

Resolution to End Parental School Choice Programs in Wisconsin

Whereas, the Parental School Choice programs in Wisconsin divert critical funding from public schools, which serve the majority of students across the state; and

Whereas, public school districts across Wisconsin are increasingly forced to rely on local referenda to secure adequate funding, an unsustainable practice that places undue financial strain and division on communities; and

Whereas, the use of public funds to subsidize private school vouchers has led to significant deficits in essential programs such as Special Education, which must then be subsidized by conventional public school funding; and

Whereas, the removal of income caps for the Parental School Choice programs, scheduled for the 2026-2027 school year, will exacerbate the existing school funding crisis, described in the media as the "fiscal cliff"; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin PTA's mission is to advocate for the well-being and equitable education of all children, which is undermined by policies that weaken public education systems; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA publicly oppose the continuation and expansion of Parental School Choice programs in the state of Wisconsin; and

Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA promote public awareness of the detrimental impacts of Parental School Choice programs on public school funding and equitable access to quality education; and

Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA encourage legislators to prioritize equitable funding for public schools, ensuring that all children have access to robust, well-resourced educational opportunities; and

Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA educate its members and the broader community on the long-term financial implications of the Parental School Choice programs, including the impending removal of income caps in 2026-2027.

Title: Resolution to Advocate for the Termination of Parental School Choice Programs in Wisconsin

Rationale: This resolution seeks to uphold the Wisconsin PTA's commitment to advocating for equitable and sustainable education funding for all children. By addressing the systemic harm caused by Parental School Choice programs, this resolution aligns with the PTA's mission to support public education and the well-being of every child.

Citations for each Whereas statements:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/finances/private-school-vouchers>
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sfs/pdf/WASBOAccConf23-PrivateSchoolVouchers.pdf>
<https://wispolicyforum.org/research/wisconsin-sets-more-referenda-records-to-fund-schools/>
<https://apnews.com/article/wisconsin-school-referenda-record-approval-election-66ce652aa676a4327c9c01503a68635b>
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/finances/private-school-vouchers>

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sfs/pdf/WASBOAccConf23-PrivateSchoolVouchers.pdf>
<https://wispolicyforum.org/research/wisconsin-sets-more-referenda-records-to-fund-schools/>
<https://wisconsinexaminer.com/2024/02/15/assembly-education-committee-votes-to-change-private-school-funding-advances-truancy-bills/>

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/education/2021/10/01/milwaukee-school-choice-program-taught-rest-u-s-alan-borsuk/5949562001/>

<https://wisconsinwatch.org/2024/09/wisconsin-school-district-referendum-voter-election/>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/here-s-what-we-re-watching-for-in-this-year-s-wisconsin-budget-debate/ar-AA1x3lno?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

<https://www.wpr.org/politics/wisconsin-ends-2024-fiscal-year-with-4-6b-surplus-down-from-7b-record-but-above-projections>

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2023/06/13/voucher-schools-see-a-lifeline-in-wisconsin-shared-revenue-deal/70314398007/>

 dpi.wi.gov

Fiscal Impacts - Private School Choice Programs, Special Needs ...

April 17, 2018 — School Finance Resources. Funding Comparison Resources - These resources provide information about how different education options and programs are funded.

 dpi.wi.gov

[PDF] Private School Voucher Funding and the Impact on School Districts

March 21, 2023 — MPS can increase its property tax levy to replace this state general aid reduction under its revenue limit; however, MPS cannot count choice.

 wispolicyforum.org

Wisconsin sets more referenda records to fund schools

November 4, 2024 — Wisconsin voters approved a record number of referenda in 2024 to increase property taxes to fund their local schools, and nearly set a record for the most ...

 apnews.com

Study finds Wisconsin voters approved a record number of school ...

November 13, 2024 — The Wisconsin Policy Forum study found that school districts asked voters to sign off on a record 241 referenda, eclipsing the old record of 240 set in 1998.

 wisconsinexaminer.com

Assembly Education Committee votes to change private school ...

February 14, 2024 — Under AB 900, all the voucher programs would be funded completely by state general purpose revenue starting in the 2024-25 school year.

More

 [dailycardinal.com](https://www.dailycardinal.com)

Students, families flood capitol in support of school choice

February 3, 2025 — In Wisconsin, 21,638 students rely on the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) to fully fund their education across 344 choice schools, ...

