



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

EVALUATING SCHOOL CHOICE IN MILWAUKEE

A PROPOSAL FROM
THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF LEARNING
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

January 7, 2000

This is the tenth year of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), the country's first program of tax-supported school choice for poor families. From seven schools and 341 students in 1990, the MPCP now includes 91 schools serving more than 8,000 students.

Widespread interest in the MPCP has been accompanied by debate as to whether it has been adequately evaluated. A recent example occurred during a "Meet the Press" dialogue between Vice President Al Gore and former Senator Bill Bradley. Responding to Gore's criticism of programs such as the MPCP, Bradley expressed a desire to know more about whether the program was successful. He suggested that the continuing school choice debate should be influenced by such information.

Background

The original MPCP legislation required annual evaluations by the Department of Public Instruction and a separate evaluation by the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB), to be issued after five years. DPI issued five annual reports, from 1991 to 1995, from a team headed by University of Wisconsin Political Science Professor John Witte. A separate LAB report was issued in 1995.

Apart from these state-mandated reports, there have been various independently conducted analyses of the MPCP. A partial list includes: a 1992 report from the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute; an in-depth 1995 examination, by David Ruenzel, for Education Week; two secondary analyses of Witte's data, one by Jay Greene (University of Texas-Austin), Paul Peterson (Harvard University), and Jiangtao Du (Harvard University) and the other by Cecilia Rouse (Princeton University); and several reports by Milwaukee's Public Policy Forum.

The 1995 Legislature repealed the requirement for an annual evaluation. It instead specified that the LAB issue an evaluation in the year 2000, a report that is expected shortly. Current law does not provide for future evaluations under the state's auspices.

Findings

Much discussion – too much discussion – about whether the MPCP “is working” centers on standardized test scores of participating students. Using this measure, conclusions have varied. Witte found no evidence that choice students' academic achievement improved. The 1995 LAB report concluded that Witte did not have enough data to draw conclusions.

After Greene and Rouse reanalyzed Witte's data, Greene found that the MPCP had caused choice students' reading and math test scores to increase and Rouse found a gain in math scores, but not in reading. The math score gains independently cited by Greene and Rouse were sizeable.

Until 1996, Witte's conclusion that no gains had occurred was largely unchallenged. He declined until then to share data on which his annual findings were based. Thus, for several years neither Greene, Rouse, nor others could independently analyze Witte's findings. As a result, the repeated impression presented to the public was that the MPCP "didn't work," measured solely by Witte's conclusions about test scores. Witte himself cautioned against this simplistic conclusion. Separately, Ruenzel's reading of Witte, reinforced by his own visits to choice schools, led him to note that Witte had identified many positive aspects, including high parent satisfaction and parent involvement.

Following the findings of Greene and Rouse, the news media shifted to a more ambiguous characterization of the MPCP. Many news reports now explain only that achievement data are "inconclusive" or "contradictory." Others suggest that the differences might reflect different views of choice by the researchers.

Articles last year in The New York Times and The Christian Science Monitor illustrate the high ongoing media interest in the MPCP. While both provided useful information, each used but a single paragraph to describe research findings. The Times said, "researchers who have studied (the MPCP) are...divided, offering warring studies on the effects of vouchers on student achievement." The Monitor spoke of "controversy surrounding" the research, saying "several studies have failed to provide conclusive evidence that voucher students perform significantly better" and that "[o]ther studies show better results but have been criticized for lack of breadth."

The impression that the MPCP "doesn't work" persists in many quarters, while elsewhere Greene and Rouse are afforded more credibility. The overall result is confusion and what sometimes seems to be an obsession with test scores as the definitive measure of effectiveness. This has an adverse impact on the public policy debate in Wisconsin and in other states that are considering choice proposals. Instead of debating such proposals with solid research from Milwaukee on a wide range of important performance measures, proponents and opponents of choice often use narrow interpretations of test score data that suit their respective agendas.

A Proposal

The Institute for the Transformation of Learning (ITL) recommends that the State of Wisconsin take the lead, in the upcoming legislative floor period, to provide for a meaningful long-term evaluation of the MPCP. Adequate financial support, in an amount that could exceed one million dollars, is essential. To assist in financing the cost of such an effort, ITL recommends that two or more independent foundations be involved, working with the Governor, legislative leaders, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Assume, for sake of discussion, that a valid study would cost at least \$2 million and the state pays half of the cost. The remaining cost would be shared by interested foundations perceived as representing a range of viewpoints on the school choice issue. The study would be carried out under contract managed by the LAB. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposal (RFP) process would identify high qualified research teams and solicit from them specific proposals for the study. This would lead to selection of a credible research entity (RAND, Mathematica, etc.). An advis

committee, including a balance of choice supporters and opponents, could assist LAB. This group would provide information to the LAB that would be useful and help develop a public consensus on the validity of the study's results.

Study Design

A sound study design must identify key questions to be answered and it must be based on a clear understanding of current data limitations and how gaps in the existing data must be addressed. To assist LAB in this area, ITL recommends that the advisory committee include: (1) deans of education at Marquette University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and (2) representatives of such non-partisan groups as the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.

Time Frame

The proposed study must extend over a long enough period to produce adequate longitudinal data on how MPCP students have fared in terms of such measures as high school dropout and graduation rates. Assuming that most of the year 2000 is devoted to selecting a study team and approving a design, ITL proposes that a comprehensive report be issued in 2005, with annual interim reports beginning in 2001.



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

May 26, 2000

TO: Rep. Carol Kelso, Co-Chair, Joint Audit Committee
Sen. Gary George, Co-Chair, Joint Audit Committee

FROM: George Mitchell, Consulting Research Associate

RE: Milwaukee Parental Choice Program

I am writing in connection with the May 30 public hearing on LAB's audit of the Milwaukee choice program. If prior experience is any guide, choice opponents will use this occasion to misrepresent the program. Some common examples are summarized below. I will bring to the hearing reports that further document these distortions.

Claim: Choice schools use selective admission practices

Fact: Eligible choice students must be selected randomly. Participating schools specify available space and may not use such criteria as academic ability, special education needs, or prior disciplinary record to screen MPCP students. **In contrast, such criteria are widely used in MPS.¹**

According to DPI, not a single student or parent has complained to the department regarding the use of selective admission practices.

Claim: Most choice students already were in private school

Fact: In 1998-99, nearly two-thirds of MPCP students previously attended an MPS school or were entering school for the first time. The rest previously attended a private school. Many in this second group could not participate in the MPCP because the program was enjoined during the 1995-1998 litigation. They were able to attend private schools because of a privately financed scholarship program for low-income students.

Claim: School choice will worsen racial segregation.

Fact: The opposite has occurred. Expansion of the MPCP since 1995 is associated with an increase in racial balance in Milwaukee's private schools.² MPS elementary schools are much more racially isolated than Catholic elementary

¹ Fuller and Mitchell, G., "Selective Admission Practices? Comparing the Milwaukee Public Schools and the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program," Institute for the Transformation of Learning, Marquette University, *Current Education Issues 2000-01*, January 2000.

² Fuller and Mitchell, "The Impact of School Choice on Racial and Ethnic Enrollment in Milwaukee," Institute for the Transformation of Learning, *Current Education Issues No. 99-5*, December 1999.

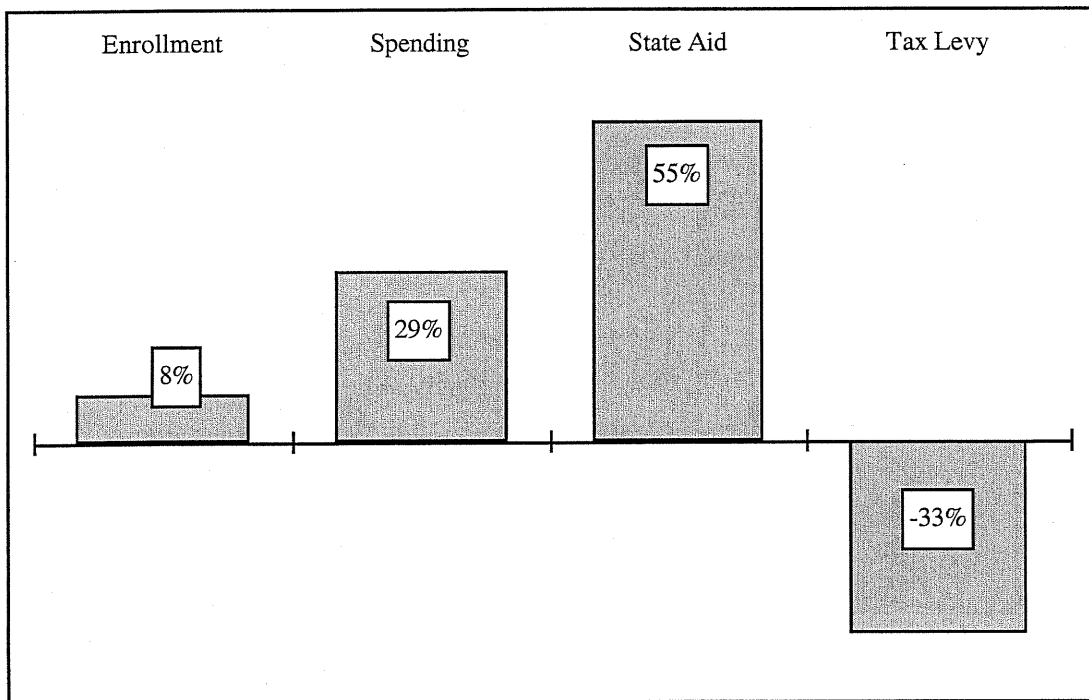
Rep. Kelso and Sen. George, May 26, 2000, page two

schools in the choice program. At a recent (May 22) conference on this topic at Columbia University, scholars said a targeted choice program such as the MPCP has the potential to alleviate racial segregation.

Claim: School choice has an unfair impact on MPS.

Fact: The following chart shows that MPS's financial situation improved substantially after the MPCP was enacted in 1990 and expanded in 1995.

**MPS Enrollment, Spending, State Aid, and Property Taxes
1990-1999³**



Claim: Researchers find no benefits from the Milwaukee choice program

Fact: 1) John Witte, Wisconsin's official choice evaluator from 1990 to 1995, voices support for targeted programs such as the MPCP.⁴ In a new book published by the Princeton University Press, Witte says that "choice can be a useful tool to aid families and educators in inner city and poor communities where education has been a struggle for several generations...If programs are devised correctly,

³ Fuller, "The Fiscal Impact of School Choice on the Milwaukee Public Schools," Institute for the Transformation of Learning, *Current Education Issues* No. 99-2, March 1999.

⁴ Witte, John, The Market Approach to Education — An Analysis of America's First Voucher Program, Princeton University Press, 2000.

they can provide meaningful educational choices to families that now do not have such choices."

2) Following a detailed examination of the MPCP, Education Week reported that "...[T]he Milwaukee choice plan has...deeply involved long-alienated parents in their children's schooling. This is of crucial importance, standing as a powerful retort to educators who have long suggested that parents burdened by social and economic problems could devote but minimal attention to educational issues." The author, David Ruenzel, observed that "[i]f choice parents were largely invisible in their old public schools, they are visible everywhere in their new schools — in the corridors, in the office, and even in the classroom, where they sometimes work as aides."⁵

3) Cecilia Rouse, a Princeton University economics professor, wrote in Harvard's Quarterly Journal of Economics that "...being selected to participate in the choice program appears to have increased the math achievement of low-income, minority students by 1.5-2.3 percentile points **per year** (emphasis added)."⁶

4) The Brookings Institution and Education and Urban Society have published the findings of Jay Greene, Paul Peterson, and Jiangtao Du (Harvard University and the University of Texas-Austin). These researchers reported statistically significant gains in math and reading scores for students in the choice program three and four years.⁷

Claim: Choice schools don't serve special needs students

Fact: As Howard Fuller and I have documented (see Note 1), the opposite is true. Many choice schools serve a wide range of children with special needs, children sometimes referred from MPS.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

cc: Members, Joint Audit Committee
Legislative Audit Bureau
Howard Fuller

⁵ Ruenzel, David, "A Choice in the Matter," Education Week, September 27, 1995.

