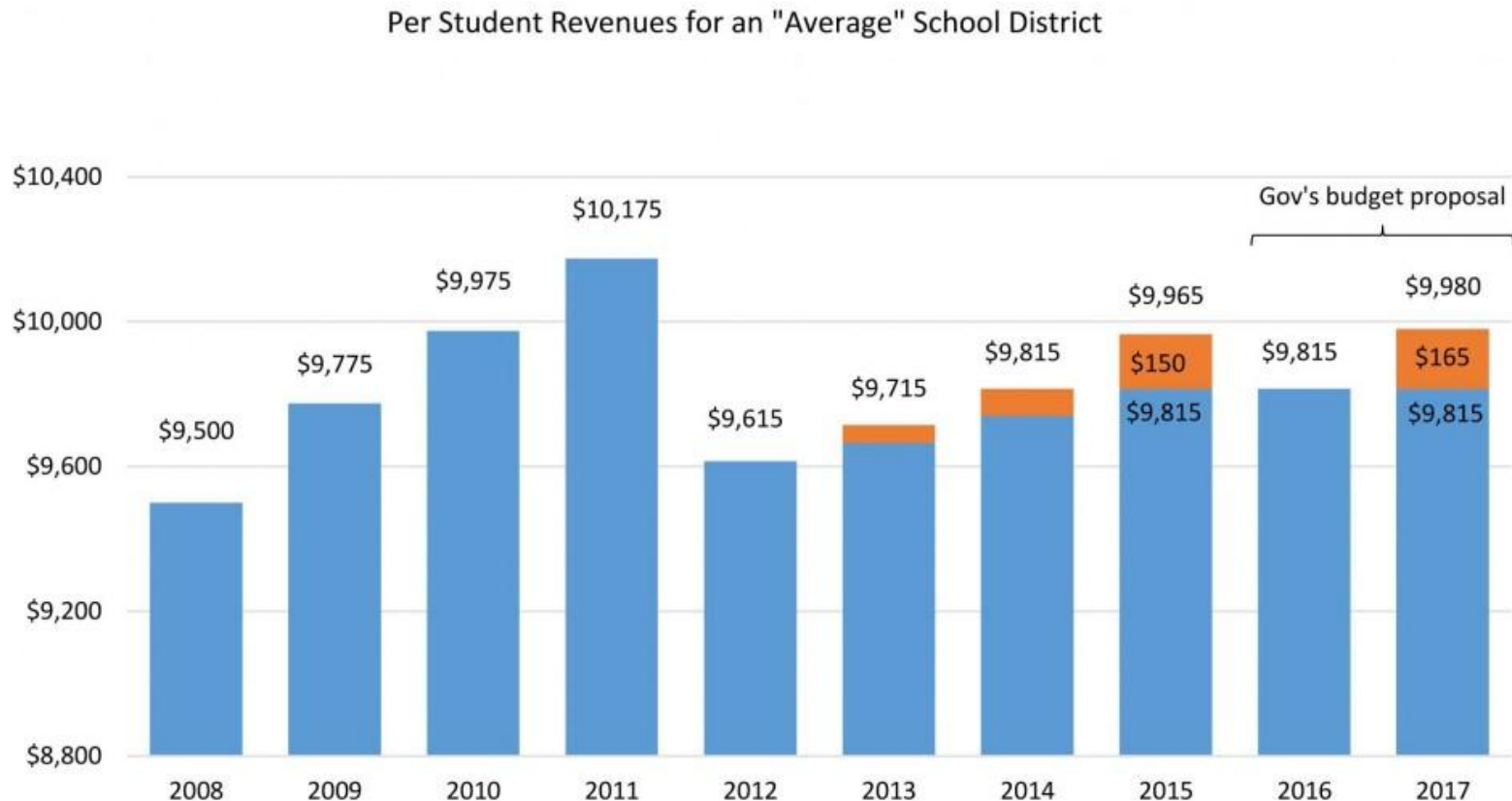
# School Funding – *Simplified!*



## *Outside the Revenue Limit*



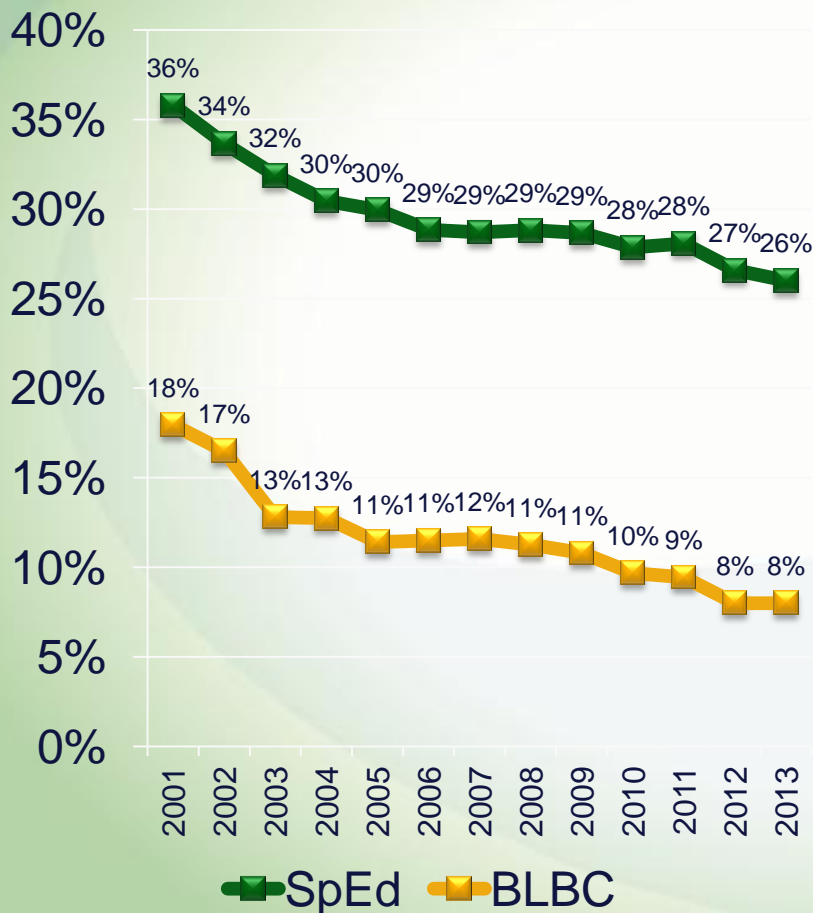
# Funding Approaches the 2009 Levels



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

■ Avg. Per Student Revenue Limit ■ Special Aid Pmt.

# 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%).

# 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

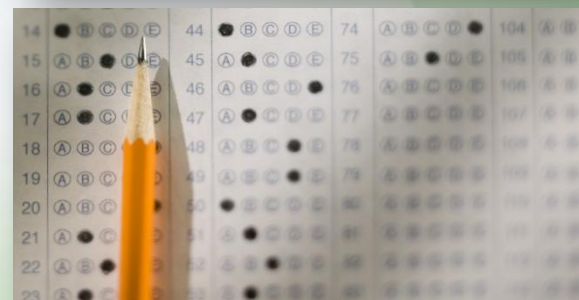
New funding mechanism from district aid  
Statewide charter authorizing board

## 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.*

# And an Increased Reliance on Referenda

Overall	Passed	1,423	52%
	Failed	1,328	48%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,751</b>	

Debt	Passed	955	54%
	Failed	800	46%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,755</b>	

Non-recurring	Passed	314	56%
	Failed	242	44%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>556</b>	

Recurring	Passed	154	35%
	Failed	286	65%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	