 [wisconsinwatch.org](https://www.wisconsinwatch.org)

Record-high Wisconsin school referendums, but approval rates fall

November 17, 2024 — On Nov. 5, Wisconsin voters approved nearly 78% of the 138 school district referendums across the state. That's higher than the 60% passage rate this past ...

 [pbswisconsin.org](https://www.pbswisconsin.org)

Wisconsin voters approve a record number of school referendums ...

November 13, 2024 — Voters stand and face a row of temporary voting booths with metal legs, plastic tables. Voters cast their ballots on Election Day on Nov. 5, ...

 [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)

Study finds Wisconsin voters approved a record number of school ...

November 13, 2024 — The Wisconsin Policy Forum study found that school districts asked voters to sign off on a record 241 referenda, eclipsing the old record of 240 set in 1998.

 [wispolicyforum.org](https://www.wispolicyforum.org)

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 [forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)

In Wisconsin, A Proposal To Decouple Public And Private School ...

October 21, 2024 — Under these bills, public schools would be funded via real estate tax monies, while choice schools would be funded from General Purpose Revenue.

 [wispolicyforum.org](https://www.wispolicyforum.org)

The ABCs of the 2024 MPS Referendum - Wisconsin Policy Forum

March 12, 2024 — On April 2, the Milwaukee Public Schools will ask Milwaukee voters to allow the district to exceed state revenue limits by up to \$252 million over four years.

 [wisconsinexaminer.com](https://www.wisconsinexaminer.com)

Assembly Education Committee votes to change private school ...

February 14, 2024 — Under AB 900, all the voucher programs would be funded completely by state general purpose revenue starting in the 2024-25 school year.

 [mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](https://www.mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us)

MPS: Frequently Asked Questions - Milwaukee Public Schools

January 10, 2024 — Post-election note: In 2024 alone, more than one-third of the state's 421 school districts put an operational referendum question on the ballot ...

 [the74million.org](https://www.the74million.org)

How Parent Power Won Increased Funding for Wisconsin Schools

July 16, 2023 — Through this deal, public charter schools will receive a per-pupil funding increase of more than \$2,500, and private schools will receive \$2,000 ...

 dpi.wi.gov

[PDF] Private School Voucher Funding and the Impact on School Districts

March 21, 2023 — MPS can increase its property tax levy to replace this state general aid reduction under its revenue limit; however, MPS cannot count choice.

 dpi.wi.gov

Fiscal Impacts - Private School Choice Programs, Special Needs ...

School Finance Resources. Funding Comparison Resources - These resources provide information about how different education options and programs are funded.

 schoolchoicewi.org

[PDF] The Cost-Effectiveness of Wisconsin's Private School Choice ...

This report compares the cost-effectiveness of public schools and private schools in Wisconsin's private school choice programs (PSCP). Using conservative ...

 schoolchoicewi.org

New Analysis Finds Choice Schools More Cost-Effective Than ...

The statewide Wisconsin Parental Choice Program was 42 percent more cost-effective than statewide public schools. “Parents, students, and taxpayers are all ...

 madison.k12.wi.us

2024 Referenda - Madison Metropolitan School District

The Madison Metropolitan School District's Board of Education voted unanimously to approve two referendum questions, one for facilities and one for operations.

 madison.k12.wi.us

Frequently Asked Questions - Madison Metropolitan School District

A Community Process · General · Why is a referendum necessary? · Why are there two referendum questions? · How much funding is the district seeking in these ...

 will-law.org

Breaking the Chain: Decoupling School Choice Funding in Wisconsin

WILL's new report examines how decoupling school choice from public school funding will further simplify the system while cutting property taxes, reduce ...

 wasbo.com

[PDF] School District Referenda - WASBO.com

money by a bond issue and a referendum to exceed the revenue limits to the electors at the same spring election (a scenario that is reasonably typical in.

 rhinelanders.k12.wi.us

April 1 Referendum - School District of Rhinelanders

Sustaining Excellence in Rhinelanders Schools · Information - OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM: APRIL 1, 2025 · Proposed Solution · Property Tax Impact.

 schoolsalliance.com

[PDF] Costs and Financial Impacts of Private School Choice (Vouchers)

Vouchers paid with state GPR funding until student exits program. • Students are not counted in a district's membership for state general aid or revenue