⁶ Rouse, Cecilia, "Private School Vouchers and Student Achievement: An Evaluation of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program," Quarterly Journal of Economics, May 1998, pp. 553-602.

⁷ Greene, Jay, et.al., "Effectiveness of School Choice: The Milwaukee Experiment," Education and Urban Society, February 1999, pp. 190-213. Also, Green, et.al., "School Choice in Milwaukee: A Randomized Experiment," Learning from School Choice, Paul Peterson and Bryan Hassel, eds., The Brookings Institution Press, 1998.

DPI INFORMATION



From the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 125 South Webster Street, P. O. Box 7841, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7841

John T. Benson, State Superintendent, (608) 266-1771 • Greg Doyle, Communications Director, (608) 266-1098; or 1-800-441-4563

DPI 2000-37
May 12, 2000

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program to expand in 2000-01 school year

MADISON—One hundred and fourteen nonsectarian and religious private schools have registered to participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program for the 2000-01 school year. This is an increase of 22 schools over the 93 schools in the program at the end of the 1999-2000 school year.

Parents interested in the choice program should contact participating schools directly to pick up student applications and learn when the schools are having their open application periods. Student applications are also available by contacting the Department of Public Instruction at 1-888-245-2732 (press 3) or by downloading the form from the DPI's website at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choice.html>. The program allows up to approximately 15,000 low-income Milwaukee students to attend nonsectarian and religious private schools next fall at no tuition charge.

Year	September Enrollment	Schools
1999-00	7,996	91*
1998-99	6,194	88
1997-98	1,539	23
1996-97	1,657	20
1995-96	1,454	17
1994-95	802	12
1993-94	733	12
1992-93	608	11
1991-92	521	6
1990-91	341	7

* Two schools joined the choice program in January 2000.

"I encourage parents who want to participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program to visit the schools that interest them and ask questions about the schools' educational program so they can make informed decisions about their children's education," said State Superintendent John T. Benson.

Participating schools accept student applications during open application periods of at least 14 days that are determined by the individual school. These application periods begin in the late winter and spring and continue into the summer. Choice schools must send written notification of each student's acceptance or denial within 60 days of the application being submitted to the school. If student applications received during a specified open application period exceed choice enrollment limits at the

(more)

milwaukee parental choice/add one

school, the school must use a random selection process to determine which students will attend under the choice program.

Beginning in December 1999, the DPI mailed information about the choice program to all nonsectarian and religious private schools in Milwaukee as well as to other individuals and organizations that expressed an interest in opening a private school for the choice program. Any school intending to participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program in the 2000-01 school year had until May 1, 2000, to return the notice of intent and other required materials to the DPI.

Preliminary estimates from the 114 registered schools indicate there may be more than 10,000 total choice program slots for the 2000-01 school year. By comparison, there were 7,996 students enrolled in 91 choice schools in September of the 1999-2000 school year.

A list of the private schools that have registered to participate in the choice program in the 2000-01 school year follows. Schools marked with an asterisk (*) are new to the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program starting this fall or did not enroll students from the program during the 1999-2000 school year.

CONTACT: Participating schools
Charlie Toulmin, DPI, (608) 266-2853
Greg Doyle, DPI, (608) 266-1098

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program 2000-01 School Year

Schools Indicating Their Intent to Participate

Academic Solutions Center for Learning 3295 North Martin Luther King Drive Milwaukee, WI 53212 Administrator: Lizzie Buchanen (414) 562-1822 Grades: 4-9	Bridging the Gap Learning Center 1017 North 17th Street Milwaukee, WI 53233 Administrator: Cathie Chmelich (414) 933-0177 Grades: K-4	D.L. Hines College Preparatory Academy of Excellence 8605 West Good Hope Road Milwaukee, WI 53224 Administrator: Barbara Horton (414) 358-3542 Grades: K-3
Agape Center of Academic Excellence 5268 North 35th Street Milwaukee, WI 53209 Administrator: Yvonne Ali (414) 461-1624 Grades: K-8	Bruce-Guadalupe Community School 1028 South 9th Street Milwaukee, WI 53204 Administrator: Elma Radke (414) 643-6441 Grades: K-8	Divine Savior Holy Angels (for girls) 4257 North 100th Street Milwaukee, WI 53222-1313 Administrator: Amy Schultz (414) 466-3707 ext. 1180 Fax: (414) 466-0590 Grades: 9-12
Alex's Academic of Excellence 1501 South Layton Boulevard Milwaukee, WI 53215 Administrator: Jerry Gilliam (414) 384-4105 Grades: K-6	Catholic East Elementary 2461 North Murray Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53211-4493 Administrator: Christopher Montezon (414) 964-1770 Grades: K-8	Early View Academy of Excellence 4300 North Green Bay Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53209 Administrator: Annie Oliver (414) 263-9895 Fax: (414) 263-5094 Grades: K-8
Beautiful Savior Lutheran School 3012 North Horton Street Milwaukee, WI 53212 Administrator: Thomas Flunker (414) 263-7614 Grades: K-8	Ceria M. Travis Academy 2733 West Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53208-4604 Administrator: Dorothy Johnson (414) 931-4757 Grades: 4-8	Eastbrook Academy 5353 North Green Bay Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53209 Administrator: Julie Loomis (414) 228-7905 Grades: K-3
Believers in Christ Christian Academy 4065 North 25th Street Milwaukee, WI 53209-6611 Administrator: Candace Covington (414) 444-1146 Grades: K-12	Christ Memorial Lutheran School 5719 North Teutonia Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53209-4198 Administrator: Robert Anderson (414) 461-3371 Grades: K-8	Emmanuel Lutheran School 2818 North 23rd Street Milwaukee, WI 53206-1645 Administrator: Chris Stearns (414) 444-6090 Fax: (414) 444-3336 Grades: K-8
Bessie M. Gray Preparatory Academy 6618 North Teutonia Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53209 Administrator: Wanda Montgomery (414) 228-6020 ext. 111 Fax: (414) 228-6020 Grades K-4	* Christ St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran School 2229 West Greenfield Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53204 Administrator: Rob Schlicht (414) 383-2055 Grades K-8	Family Academy 3201 North 40th Street Milwaukee, WI 53216-3612 Administrator: Peggy Hardy (414) 873-6050 Grades: K-3
Blessed Sacrament School 3126 South 41st Street Milwaukee, WI 53215-4027 Administrator: Sister Rene Kuban (414) 649-4730 Fax: (414) 649-4726 Grades: K-8	Clara Muhammad School 317 West Wright Street Milwaukee, WI 53212 Administrator: Basimah Abdullah (414) 263-6772 Fax: (414) 263-6852 Grades: K-9	Family Montessori School 5806 West Burleigh Street Milwaukee, WI 53210-1516 Administrator: Barbara Sage (414) 449-0389 Grades: K-3
Blessed Trinity Catholic School 5375 North Green Bay Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53209-5005 Administrator: Judy Birlen (414) 228-9030 Fax: (414) 228-7516 Grades: K-8	Community Vision Academy 4316 West North Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53208 Administrator: Barbara Johnson (414) 449-5710 Grades: K-4	* Garden Homes Lutheran School 2475 West Roosevelt Drive Milwaukee, WI 53209 Administrator: John R. Wesenberg (414) 444-9050 Grades K-8
Blyden Delany Academy 2466 West McKinley Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53205 Administrator: Taki Raton (414) 933-1130 Grades: K-8	Corpus Christi School 8545 West Villard Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53225 Administrator: Kathleen Burdick, Ph.D. (414) 464-5775 Fax: (414) 464-5775 Grades: K-8	Gospel Lutheran School 3965 North 15th Street Milwaukee, WI 53206-2916 Administrator: Linda Markworth (414) 372-5159 Grades: K-8

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program/2000-01 School Year
Schools Indicating Their Intent to Participate • Page 2

* Grace Preparatory School of Excellence
 4365 North 27th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53216
 Administrator: Evaugh High
 (414) 447-0979 Grades: K4, K5

Gregory B. Flood Christian Academy
 4260 North Teutonia Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53209
 Administrator: Geraldine Sheets Howard
 (414) 562-0205 Grades: K-1

Harambee Community School
 110 West Burleigh Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53212-2046
 Administrator: Sister Callista Robinson
 (414) 264-4600
 Fax: (414) 264-3232 Grades: K-8

* Harbor Cross School
 4022 North 27th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53216
 Administrator: Missionary Portia E. Draeving
 (414) 871-2840 Grades: K4, K5

Hickman's Academy Preparatory School
 6401 West Capitol Drive
 Milwaukee, WI 53216
 Administrator: Bennie Hickman
 (414) 578-1788 Grades: K-3

Holy Redeemer Christian Academy
 3500 West Mother Daniels Way
 Milwaukee, WI 53209
 Administrator: Alton Townsel
 (414) 466-1600
 Fax: (414) 466-9294 Grades: K-11

* Holy Temple Christian School
 3953 North 76th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53222
 Administrator: Rev. Ray Cole
 (414) 463-2804 Grades: K-3

* Immanuel Christian Academy
 2009 South 19th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53204
 Administrator: Rosemary V. Dye
 (414) 384-4860 Grades: K-1

Keal Preparatory School
 326 West Brown Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53212
 Administrator: Altamese Moore
 (414) 374-7114 Grades: K-4

* Khamit Institute
 (currently a charter school)
 4714 West Fond du Lac Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53216
 Administrator: Yakini Shabaka
 (414) 445-0602 Grades: K-8

Kindergarten Plus
 3201 North 40th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53216
 Administrator: Synovia Youngblood
 (414) 873-5117 Grade: K4, K5

King's Academy Christian School
 7798 North 60th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53223
 Administrator: Marilyn McVicker
 (414) 371-5000 ext. 14 Grades: K-2

Lakeshore Montessori School
 1841 North Prospect Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53202
 Administrator: Sam Rondone
 (414) 271-8388 Grade: K4, K5

Learning Enterprise High School
 4744 North 39th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53209
 Administrator: Kathy Harrell-Patterson
 (414) 461-9500 Grades: K4, K5, 9-12

Louis Tucker Academy
 331 South 68th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53214
 Administrator: Bertha Collier
 (414) 607-0585 Grades: K-6

Lutheran Special School
 9700 West Grantosa Drive
 Milwaukee, WI 53222-1407
 Administrator: Judy Schultz
 (414) 461-8500 Grades: 1-8

Marquette University High
 School (for boys)
 3401 West Wisconsin Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53208-3842
 Administrator: Keith Klestinski
 (414) 933-7220
 Fax: (414) 937-8588 Grades: 9-12

Marva Collins Preparatory School
 of Wisconsin
 2449 North 36th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53210
 Administrator: Robert Rauh
 (414) 445-8020 Grades: K-6

* Mary's Academy of Learning, LTD.
 3131 North 16th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53206
 Administrator: Milton Gary Emerson
 (414) 562-1708 Grades: K-3