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

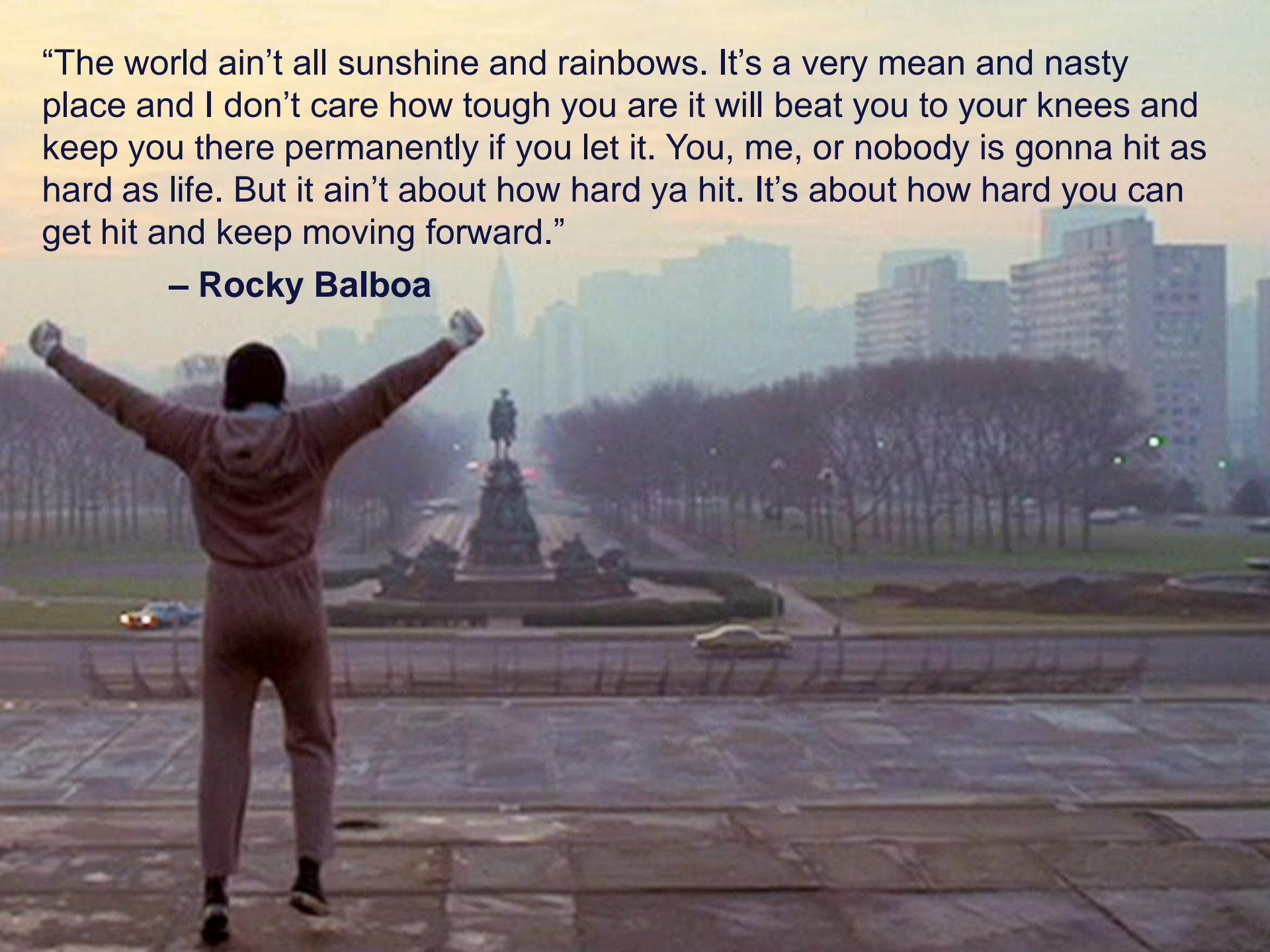
*80% of referenda are in rural schools.*