Medgar Evers Baptist Academy
 2200 North 12th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53205-1396
 Administrator: Avis Wright
 (414) 374-2656
 Fax: (414) 264-2207 Grades: K-8

Messmer High School
 742 West Capitol Drive
 Milwaukee, WI 53206
 Administrator: Robert Gottschalk
 (414) 264-5440
 Fax: (414) 264-0672 Grades: 9-12

* Milwaukee Advantage Academy
 c/o Advantage Schools Inc.
 60 Canal Street
 Boston, MA 02114
 Administrator: Geoffrey Swett
 (617) 523-2220 Grades: K5-5

* Milwaukee Leadership Training Center
 731 West Washington Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53204
 Administrator: Robert E. Schick
 (414) 672-3487 Grades: 5-6, 9-11
 Fax: (414) 672- 5234

Milwaukee Montessori School
 345 North 95th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53226
 Administrator: Tracy Sparrow
 (414) 259-0370
 Fax: (414) 259-0427 Grades: K-8

Milwaukee Multicultural Academy
 2700 North 57th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53210-2329
 Administrator: Jerald Fair
 (414) 444-1450
 Fax: (414) 444-1671 Grades: K-7

* Milwaukee School of Choice
 5223 West Villard Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53218
 Administrator: Ronald G. Oliver
 (414) 464-9979 Grades: K-1

Mother of Good Counsel School
 3001 North 68th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53210-1252
 Administrator: K. Ann Schnettler
 (414) 442-7600 Grades: K-8

Mount Calvary Lutheran School
 2862 North 53rd Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53210
 Administrator: Duane Miller
 (414) 873-3466 Grades: K-8

Nazareth Lutheran School
 8242 North Granville Road
 Milwaukee, WI 53224
 Administrator: William Mews
 (414) 354-6601 Grades: K-7

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program/2000-01 School Year
Schools Indicating Their Intent to Participate • Page 3

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|---|---|--|
| <p>*Next Generation Preparatory Academy
 2979 North Palmer Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53212
 Administrator: Jerald Fair
 (414) 263-1920
 Fax: (414) 875-7447
 Grades: K-5</p> | <p>*The Provider's Education Academy
 4630 West Burleigh Street
 P.O. Box 1435
 Milwaukee, WI 53201
 Administrator: Tatia P. Jackson
 (414) 372-5831
 Grades: 6-8</p> | <p>Saint Gregory the Great School
 3132 South 63rd Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53219
 Administrator: Sandra Duffy
 (414) 321-1350
 Grades: K-8</p> |
| <p>*Noah's Ark Preparatory School
 9611 West Hampton Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53225
 Administrator: Clara M. Wright
 (414) 461-7674
 Grades: K-4</p> | <p>Resurrection Catholic Academy
 5140 North 55th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53218-4299
 Administrator: Judy Rivas
 (414) 438-2745
 Fax: (414) 483-2990
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Helen Catholic Elementary School
 3329 South 10th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215-2796
 Administrator: Sister Kathleen Sowinski
 (414) 744-7188
 Grades: K-8</p> |
| <p>Notre Dame Middle School (for girls)
 1420 West Scott Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53204-2269
 Administrator: Alvaro Garcia-Velez
 (414) 671-3000
 Fax: (414) 671-3170
 Grades: 5-8</p> | <p>Saint Adalbert School
 1913 West Becher Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215-2611
 Administrator: Julia Hutchinson
 (414) 645-5450
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Joan Antida High School (for girls)
 1341 North Cass Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53202
 Administrator: Sister Monica Fumo
 (414) 272-8423
 Grades: 9-12</p> |
| <p>Oklahoma Avenue Lutheran School
 5335 West Oklahoma Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53219
 Administrator: Richard Gottschalk
 (414) 543-3580
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Alexander School
 3344 South 16th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215-4902
 Administrator: Sister Elmerine Acker
 (414) 383-3453
 Grades: 1-8</p> | <p>Saint John Kanty School
 2840 South 10th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215-3919
 Administrator: Lois Maczuzak
 (414) 483-8780
 Grades: K-8</p> |
| <p>Our Lady of Good Hope School
 7140 North 41st Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53209-2296
 Administrator: Nancy Ann Behr
 (414) 352-7980
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Anthony School
 1747 South 9th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53204-3585
 Administrator: Richard Mason
 (414) 384-1730
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Josaphat Parish School
 801 West Lincoln Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53215-3222
 Administrator: Carolyn Trawitzki
 (414) 645-4378
 Grades: K-8</p> |
| <p>Our Lady of Sorrows School
 4059 North 64th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53216-1147
 Administrator: Patricia Wilkum
 (414) 463-3878
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Bernadette School
 8202 West Denver Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53223-4998
 Administrator: Mary Lorusso
 (414) 358-4603
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Leo Catholic Urban Academy
 2458 West Locust Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53206-1134
 Administrator: Humaira Bokhari
 (414) 442-1100
 Grades: K-8</p> |
| <p>Our Lady Queen of Peace School
 2733 West Euclid Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53215
 Administrator: Carolyn Hammond
 (414) 672-6660
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Catherine of Alexandria School
 8660 North 76th Place
 Milwaukee, WI 53223
 Administrator: Michael J. Howell
 (414) 365-2030
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Marcus Lutheran School
 2215 North Palmer Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53212-3299
 Administrator: Thomas Guenterberg
 (414) 562-3163
 Grades: K-8</p> |
| <p>Parklawn Christian School
 3725 North Sherman Boulevard
 Milwaukee, WI 53216
 Administrator: Rev. Lawrence Orr
 (414) 442-3330
 Grades: K-4</p> | <p>Saint Catherine School
 2647 North 51st Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53210-2306
 Administrator: Deborah Zabinski
 (414) 445-2846
 Fax: (414) 445-0448
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Margaret Mary School
 3950 North 92nd Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53222-2587
 Administrator: Susan Nelson
 (414) 463-8760
 Fax: (414) 463-2373
 Grades: K-8</p> |
| <p>Pius XI High School
 135 North 76th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53213-3560
 Administrator: Daniel Drea
 (414) 290-7000
 Fax: (414) 290-7001
 Grades: 9-12</p> | <p>Saint Charles Borromeo School
 3100 West Parnell Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53221
 Administrator: Yolande Lasky
 (414) 282-0767
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>*Saint Mark A.M.E. Christian Academy
 1530 West Atkinson Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53206
 Administrator: Emma Felder
 (414) 562-8030
 Grades: K4-1</p> |
| <p>Prince of Peace/Principe de Paz School
 1114 South 25th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215
 Administrator: Donna Schmidt
 (414) 645-4922
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Academy
 1051 East Russell Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53207
 Administrator: David Wolber
 (414) 769-2485
 Grades: K-8</p> | <p>Saint Martini Lutheran School
 1557 West Orchard Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53204
 Administrator: Eugene Schoessow
 (414) 383-7058
 Grades: K-8</p> |

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program/2000-01 School Year
 Schools Indicating Their Intent to Participate • Page 4

- Saint Paul Catholic School
 3945 South Kansas Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53207-4723
 Administrator: Barbara Nehrbass
 (414) 482-4790 Grades: K-8
- Saint Peter Immanuel Lutheran School
 7801 West Acacia Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53223-5698
 Administrator: Ellen Kutz
 (414) 353-6800
 Fax: (414) 353-5510 Grades: K-8
- Saint Philip Neri Catholic School
 5501 North 68th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53218-2947
 Administrator: Michael Brown
 (414) 466-0470 Grades: K-8
- Saint Rafael the Archangel School
 2251 South 31st Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215
 Administrator: Carolyn Ettlle
 (414) 645-1300
 Fax: (414) 645-1415 Grades: K-8
- Saint Roman Parish School
 1810 West Bolivar Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53221-2336
 Administrator: Sister Lucy Ann Meyer
 (414) 282-7970
 Fax: (414) 282-5140 Grades: K-8
- Saint Rose Catholic Academy
 514 North 31st Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53208
 Administrator: Barb Lee
 (414) 933-6070 Grades: K-8
- Saint Sebastian School
 1747 North 54th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53208-1657
 Administrator: Paul Hohl
 (414) 453-5830 Grades: K-8
- Saint Veronica School
 341 East Norwich Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53207-4415
 Administrator: Sister Marie Kuczynski
 (414) 744-1214
 Fax: (414) 482-3025 Grades: K-8
- Saint Vincent Pallotti School
 7632 West Stevenson Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53213
 Administrator: Sister Janet Neureuther
 (414) 258-4165 Grades: K-8
- Salam School
 4707 South 13th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53221-2405
 Administrator: Sarah Tugan
 (414) 282-0504 Grades: K-8
- Seeds of Health/Grandview
 1445 South 32nd Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215
 Administrator: Marcia Spector
 (414) 672-3430
 Fax: (414) 672-3845 Grades: 9-12
- Seeds of Health/Hilltop
 1445 South 32nd Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215
 Administrator: Marcia Spector
 (414) 672-3430
 Fax: (414) 672-3845 Grades: K-1
- * Sensas-Utcha Institute of
 Holistic Learning
 2470 West Keefe Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53206
 Administrator: William Perry
 (414) 873-1654 Grades: K-12
- Sharon Junior Academy
 1369 West Meinecke Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53206
 Administrator: Theresia J. Taylor
 (414) 265-9000
 Fax: (414) 355-8837 Grades: K-8
- Sherman Park Preschool
 2703 North Sherman Boulevard
 Milwaukee, WI 53210
 Administrator: Jeanette Gross
 (414) 447-0266
 Fax: (414) 445-6556 Grade: K
- * Siloah Lutheran School
 3731 North 21st Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53206
 Administrator: Timothy McNeill
 (414) 873-8240 Grades: K-8
- * Stepping Stone Learning Center
 4960 North 18th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53209
 Administrator: Khalifa Muslim
 (414) 562-7870 Grades: K4, K5
- Tamarack Community School
 921 North 49th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53208-3017
 Administrator: Lori Woods
 (414) 774-0009 Grades: K-7
- Texas Bufkin Academy
 827 North 34th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53208
 Administrator: Texas Bufkin
 (414) 934-8885
 Fax: (414) 934-8886 Grades: K-5
- * Taylor-Weber Academy
 8837 West Appleton Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53225
 Administrator: Veronica Taylor-Mosley
 (414) 616-9102 Grades: K-3
- * 21st Century Academy of Milwaukee
 538 South 73rd Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53214
 Administrator: Robert J. Wittman
 (877) 202-0338 Grades: 7-12
- Urban Day School
 1441 North 24th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53205-1899
 Administrator: Geoffrey Lowry
 (414) 937-8400 Grades: K-8
- Victory Preparatory Academy
 3132 North Martin Luther King Drive
 Milwaukee, WI 53212
 Administrator: Jonathan Saffold
 (414) 264-3132 Grades: K-3
- * Welcome to the Real World Institute
 5331 North 56th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53218
 Administrator: Gloria Yarbrough
 (414) 463-6708 Grades: 6-9
- Woodlands School
 1669 South 5th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53204
 Administrator: Susan Wing
 (414) 643-1600 Grades: K-8
- Woodson Academy
 3027 North Fratney Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53212-2220
 Administrator: Dennis Alexander
 (414) 263-7060 Grades: K-12
- Yeshiva Elementary School
 3447 North 51st Boulevard
 Milwaukee, WI 53216
 Administrator: Rabbi Naftali Kalter
 (414) 871-9376 Grades: K-8
- * Zebaoth Learning Center
 615 West Melvina
 Milwaukee, WI 53212
 Administrator: Brandi Fauver
 (414) 264-5692 Grades: K4



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
125 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-3390 TDD (608) 267-2427 FAX (608) 267-1052
Internet Address: www.dpi.state.wi.us

John T. Benson
State Superintendent

Steven B. Dold
Deputy State Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 21, 1999

To: Individuals and Organizations Interested in Participating
In the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

From: Charlie Toulmin, Administrator
Milwaukee Parental Choice Program

Re: Enclosed Forms for the 2000-01 School Year MPCP

Enclosed please find the following forms that are necessary for a private school to participate in the MPCP in the 2000-01 school year:

- Notice of School's Intent to Participate in the MPCP for the 2000-01 School Year
- Letter and attachments regarding student rights in the MPCP
- Voluntary Agreement for DPI Approval of School's Random Selection Plan
- Student Application for the MPCP for the 2000-01 School Year
- Informational Brochure on the MPCP for Parents and Others
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding the MPCP for Parents and Others

Some additional explanation regarding each of these documents is necessary.

First, the school's Notice of Intent to Participate and the letter from State Superintendent Benson regarding student rights in the MPCP (both signed and dated by the choice school's administrator) are due at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by no later than May 1, 2000 for the school to participate in the MPCP for the 2000-01 school year. This deadline is unchanged from last year. However, the proposed administrative rules just submitted to the Legislature will allow schools to begin the application process earlier if they choose to do so. **The administrator of a school participating in the MPCP will need to sign a letter from State Superintendent Benson on student rights that references a specific school, so you will need to contact me to receive a specific letter.**

The proposed rules, which will be in effect as emergency rules in early January if there are no objections from the Legislature, state that a school may not begin accepting applications (from either continuing choice pupils or new applicants) for the choice program for the following school year **until after January 1**. In addition, a school may not begin accepting choice pupil applications until after the school's new Notice of Intent to Participate, the signed letter on students rights, and an approved random selection plan are all on file at the DPI. On the other hand, the department is making these new forms available much earlier than last year. It is, therefore, in a school's interest to submit these necessary documents to DPI as soon as possible if the school wishes to begin open MPCP application periods for next September.

Second, under the proposed rules each private school that wishes to participate in the MPCP shall submit its random selection plan to, and have the plan approved by, the state superintendent **before the school may accept pupil applications for the MPCP**. The approved random selection plan would then be permanently in effect until such time as the statutes or rules are changed regarding random selection, or the school wished to make changes to its' approved plan. The state superintendent would then review and approve those changes before a school could continue in the program. It should be noted that current MPCP schools must submit their plan for random selection of MPCP pupils for the 2000-01 school year and thereafter (barring any changes), and have that plan approved by the state superintendent, before the school may accept applications for the 2000-01 school year. The attached document entitled "Agreement on Random Selection Process for Admissions into the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program" is a description of the procedures that a school's random selection plan must follow to be approved by the state superintendent. If a school **voluntarily** agrees to sign this document stating that the school will follow these rules in randomly selecting pupils for the MPCP, the return of the original copy to DPI will signify the state superintendent's approval of the school's plan. If a school does not sign this document and, instead, wishes to construct its own random selection plan to apply permanently beginning with the 2000-01 school year, the school may do so. DPI staff will work with the school on any edits to its' plan that may be necessary to receive departmental approval of the plan.

Third, the MPCP student application form for the 2000-01 school year is identical in format to last year's form. The proposed revised administrative rules provide that the income limits applicable to the MPCP for a given school year (beginning with 2000-01) are calculated by increasing the prior year's federal poverty level by the inflation rate between the most recent January 1 and October 31 and multiplying that result by 1.75. Therefore, the income limits for the 1999-2000 school year will increase by 2.8% for the 2000-01 school year.

Fourth, the DPI strongly encourages schools in the MPCP to distribute the informational brochure and FAQ document to both applicants to the choice program and to parents/students already enrolled in the MPCP. These documents make it easier for parents and schools to understand the program.

Finally, it should be noted that all current choice schools will receive additional information from DPI in early January regarding two issues: summer school programs and the requirement in the proposed rule that choice schools must have on file with DPI a copy of its certificate of building occupancy issued by the city of Milwaukee. The proposed administrative rules require that a school must submit a copy of its certificate of building occupancy issued by the city of Milwaukee by no later than August 1 prior to the first school year of participation in the MPCP, or by no later than May 1 prior to summer school.

Please contact me as soon as possible by phone at (608) 266-2853 or at 1-888-245-2732 to discuss this memorandum and the documents enclosed. I will be out of the office beginning on Thursday, December 23rd until Tuesday, January 4th. It should be noted that the fax machine number for the MPCP at the department is **(608) 267-9207**.

Enclosures

CC. Brian Pahnke
Robert Paul
Robert Lannoye
Faye Stark



**MILWAUKEE PARENTAL SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM
NOTICE OF SCHOOL'S INTENT TO PARTICIPATE**

**S. 119.23, Wisconsin Statutes
2000-2001 School Year**

Type or Print

School Name	
Street Address	
Administrator Name	Telephone Area/No.

This notice of a school's intent to participate in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program in the 2000-2001 school year is due at the Department of Public Instruction on or before May 1, 2000. The school administrator listed above is to sign at the end of the application, attesting to the school's agreement to comply with all the requirements of Wisconsin Statute 119.23 and Administrative Rules Chapter PI 35 and the requirements listed here.

The School shall:

1. Submit a proposal to the Department of Public Instruction with this notice of intent stating how, with the exception of continuing choice students at that private school and their siblings, pupils will be accepted on a random basis from a new pool of applicants each year. This proposal must be received at DPI by no later than May 1, 2000, and then approved by the Department, before a school may accept choice student applications for the 2000-2001 school year.
2. Submit to the DPI with this notice, no later than May 1, 2000, the original letter from State Superintendent Benson regarding student rights in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program, signed by the school administrator.
3. Instruction must be free to all pupils enrolled in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program. Private schools participating in the program may only charge choice program pupils those fees that may be charged by public schools to indigent pupils. See PI 35.03(6) Wisconsin Administrative Code or contact the DPI for further information on allowable fees.
4. Have a representative on the Pupil Assignment Council.
5. Notify each applicant of acceptance or non-acceptance to the choice program, in writing, within 60 days after receiving the application.
6. Submit three membership reports (under PI 35.04(6)) to the Department showing enrollment in the choice program during the 2000-01 school year. With the membership reports, submit to the DPI an alphabetical listing by grade of the students enrolled in the choice program and copies of the student applications corresponding with that list of choice students if not previously submitted.
7. Submit to the DPI financial and membership audits for the 1999-2000 school year by no later than September 1, 2000, as required by Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Rules.

8. The School shall guarantee that:

At least one of the following standards is met in the 2000-2001 school year to allow the school to continue in the choice program in the 2001-2002 school year:

- a. At least 70 percent of the pupils in the program advance one grade level.
- b. The school's average attendance rate for pupils in the program is at least 90 percent.
- c. At least 80 percent of the pupils in the program demonstrate significant academic progress.
- d. At least 70 percent of the families of pupils in the program meet parent involvement criteria established by the school.

The school shall submit a report to the DPI by October 15, 2000 that indicates which of the four continuing eligibility standards the school will meet in the 2000-2001 school year. By June 30, 2001, the school shall submit documentation verifying that the standard or standards chosen have been met.

9. The School shall guarantee compliance with:

- a. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et. seq, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.
- b. Wisconsin State Statutes regarding private schools (S. 118.165 or S. 118.167) which require, in part, schools to provide at least 875 hours of instruction each school year and provide instruction in a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and health.
- c. All health and safety laws or codes that apply to public schools which include, in part, subchapters I and IV of ch. 101 and ch. 145 Wis. Stats., and s. 115.33 Wis. Stats.

The school agrees that compliance with these requirements constitutes a condition of receipt of funds under the above referenced program, and that this notice of intent to participate is binding upon the school, its successors, transferees, and assignees for the period during which the school is a participant in the program. The school assures that all contractors, subcontractors, sub-grantees or others with whom it arranges to provide services or benefits to its students in connection with this program are not in violation of the stated statutes, regulations, guidelines, and standards. In the event of failure to comply, the school understands that its participation in the program can be terminated.

Please note that the provisions listed are subject to statutory and administrative rule change. I have read the notice and guarantee that the school will comply with all its provisions.

School Name	
Administrator Signature	Date Signed
Administrator Name	Telephone Area/No.

Please provide the following estimates for the 2000-2001 school year:

Grade Levels Served	Anticipated 2000-2001 Total Enrollment (All Students)	Anticipated 2000-2001 Total Choice Enrollment (including returning students)	Anticipated 2000-2001 Available Choice Seats (excluding returning students)
4-year-old kindergarten			
5-year-old kindergarten			
Grade 1			
Grade 2			
Grade 3			
Grade 4			
Grade 5			
Grade 6			
Grade 7			
Grade 8			
Grade 9			
Grade 10			
Grade 11			
Grade 12			
Total			

Submit completed and signed form, to arrive at DPI no later than May 1, 2000, to:

**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Attention: Charlie Toulmin
Milwaukee Parental Choice Program
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841**



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
125 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-3390 TDD (608) 267-2427 FAX (608) 267-1052
Internet Address: www.dpi.state.wi.us

John T. Benson
State Superintendent

Steven B. Dold
Deputy State Superintendent

February 8, 1999

Re: Milwaukee Parental Choice - Student Rights

Dear School Administrators/Principal:

Enclosed is a cover letter from John T. Benson along with an attached list of student rights which formerly appeared in the departmental administrative rule governing the Choice Program, PI 35, Wis. Admin. Code. The letter contains an acknowledgement at the bottom by each of the Choice School principals or administrators that DPI has advised you of Judge Steingass' ruling in 1990 of certain individual rights applicable within Choice schools. It was agreed to at the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules meeting held July 30, 1998, that in exchange for the department's removal of the student rights list from the departmental administrative rule, school administrators and principals would sign the enclosed letter of acknowledgement.

In addition, approximately two thirds of the Choice schools participate, through MPS, in the federal remedial Title I Program. As such, those schools are recipients of federal financial assistance. It is DPI's view, that such participation provides a separate basis, aside from Judge Steingass' ruling, for the applicability of four of the rights referred to on the attached list: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as applicable in private schools), and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

Like last year, please sign the enclosed acknowledgement at the bottom of the letter from Mr. Benson and return it to the department along with your signed Notice of School's Intent to Participate for the 1999-2000 school year, by May 1, 1999. Please call if you have any questions.

Charles Toulmin
Administrator, Milwaukee Parental Choice Program



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
125 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-3390 TDD (608) 267-2427 FAX (608) 267-1052
Internet Address: www.dpi.state.wi.us

John T. Benson
State Superintendent

Steven B. Dold
Deputy State Superintendent

DATE

[Choice School
Administrator
Street
City, state, zip]

RE: Milwaukee Parental Choice - Student Rights

Dear School Administrator/Principal:

Judge Susan Steingass ruled in *Davis v. Grover*, (Trial court opinion, Dane County, 8-6-90) that the attached Student Rights apply to private schools participating in this public program.

The Judge also ruled DPI has an obligation to advise participating schools of these state and federal provisions.

As administrator of the school, please sign and date this letter below and return the original in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,

John T. Benson
State Superintendent

I hereby acknowledge I have received and read this letter which is not to be construed as an agreement between DPI and the school, and further, is not to be construed as an admission that the student rights provisions attached hereto apply to private schools participating in the choice program.