# 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

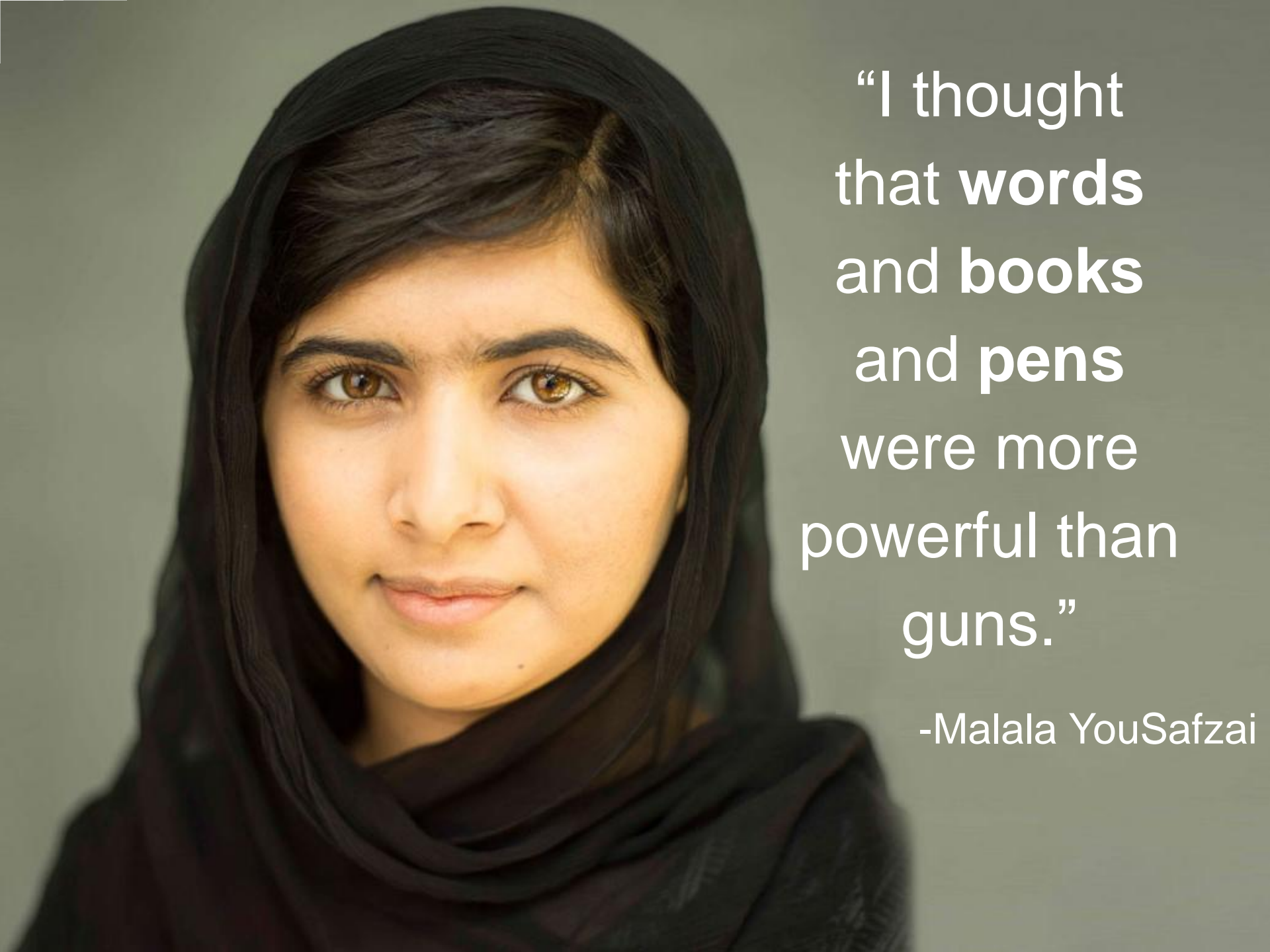
## Accountability

- *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



A close-up portrait of Malala Yousafzai, a young woman with dark hair, wearing a black headscarf. She is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is a plain, light gray.

“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.

## Promoting Excellence for All

A Report from the State Superintendent's  
Task Force on Wisconsin's Achievement Gap

<http://statesupt.dpi.wi.gov/excforall>



# 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....***