School Administrator/Principal

G:\Choice\Assure_D.Eal

Date

STUDENT RIGHTS

1. The Wisconsin Pupil Nondiscrimination Act, s. 118.13 and PI 9 which prohibit discrimination against students on the grounds of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.
2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et. seq., which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs.
3. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6101 et. seq., which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities.
4. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794 et. seq., which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities. To comply in Section 504, DPI must assure that no qualified handicapped persons are excluded from its programs; and must assure that all handicapped students in funded placements have opportunity for a free appropriate education.
5. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 34 CFR 99, which regulates access and release of student's educational records.
6. All federal and state constitutional guarantees protecting the rights and liberties of individuals including freedom of religion, expression, association, against unreasonable search and seizure, equal protection, and due process.
7. All regulations, guidelines, and standards lawfully adopted under the above statutes by the appropriate administrative agency.
8. Pupils charged with misconduct and subject to suspension or expulsion shall be accorded state and federal constitutional due process of law.

Attachment to JTB letter to
MPCP School Administrators
July-August, 1998

**AGREEMENT ON RANDOM SELECTION PROCESS FOR ADMISSIONS INTO
THE MILWAUKEE PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM**

I, _____, (Print or type name), the administrator of
_____, (Print or type school)

voluntarily agree that the school will accept pupils into the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) according to the following guidelines:

- Choice program applications for the following school year, from either continuing choice pupils at the school or new applicants, will be accepted no earlier than January 1 prior to the following September.
- The school shall accept all choice program applications only during open application periods that are determined by the school and communicated to the general public. Each application period shall be at least 14 calendar days in length.
- A student application for the MPCP is considered complete only if all of the following are received by the school during an open application period: (a) a completed "Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Student Application" (form MPS-PCP-3A); (b) proof of total household income (based on the parent or guardian's prior year federal income tax return if filed or submitted evidence of current household income circumstances that make a child now eligible for the choice program); (c) a copy of the birth certificate for 4 and 5-year-old kindergarten pupils (if required by the school); and (d) a copy of immunization records (if required by the school).
- Prior to each open application period, the school shall determine the number of seats available for the MPCP at each grade level. The school shall notify the applicant, upon their application, of the number of seats available at the grade level of the applicant, the dates of the open application period, and the date and location of a random drawing for acceptance if more applications are submitted than there are spaces available. The school shall also notify the applicant that they do not have to be present at the random drawing, and that they will be notified immediately after the drawing (but no later than 60 days after their initial application) of their acceptance or non-acceptance status.
- After the close of the open application period, if the number of eligible MPCP applications for any grade level that are submitted during the application period exceeds the number of seats available at that grade level, the school will hold a random drawing to determine which applicants are accepted. The random drawing, if necessary, shall be held within one week of the end of the application period.
- At the random drawing, all applications submitted during the open application period shall have an equal chance of being drawn, with the following exceptions. Pupils continuing in the choice program at that private school and their siblings may be given first preference. A random drawing will be held to fill the number of seats remaining by grade, after continuing choice students and their siblings are assigned. If a pupil chosen in the random drawing has a sibling also applying to the choice program at the school and there is space, the sibling may be given preference for admission.
- The random drawing shall continue until all available seats are filled and a waiting list order is determined in the event a previously filled spot opens up.
- Letters shall be mailed to all applicants, informing the applicants of their acceptance or their number on the waiting list, on the day following the random drawing. All applicants shall be notified of their status within 60 days of the date the student application was submitted to the school.
- Applicants accepted into the MPCP shall have a reasonable period of time to confirm enrollment.
- Applicants on the waiting list are not carried over to the next school year. Therefore, applicants who were not accepted into the choice program at the school for this school year and wish to apply to the program for the next school year must submit a new application at that point.

Signed _____ Date _____



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
MILWAUKEE PARENTAL SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM
STUDENT APPLICATION FORM 2000-2001 School Year
 (Wi Stat., 119.23) 1995 Act 27
 MPS-PCP-3A (◆ Rev. 12/99)

INSTRUCTIONS - A separate form must be completed for each child applying under this program. Print clearly in ink. Return completed form to the school.

School applying to:			Grade level for school year 2000-2001
Student's name (Last)	(First)	(Middle Initial)	Date of birth (Month/Day/Year)
Student home address (Street)	(City)	(ZIP)	Telephone area/no.
Parent / guardian name (Last)	(First)	(Middle Initial)	School attended during 1999-2000 school year:

Please truthfully answer the following six (6) questions to determine the student's eligibility for the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program in the 2000-2001 school year. Question #1 and at least one of questions #2-6 must be checked yes to be eligible.

Check only one box by the number that corresponds with your household size. Include any parents, grand-parents, children, other relatives, and unrelated people who live in your household. Foster children are counted as a household of one (1) and only the child's income is counted.

Household Size	Maximum Yearly Income*
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.....	\$ 14,824
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.....	\$ 19,897
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.....	\$ 24,970
<input type="checkbox"/> 4.....	\$ 30,043
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.....	\$ 35,116
<input type="checkbox"/> 6.....	\$ 40,190

For each additional household member add \$5,073.

*Schools will first use Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on the federal income tax return (line 33 of Form 1040, line 18 of Form 1040A, or line 4 of Form 1040EZ) for the prior calendar year (1999 for the 2000-2001 Choice program.) You must provide the school with a federal income tax return for the prior year if filed. You may also provide the school with evidence of expected income for the current calendar year that makes you eligible for the program.

- | YES | NO | <i>Please check only one box for each question</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. If your yearly income level is at or below the amount listed for your household size under question #1, check yes . If higher than the amount listed, check no . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Was your child enrolled in the Milwaukee Public School System during the 1999-2000 school year? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Did your child participate in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program during the 1999-2000 school year? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. If your child was not in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program, was your child enrolled in one of grades kindergarten through 3 in a private school located in the city of Milwaukee? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Check yes if your child was not enrolled in any school , in Milwaukee or elsewhere, during the 1999-2000 school year; otherwise, check no . |

If you have answered **NO** to questions 2 through 5, you may be eligible for the program under question 6 on the back of this application form.

For Use of Parent or Guardian: I as the parent or guardian certify that all of the above information is true and correct. I understand that school and/or state officials may verify any of the information on the application.

Name of Parent or Guardian Signing the Application (*Print or Type*)

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date Signed

For Use of School: I as the administrator responsible for pupil admissions have reviewed the student application and have concluded that it is properly and completely filled out to the best of my knowledge.

Based on the information provided by the parent or guardian, the student is eligible.

Name of School Administrator or Designee (*Print or Type*)

YES NO

School Administrator / Designee Signature

Date Signed

YES NO

6. Was your child, on August 25, 1995, a resident of the City of Milwaukee, living in a household that met the income guidelines listed to the right, **AND** in the 1994-95 school year any one of the following was true (circle which of a through d applies):

a. was enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools, or

b. was enrolled in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program, or

c. was enrolled in one of grades kindergarten through 1 in a private school located in the City of Milwaukee, or

d. was not enrolled in any school, in Milwaukee or elsewhere, and about to enroll in school in the 1995-96 school year,

AND subsequently has been enrolled in a private school in the City of Milwaukee in at least one of the last five school years: 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 or 1999-2000.

Income guidelines on August 25, 1995 were as follows:

<u>Household size</u>	<u>Maximum Yearly Income</u>
1 -----	\$ 13,073
2 -----	\$ 17,553
3 -----	\$ 22,033
4 -----	\$ 26,513
5 -----	\$ 30,993
6 -----	\$ 35,473
7 -----	\$ 39,953

For each additional household member add \$ 4,480.

IF YOUR CHILD WAS ENROLLED IN THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ANY OF THE SCHOOL YEARS BELOW, CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES.

1998-99 1997-98 1996-97 1995-96

1994-95

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** Is transportation available in the Choice program?
- A.** A private Choice school is not required to provide transportation to Choice students. If the school chooses to provide transportation, a fee may be charged. In some cases, the Milwaukee Public Schools will provide transportation or pay the parent a certain amount for their transportation costs through a contract. Check directly with the private school you plan to attend or MPS.
- Q.** If a student has recently moved into the city of Milwaukee, is he or she immediately eligible to attend a private school under the Choice program?
- A.** No. In the prior school year a child must have been enrolled either in MPS, in one of grades kindergarten through 3 in a private school in the city of Milwaukee, or not enrolled in school anywhere to be eligible to move into the Choice program in the following school year.
- Q.** What are the income guidelines for the 2000-2001 school year?
- A.** If your income is at or below the amount listed below for your household size, you are eligible to participate in the program. Household size includes parents, grandparents, all children, other relatives, and unrelated people who live in the household.

Household Size	Maximum Yearly Income*
1	\$14,824
2	19,897
3	24,970
4	30,043

*Schools will first use Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on the federal income tax return (line 33 of Form 1040, line 18 of Form 1040A, or line 4 of Form 1040EZ) for the prior calendar year (1999 for the 2000-2001 Choice program.) You must provide the school with a federal income tax return for the prior year if filed. You may provide the school with evidence of expected income for the current calendar year that makes you eligible for the program. For each additional household member above 4 members, add \$5,073.

Q. What fees can and cannot be charged Choice parents by the Choice school? Can the Choice school require fundraising and school service of the Choice parent?

A. A Choice student can be charged reasonable fees for personal items such as towels, gym clothes or uniforms, or social and extracurricular activities if not a required part of the curriculum. A Choice student cannot be charged fees for instruction, registration, tuition, books, teacher salaries, buildings, facilities maintenance or equipment, computers, or transportation if provided or reimbursed by MPS. A school may not impose any penalties on a parent or child in the Choice program for failure to engage in fundraising (which would include any required service to the school).

Q. Can I enroll my child in a Choice school after the school year begins? Can my child transfer to another Choice school in the middle of the school year?

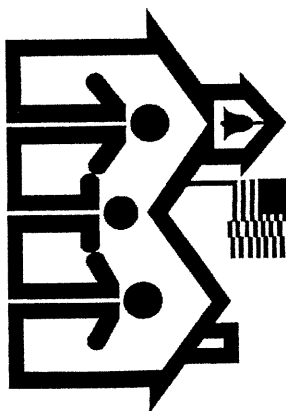
A. Yes to both questions. A private Choice school may enroll new students into the Choice program at any time if the school has a slot available. Furthermore, a child may apply to the Choice program at more than one private school at the same time. A separate student application must be filled out (and submitted directly to the school) for each child for each Choice school, either to continue from one year to the next, transfer from one school to another or to enroll in the Choice program for the first time.

Q. How does the payment process work?

A. The state issues a check payable to the parent or guardian and sends it to the school where the child is enrolled in the Choice program (a check in September and November based on the 3rd Friday in September and a check in February and May based on the 2nd Friday in January). The parent or guardian must sign the check over to the school to cover the tuition they would otherwise have to pay the school. The check is not for cash.

THE MILWAUKEE PARENTAL SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

Information for Parents
2000-2001 School Year



The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

DPI CONTACT:

Charlie Toulmin
phone: 608/266-2853 or toll free 888/245-2732
E-mail: charles.toulmin@dpi.state.wi.us

Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program Web Site:
<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choice.html>

Mailing address:
Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program:
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,
P. O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841

GENERAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program allows students from low-income families who reside in the city of Milwaukee to attend any participating private school located in the city at **no charge** if certain eligibility criteria are met. Contact the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for the list of schools participating in the program. You may also access the program's web page at:

<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choice.html>

PAYMENT OF ALLOWABLE FEES

A Choice student may attend a Choice school at no charge for tuition. However, they may be required by the school to pay reasonable fees for social or extra-curricular activities or for personal use items such as uniforms, towels, or gym clothes. The student or their parents should check with the private school to determine what fees are charged to students attending under this program, if any.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

A Choice school may not discriminate against a child with special needs in the admission process or elsewhere. However, as a private school, the Choice school is only required to offer those services to assist students with special needs that it can provide with minor adjustments. **Parents should contact MPS for more information on the services provided to children with special needs enrolled in the public schools and the lesser services that MPS provides these children enrolled in private schools.**

STATE VOUCHER PAYMENT PROCESS

For a child enrolled in the Choice program, the state issues four checks during the school year (September, November, February and May) that are payable to the parent or guardian. The checks are sent to the school and the parent or guardian must sign the check over to the school.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible students in grades kindergarten through 12 residing in the city of Milwaukee may enroll in the Choice program at a participating private school if there is space available. To qualify for the program in the 2000-2001 school year, a student must reside in Milwaukee, live in a household with an income equal to or less than 1.75 times the federal poverty level (the income limits are shown elsewhere in this brochure) and meet one of the following criteria:

- Was enrolled in the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) system in the 1999-2000 school year. A student is defined as enrolled in MPS if they are attending an MPS school, receiving instruction through MPS, or attending school in another school district through the Chapter 220 program while a resident of Milwaukee.
- Was enrolled in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program in the 1999-2000 school year.
- Was enrolled in one of grades kindergarten through 3 in a private school located in the city of Milwaukee, but was not enrolled in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program, in the 1999-2000 school year.
- Was not enrolled in any school, in the city of Milwaukee or elsewhere, in the 1999-2000 school year.
- Was eligible for the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program on August 25, 1995 and subsequently enrolled in a private school in the City of Milwaukee in at least one of the last five school years: 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, or 1999-2000. See the Choice student application form for more detail.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

A private school may not require a pupil enrolled in the Choice program at that school to participate in any religious activity if the student's parent or guardian submits to the student's teacher or the school's principal a written request that the student be excused from such activity.

FORMS YOU NEED TO APPLY

The Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program Student Application Form, MPS-PCP-3A is used to apply to a private school participating under this program. This form may be obtained from the private school the pupil wishes to attend, downloaded from the program's web page at:

<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choice.html>
or by contacting DPI directly.

HOW TO APPLY

The student's parents or guardian must **submit an application directly to a participating private Choice school** during the period specified by the private school.

If a private Choice school receives applications from more eligible students than it has Choice seats available, selection of students will be determined on a random basis. *In other words, the school cannot use grades, test scores, or any other factors besides eligibility for the program in admitting Choice students.* However, preference may be given to Choice students at that school and their siblings.

It is recommended that parents keep in touch with the school to receive the latest information. Schools must notify parents within 60 days of receiving the application of admission or non-admission to the Choice program at the school.



SCHOOL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program

Frequently Asked Questions

- How does someone qualify for the program?

A student qualifies for the choice program on the basis of their residency in the city of Milwaukee, their household income and where and if the child was enrolled in school in the prior school year. First, the child's household income must be at or below the amount listed in the table below. Household size includes parents, grandparents, all children, other relatives, and unrelated people living in the child's household. Second, in the prior school year the child must have either been enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), enrolled in the choice program, enrolled in one of grades kindergarten through 3 in a private school in Milwaukee but not in the choice program, or not enrolled in school anywhere. For example, a child moving into Milwaukee during the summer of 2000 and previously enrolled in school outside Milwaukee, is not eligible to be in the choice program in the 2000-2001 school year.

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Maximum Yearly Income</u>
1	\$14,824
2	\$19,897
3	\$24,970
4	\$30,043
5	\$35,116
6	\$40,190

For each additional member add \$5,073.

- How does a student get into the program?

The parent or guardian must fill out a choice student application form and submit it to the school during the period the school is accepting applications for the program. Parents can contact the choice school or DPI to get an application form and must contact the school to find out their application period. Parents will have to prove the child's residency in Milwaukee and their income status. Choice schools must inform parents (a) how many choice program slots are open by grade level; (b) the date, if necessary, of a lottery to select choice students if more applications are received than there are choice slots available; and (c) within 60 days of receiving the student's completed application, whether the child has been accepted into the choice program. A student can apply to, and a private school can enroll a child in, the choice program at any time during the school year if the school has a slot available. The four checks are sent to the school where a child is enrolled in the choice program on the 3rd Friday in September and the 2nd Friday in January.

- What information can the choice schools use in admitting or not admitting students into the private school choice program?

Choice schools cannot use any information about a student, other than the eligibility criteria on the choice student application form, to deny admission to any choice program applicant. Information about an applicant that a school may not use in the admission process for the choice program **includes but is not limited to** an applicant's race, ethnic

background, religion, prior test scores, grades or membership in the church parish. Choice schools must accept all eligible choice applications during the period the school has designated to accept those applications. The school must, at the end of the application period, have a random drawing to pick the choice students if there are more eligible choice applications submitted than slots available.

- The private school cannot charge choice program students tuition for instructional purposes. What fees is the school allowed to charge choice students? What about requirements of parents for fundraising or volunteer time?
A student in the choice program **can be charged reasonable fees** for personal items such as towels, gym clothes or uniforms, or social and extracurricular activities if the activity is not a part of the required curriculum. A choice student **cannot be charged fees** for instruction, registration, tuition, books, teacher salaries, buildings, maintenance, or equipment, computers or transportation if provided or reimbursed by MPS. A school may **ask** a parent to raise funds for or contribute volunteer time to the school, but **cannot impose any penalties** on a parent or child in the choice program for failure to do that fund raising or work hours.
- How does the voucher payments process work?
The state issues checks payable to the parent or guardian of a choice student and sends the checks to the school where the child is enrolled in the choice program, based on two count dates during the school year. The first two checks (in September and November) are sent to the school where the child is enrolled on the 3rd Friday in September. The second two checks (in February and May) are sent to the school where the child is enrolled on the 2nd Friday in January. If the child is enrolled at that school when the check arrives, the parent or guardian **must** sign the check over to the school to cover the tuition they would otherwise have to pay the school.
- Can a child transfer from the choice program at one school to the choice program at another school at any time?
Yes, a child can transfer from one school to another if the second school has a choice seat available, but again the vouchers are sent to the school where the child is enrolled on the two count dates (3rd Friday in September and 2nd Friday in January). Likewise, a child can transfer from a choice program at one school to the choice program at another school between school years if the second school has a choice seat available. If there are more applications than available seats, the choice transfer is not guaranteed a seat at the new choice school.
- Is transportation available for students in the choice program?
The state voucher does not specifically cover transportation costs for parents. A private choice school is not required to provide transportation to choice students. If a school chooses to provide transportation, a fee may be charged to the parent or guardian. If a private school notifies MPS of the school's attendance area and the names and addresses of its students for the following school year, in some cases MPS will provide transportation or reimburse parents' transportation costs in part. Parents should check with the choice school where their child hopes to attend and with MPS.
- Is a child in the choice program at a private religious school required to participate in religious activities or instruction?
No. If a choice student's parent or guardian submits to the student's teacher or the school's principal a written request that the student be excused from any religious activity, the teacher and school must honor that request.
- How much is the state voucher per student in the choice program? What can the school spend that voucher on?
In the 1999-2000 school year, the voucher for a student enrolled full-time in the choice program at a particular school (defined as enrolled in the choice program on both the 3rd

Friday in September and the 2nd Friday in January) is \$5,106 or the private school's operating and debt service cost per student, whichever is less. The operating and debt service cost per student at the school is determined by an independent financial auditor in a report due to DPI September 1 after the fiscal year. (For example, if a school is spending \$3,000 per student, after adjustments the school will in the end receive \$3,000 per choice student, but the voucher amount will be \$5,106 per student if the school is spending \$6,000 per student). The private school cannot charge tuition to the choice student and may spend the voucher on any purpose. The estimated voucher amount for the 2000-2001 school year will be approximately \$5,300 per FTE student.

- Is a private choice school required to enroll a child with special needs in the choice program, and to provide the child with whatever services are required to allow the child to learn?

A private school may not discriminate against a child with special educational needs in the admission process for the choice program. The student application form for the choice program has no information indicating whether a student has special needs. However, as a private school, a choice school must offer only those services to assist students with special needs that it can provide with minor adjustments. Parents should contact the choice school during the admission process about the services the school is able to provide for their child. Parents should also contact MPS for more information on the services the school district provides to children with special needs who are enrolled in the public schools and the lesser services that MPS provides children with special needs who are enrolled in private schools.

- Are there procedures regarding student suspensions and expulsions that a private choice school is required to follow?

State law does not require private choice schools to have due process procedures in place regarding student suspensions or expulsions. Parents should check with a choice school they are considering for their child, as to what if any procedures the school has in place for appeal of suspensions or expulsions. Wisconsin public schools, including MPS, must have such procedures in place under WI Stats. s. 120.13. That state law describes actions punishable by suspension or expulsion and allows a pupil or the parent or guardian to appeal a suspension or expulsion to the school administrator and the school board. Private schools are not required to have such procedures in place. In addition, as a private school, a choice school **may, but is not required to**, enroll a child in the choice program who has been expelled from a public school. There is no state law prohibiting a public school from enrolling a child who has been expelled from a private choice school.

- What are the requirements a private choice school must follow regarding transfer of choice pupil records to the parent or guardian or to another private or public school?

There is no state law requiring a private school to send pupil records (for any pupil, whether in the choice program or not) to another public school where the pupil may be transferring. There is also no state law requiring a private choice school to release pupil records to the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian. If a private school is receiving federal financial assistance, which means federal dollars under the federal pupil records law, the student's parent or guardian (or the student if at least 18 years of age) has the right to inspect and review the student's education records. On the other hand, under state law all public schools, including MPS, are required to send pupil records to another school district or school (including private choice schools) within 5 working days of receiving written notice from the pupil or the parent or guardian that the pupil intends to enroll in the other school. The pupil's parent or guardian should check with the private choice school they are considering for their child to see what procedures the school has in place for transfer and review of pupil records.



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

May 30, 2000

TO: Rep. Carol Kelso, Co-Chair, Legislative Audit Committee
Sen. Gary George, Co-Chair, Legislative Audit Committee

FROM: Howard Fuller

For your information, attached are three reports addressing various aspects of the school choice debate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Fuller", written over a large, stylized, handwritten "X" or checkmark.

Howard Fuller, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for the Transformation of Learning

Enclosures - 3



MARQUETTE
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OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Current Education Issues 2000-01
January 2000

**Selective Admission Practices?
Comparing the Milwaukee Public Schools and
the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program**

Howard L. Fuller, Ph.D., and George A. Mitchell

**Prepared for Presentation to "Can Choice Transform America's Schools?"
Education Writers Association
The Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida
January 28-29, 2000**

Summary

Advocates of tax-supported private school vouchers say they will expand educational opportunity. Opponents say achieving that goal is at odds with selective private school admission practices. We compared allowable admission practices in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP).¹ We found that:

- MPS schools use a wide range of selective criteria to screen students.
- Private schools may not use any screening criteria for MPCP-eligible students.

Background

The MPCP is the nation's oldest program of tax-supported, K-12 school choice in private schools. Enacted in 1990, it allowed one per cent of MPS enrollment (then about 1,000 students) to attend non-sectarian private schools at state expense. Now, up to 15 per cent of MPS enrollment (about 15,800 students) may attend non-sectarian or sectarian private schools. This year, 8,104 students are using the MPCP at 91 different private schools.²

MPCP eligibility and allowable screening. Students eligible for the MPCP are Milwaukee residents from families with income at or below 175% of the federal poverty level. Private schools receive no information from eligible students in such areas as academic ability, special education needs, or prior disciplinary action (see Attachment I, the MPCP student application). On a space available basis, private schools in the MPCP must accept any eligible applicant.³

Claims of voucher opponents. The MPCP prohibition on selective admission criteria is at odds with claims made by voucher opponents in attacking it and similar programs. For example:

- The National Education Association (NEA), the nation's largest teachers union, says: "Parental choice is a misnomer. Private school admissions offices make the choice of which students to admit or reject. Private schools retain the right to reject or accept any student, regardless of whether the student holds a voucher. By definition, private schools are selective, using a variety of criteria to weed out applicants."⁴
- The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the second largest teachers union, says: "Private schools normally screen applicants on a number of grounds, including, but not limited, to: prior academic achievement; standardized test scores; prior disciplinary record; written application; interviews with applicants and their parents; and parents' willingness to volunteer at the school (often required)...."⁵
- The People for the American Way (PFAW) and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) allege that MPCP schools use admission practices prohibited by Wisconsin law.⁶
- Wisconsin State Rep. Christine Sinicki says that "choice promoters talk about choice leveling the playing field, but choice schools are still picking and choosing what children they want." Expressing a widely held, frequently reported, and rarely challenged view, she said: "Public schools cannot turn away anyone who comes to their door."⁷
- Tammy Johnson, of Wisconsin Citizen Action, said during a 1999 "town hall" meeting on race relations: "[W]e are leaving children behind in this rush to so-called [education]

reform...whether it is charter or voucher...[Parents] in public education [are] concerned about...disabled kids...kids with learning disabilities...kids who have behavioral problems, kids who have been involved in the juvenile criminal justice system. Those kids get left behind [by school vouchers] because...a lot of private schools...don't have to take them, so that leaves it behind for public education to deal with those children."⁸

This report

We compare allowable admission practices at MPS schools with those for MPCP-eligible students.⁹ We express no opinion on the appropriateness of MPS or MPCP admission practices. Our objective is to describe them, given claims by voucher opponents.

We identify three misperceptions advanced by voucher opponents:

- Misperception One — private schools apply to MPCP students the same admission criteria they use for other students.
- Misperception Two — all public schools accept “all students.”
- Misperception Three — all public schools do not use selective criteria.

In fact, MPS schools often use selection criteria typically associated with private schools. For example, as we describe, this year fully 37% of MPS high school students attend schools with a range of highly selective admission criteria. Meanwhile, private schools are barred from using such criteria in reviewing MPCP applications.

Thus, the situation is the mirror opposite of what voucher opponents claim. This reflects both state law and local policy decisions. For example, while the law entitles children to a tax-supported public education, the school they attend often is influenced by restrictions set by local officials. In Milwaukee, for example, the school board lets individual schools use selection criteria that resemble what the AFT claims are common in private schools, including, in the AFT's words from above: “...prior academic achievement; standardized test scores; prior disciplinary record; written application; interviews with applicants and their parents....”

In contrast, state law prohibits private schools from using any criteria for MPCP-eligible students. Private schools are required to use what amounts to an open admission policy for MPCP-eligible students.

MPS Admission Criteria

The MPS school directory informs parents that they might make an “inappropriate school choice,” a phrase notably absent from MPCP statutes or rules.¹⁰ An “inappropriate school choice” is defined as a “school selection that is not an appropriate option [such as when a] student [is] not eligible for [a] program.”

Elementary and middle school selection criteria. Under the heading “Schools/Programs With Eligibility Requirements,” MPS lists 21 schools with “eligibility requirements...[C]ontact your child’s current school or the schools listed...for additional details about eligibility requirements.”¹¹ Schools include those with programs for “the Academically Talented” and “Gifted and Talented” students. Attachments II and III are to be filled out for students seeking admission to a Program for the Academically Talented or a Gifted and Talented school. Table 1 summarizes information required on these forms.

Private schools may use none of the criteria in Table 1 to screen MPCP-eligible students.

Table 1. Information required of applicants to MPS Gifted and Talented schools and Program for the Academically Talented.

Category	Required Information
1. General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M-Teamed? Yes or No.¹² • Race or Ethnicity. • Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility.
2. Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name(s) of test(s); date(s) given. • Areas tested (reading, math, other). • Percentile rank.
3. Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify reading series being used. • Specify "readiness" level.
4. "Student Potential"	<p>The student's "POTENTIAL" is ranked in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "General intellectual ability;" • "Specific academic ability;" • "Creative or productive thinking ability;" • "Leadership ability;" and • "Visual and performing arts ability."
5. "Student Performance"	<p>From "rarely" to "almost always," the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses "an unusually advanced vocabulary;" • Has "a large storehouse of information;" • Has "unusual insight into values;" • Handles "responsibility well; can be 'counted on';" and • Is ranked on 16 other criteria (see Attachments II-III).
6. "Student Potential"	<p>"...[W]rite one sentence that best describes this student's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "academic potential;" • "social/emotional potential;" • "visual or performing arts potential;" and • "leadership potential."
7. "Student Performance"	<p>"...[A]ttach...the student's <u>most current</u> report card!"</p>
8. Other	<p>Letters of recommendation; other comments.</p>

Montessori and language immersion schools. MPS Montessori schools serve students from the age of three through eighth grade. According to MPS, no child over 4 years old may enter these schools if they do not have “[p]revious continuous Montessori experience...” MPS also has language immersion schools for students four years old through fifth grade. After grade one, children must pass a language proficiency test to be admitted.

Such requirements are not allowed for MPCP-eligible students at private schools.

MPS High Schools. Six MPS high schools use selective admission and screening criteria — criteria that private schools *may not use* in reviewing applications of MPCP students. Figure 1 shows that more than one in three MPS high school students are in schools using selective criteria.

Figure 1. MPS high school enrollment, 1999-2000.¹³

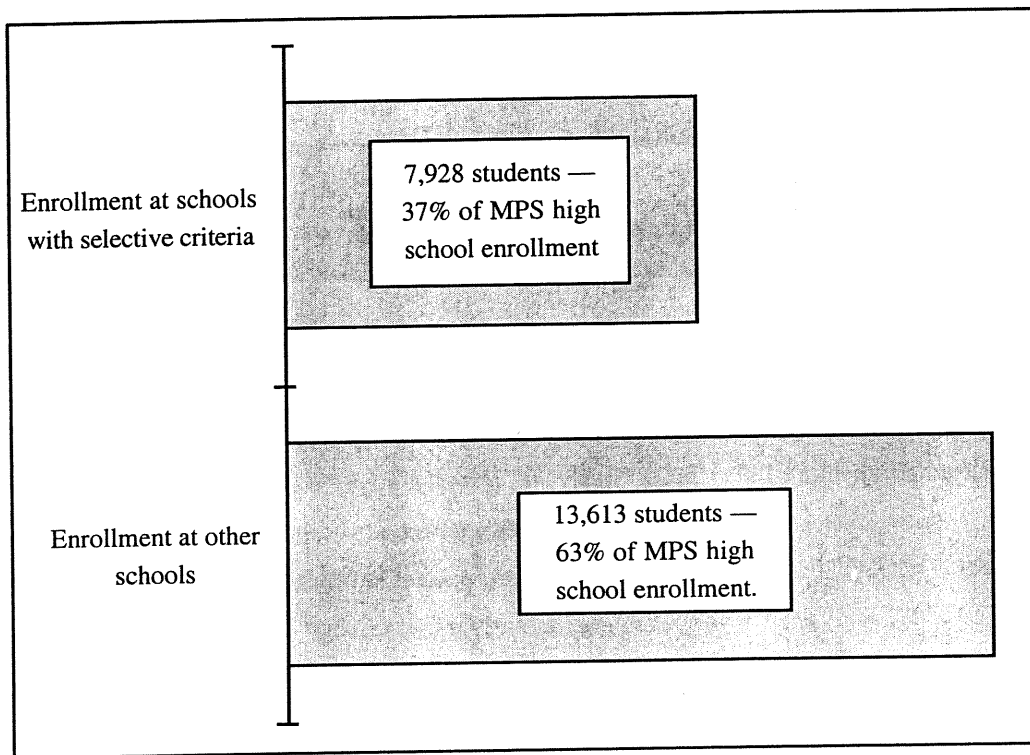


Table 2, following page, summarizes screening criteria used at selective MPS high schools, criteria that again resemble what the AFT claims are common in private schools: "...prior academic achievement; standardized test scores; prior disciplinary record; written application; interviews with applicants and their parents...."

Table 2. 1999-2000 admission requirements at MPS High Schools.¹⁴

School	Admission Requirements
Custer High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most recent report card. • Complete a "multiple paragraph essay" at "mandatory orientation" session. • Complete "parent and student questionnaires," with "completeness and neatness [being] essential as it is a portion of the assessment criteria."
Madison University High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior "School Performance, including attendance and achievement." • "Performance Assessment including a required essay and performance task." • "...Recommendations...from two current teachers or counselors." • "...Both students and parents must sign a contract agreement outlining graduation requirements and school discipline policy."
High School of the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...[A]ttend an audition workshop to acquaint the families with MHSAs rigorous academics, artistic standards and audition requirements." • Audition in one or more areas (creative writing, dance, music, theatre, visual art).
Milwaukee Trade & Technical High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Interest in vocational, trade, and technology education evidenced by enrollment in a middle school technical educational program and/or an equivalent experience." • "90% attendance" in middle school. • Attend "orientation session...to acquaint families with Tech's expectations, its rigorous curriculum, and its discipline policies." • Answer "four short essay questions...expressing [student's] goals, expectations, and a commitment to the" MTTHS program...." • At the orientation, demonstrate "writing proficiencies and knowledge of the school's program."
Riverside University High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend "orientation session...to acquaint families with Riverside's expectations, its rigorous curriculum, and its discipline policies." • At the orientation, "[s]tudents must write a 200-300 word, multiple paragraph essay, which outlines the student's academic goals and explains how attending Riverside will advance those goals." • "Students must have two signed recommendations from two current eighth grade teachers who are familiar with the student's work and study habits."
Rufus King High School for College Bound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Each student applying to Rufus King must submit a portfolio. All portfolio criteria listed below must be completed." • "School Performance which include attendance, effort, and achievement..." • "Performance Assessment to include a required essay and a required performance task." • "Evidence to show accomplishments in at least two areas such as special talents, co-curricular activities, community involvement, or leadership ability."

Other Public School Admission Criteria

MPS is not alone among Wisconsin public schools in using admission criteria that may not be used by private schools regarding MPCP-eligible students.

Interdistrict transfer students. Under a state law known as Chapter 220, MPS minority students may transfer to suburban districts and white suburban students may transfer to MPS. Public schools in the Chapter 220 program specify how many spaces are available for such transfers. However, unlike in the MPCP, the Chapter 220 contract between MPS and suburban public schools says they "may refuse to accept an applicant for transfer who":

- Had been expelled or "could have been expelled;"
- Had poor attendance;
- Requires bilingual education;
- At the pre-school or kindergarten level, has not been screened "to identify exceptional education needs;" or
- Has been referred for an exceptional education evaluation that is incomplete.

Such requirements are not allowed for MPCP-eligible students at private schools.

These currently allowable Chapter 220 screening practices are scaled back substantially from the program's earlier years.¹⁵

Public school open enrollment. In 1997, the Legislature amended state law to "allow a pupil to attend a public school in a school district other than the one in which the pupil resides...."¹⁶

The law allows public schools to reject a student's application using a variety of criteria that may not be applied to MPCP-eligible students at private schools.

For example, under "NONRESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA," the law says that "[p]ermissible criteria...for accepting and rejecting applications...may include":

- "Whether the pupil has been expelled...by any school district during the current or 2 preceding school years for any of the following reasons or whether a disciplinary proceeding involving the pupil, which is based on any of the following reasons, is pending:
 - "Conveying or causing to be conveyed any threat or false information concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made or to be made to destroy any school property by means of explosives.
 - "Engaging in conduct while at school or while under supervision of a school authority that endangered the health, safety or property of others.

- "Engaging in conduct while not at school or while not under the supervision of a school authority that endangered the health, safety or property of others at school or under the supervision of a school authority or of any employe of the school district or member of the school board.
- "Possessing a dangerous weapon, as defined in s. 939.22 (10), while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority.
- "Whether the special education program or related services described in the child's individualized education program...are available in the nonresident school district or whether there is space available in the special education program identified in the child's individualized education program, including any class size limits, pupil-teacher ratios or enrollment projections established by the nonresident school board.
- "Whether the child has been screened by his or her resident school board...to determine if there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is a child with exceptional educational needs."

The law also provides that a non-resident school district "...may require that the [non-resident] pupil reapply, no more than once, when the pupil enters middle school, junior high school or high school."

The public school open enrollment law has still other provisions and limitations not found in the MPCP statute. For example:

- "...[T]he resident school board shall provide to the nonresident school board...a copy of any expulsion findings and orders pertaining to the pupil, a copy of records of any pending disciplinary proceeding involving the pupil, a written explanation of the reasons for the expulsion or pending disciplinary proceeding and the length of the term of the expulsion or the possible outcomes of the pending disciplinary proceeding."
- "If the costs [to a transferring pupil's district] of the special education program or services...for a [transferring] child...would impose...an undue financial burden...the child's resident school board may notify the child's parent...that the pupil may not attend the nonresident school district...."

Attachment IV illustrates the records a transferring student must provide so that non-resident districts have information to use in applying the allowable special education and disciplinary screening criteria.

Special Education Students

We previously noted misperceptions advanced by voucher opponents to claim that public schools accept "all students" and private schools use highly selective admission practices. As we have shown, many MPS schools use academic screening criteria, whereas private schools may use none of those criteria in considering MPCP students.

The situation is similar regarding students with "special education needs."¹⁷ Voucher opponents attack private schools in this area by first advancing the misperception that:

- Private schools, in general, admit few special education students.
- Public schools accept all such students.

Voucher opponents then make specific misrepresentations of the MPCP. For example, the AFT says, "...private schools [in the MPCP] do not have to admit any disabled students."¹⁸ Others cite such claims as evidence that hard-to-educate students are shut out of the MPCP (see, for example, Tammy Johnson's comments, pp. 1-2).

We demonstrate at length below that, in Milwaukee, such claims are untrue. *In fact, private schools may exclude no MPCP-eligible student based on special education needs.* We know of no actual example, from voucher opponents or any other source, of an MPCP-eligible student being denied admission to a private school based on special education needs.

Special needs students — MPCP schools

We summarize below information from four different MPCP schools regarding programs for special needs students.

Prince of Peace School/Escuela Principe de Paz.¹⁹ These examples involve *prior MPS students* with special education needs who now attend this K-8 school as part of the MPCP. Principal Donna Schmidt said, "they are examples of students (with special learning needs) who have applied to our school, been accepted and need services that were not previously supplied by our school community."

Example 1. Male, Grade Seven, disability not yet determined: "This [young] man has attended numerous schools (both private and public, including MPS). He has a history of poor attendance, and in fact, was not M-teamed [see note 12] because his attendance was so poor. Our school is located closer to home, and his mother hoped that this would increase his attendance. Attendance continues to be sporadic. Modifications have been made in his curriculum and schedule. Referrals have been made to support services and the M-Team process has been initiated."

Example 2. Male, Grade Eight, learning disabled: "According to his mother, this young man did not like going to school (he was enrolled in MPS). She therefore, decided to enroll him at our school. He has an IEP [Individual Education Plan] that we have been working to implement. Modifications have been made to his curriculum. He also participates in the Computer Assisted Instruction Laboratory [with Federal Title 1 funds] provided by MPS in our building. A bilingual tutor has also been hired [who] works directly with this student and other students who are having difficulty in school because of English being their second language."

Example 3. Male, Grade Five, behavior disorder: "In 2nd grade, this [child] was [placed in a foster] home. He is estimated to have been in 6-8 foster homes. As a student in MPS, he was placed in an alternative school. Following numerous suspensions, he came to our community. At this point, we are working to implement his IEP. Meetings are scheduled to determine how we can best meet his needs."

Schmidt added: "We also have numerous students who experience English as a second language. For many of them, their school experience is their first exposure to a totally English speaking environment. Three tutors have been hired to work with our younger students. [They] not only provide academic support, but further enhance our community by providing these students with the extra attention and care that reinforces their self-esteem."

Messmer High School. Brother Bob Smith, president of this school, provided examples of *former students in MPS or other public schools* now enrolled at Messmer:²⁰

Example 1. A ninth grade male MPCP student who took the placement exam (**not entrance exam**) wrote on his essay: "heep me! I cant reed." Messmer accepted the student and placed him in the third grade reading level.

Example 2. An eleventh grade male enrolled at Messmer after being expelled by MPS for getting into a school fight with another student. The student graduated with a "B" average and now attends a post-secondary institution.

Example 3. A tenth grade male, accused of a weapons violation in MPS, was expelled. The student enrolled in a suburban school district, but never attended because his MPS expulsion was discovered and he was not admitted (see Chapter 220 discussion above).

John Benson, the Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction and a strong MPCP opponent, asked Smith to accept the student. Messmer did. The boy attended for one year. The boy and his family moved to Illinois and recently said that they are moving back to Wisconsin and plan to enroll the boy at Messmer.

Example 4. Messmer has accepted two students with more than 50 absences in the prior school year, and one who had 86 absences (out of about 180 school days) at MPS.

Example 5. Messmer accepted a female student with a medical condition that involves one to two spontaneous seizures a week that are severe enough to require paramedics. Messmer usually does not allow students to attend more than four years. However, the school allowed this student to attend a fifth year so she could graduate.

Example 6. Messmer has enrolled a student with Hodgkins Disease who was hospitalized so much Messmer provided tutors to help the student keep up with school work. Messmer has a female student who is medically defined as a dwarf. She is in lots of pain with spinal problems and has many ongoing medical procedures that interrupt her educational program.

To these examples, Smith added: "Every year Messmer takes kids who have nowhere else to go. Many come from MPS. Some come from the suburbs. Ninety-eight percent are excellent students. Our population of kids who are categorized as special needs [is] increasing. Fifteen to 20 percent of [MPCP] students [at] Messmer are defined with special needs...[W]e have a number of children each year [not counted in above] who have sickle cell anemia or some trait of it and one child who has weekly fainting spells."

At a July 30, 1998 meeting of the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, representatives of two MPCP schools described for legislators some of the services provided to students with special education needs. Excerpts from their testimony follow:

Lutheran Special School.²¹ "...Lutheran Special School [provides] the oldest parochial special education program...in Milwaukee....[It was started] 40 years ago by parents...who wanted their mentally retarded children to have the same opportunity as their

other children, to attend a religious school....[T]his program...continues to grow, as it strives to carry out its mission, '...to be an advocate and resource for students with specific educational needs; to empower them to recognize and utilize their God-given potential through programs and services for students, their families and teachers...'

"Lutheran Special School currently serves 28 elementary students who have been diagnosed as Learning Disabled, Cognitively Disabled, Emotionally Disturbed, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, as well as "gray area" students. These children attend either our elementary self-contained classroom or our elementary resource room. Eleven of these children are Choice eligible....[E]ight of them come from minority families.

"...[W]e have a Teacher Consultant/School Psychologist who worked in four Lutheran inner city schools in Milwaukee. She works with students who have learning difficulties, assessing their strengths and weaknesses, she provides intervention techniques, and she helps teachers with adaptations for these students so that they can get the special help they need and remain in a Lutheran school. Forty-five percent of the children in these Lutheran schools are...eligible for Choice.

"Lutheran Special School was also responsible for beginning the Special Needs Program at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. This program currently has two special ed teachers serving 28-30 special needs high school students, providing an alternative curriculum as well as beginning a school to work program and enabling these students to get the skills necessary to be successful in the work force.

"...[W]e also provide, in conjunction with a local university, an annual...in service for teachers of all denominations...[This provides] teachers with the skills necessary to work with students who have difficulty learning, allowing these students to remain in a parochial school. And, we have been involved with a local parochial university in helping them to begin a DPI approved special education minor, enabling graduates going into parochial schools to have the training and the degree to work with special education students..."

Pius XI High School.²² "Pius was founded in 1929 as a comprehensive high school with a mission to serve all students. In that context, Special Studies students are a viable part of the student body...[Pius] is staffed by two specialists in reading, one in math and two in learning disabilities. Currently, 52 students are enrolled in Math Improvement, 114 in Reading Improvement, and approximately 50 students are in the Learning Disabilities Program. Programs in Special Studies focus on the uniqueness of each individual and attempt to help students reach their potential, especially in reading and math [including students] identified by an M team or psychological assessment as learning disabled.

"A significant feature of Special Studies is that all students are 100% mainstreamed into regular classes, as are students with physical disabilities, and given help in resource centers. In the learning disabilities area, help in the resource room provides diagnosis and remediation along with compensation for learning problems. If a student is determined to be learning disabled, the Special Studies Department helps the student and parents plan an academic program. On the average, half of the students in the program are college bound. Reading and Math Improvement Programs provide instruction in small groups or individually. Reading instruction is based on diagnostic-prescriptive methods using a variety of materials so that each student's unique reading needs can be met. Those students working on math improvement generally also are enrolled in regular math courses.

"All areas of special studies are individualized to indicate to students that they are important and can excel. This approach assesses students' current instructional level of learning, utilizes specific intervention strategies to help them progress and provides additional

academic and emotional support. As a result, this department helps students develop the foundation for higher levels of analysis and problem solving demanded in their regular course work. Recently, for example, a student enrolled in the program earned a score of 36 on the ACT test. Department members work very closely with subject area teachers to ensure that instruction is consistent and supportive.

"Each year, Pius also has a number of students with physical disabilities. Over the years, the student population has included those with visual and hearing limitations, dwarfism, leg braces, and spina bifida. If a student entering Pius has a physical disability, a meeting is held with the parents and appropriate school officials to determine how best to meet their special needs.

"On the average, approximately one hundred students are classified by Guidance as disabled as a result of a physical or learning disability. Subject teachers are always notified of students with special needs."

Special needs students — MPS schools

MPS' school directory says, "When children with special education needs select a school/program where their individual needs cannot be appropriately met [i.e., an "Inappropriate School Choice"], parents will be contacted by special education supervisors to discuss options at other schools...."

MPS has the final say, **not the parent**, in determining where a special needs student attends school, including whether the student may attend a school that does not have a program for them.

This is not so with MPCP schools, which, **as with MPS schools**, do not have programs for all special needs students. While an MPCP school may advise a parent that the school does not have a specific program, under state law the decision to attend the school is the parent's, not the school's.

Figures 2, 3, and 4 illustrate that no MPS elementary, middle, or high school accepts all students with special education needs.²³ In contrast, no private school may reject an MPCP-eligible student based on special needs.

Figure 2. MPS elementary schools accepting special needs students.

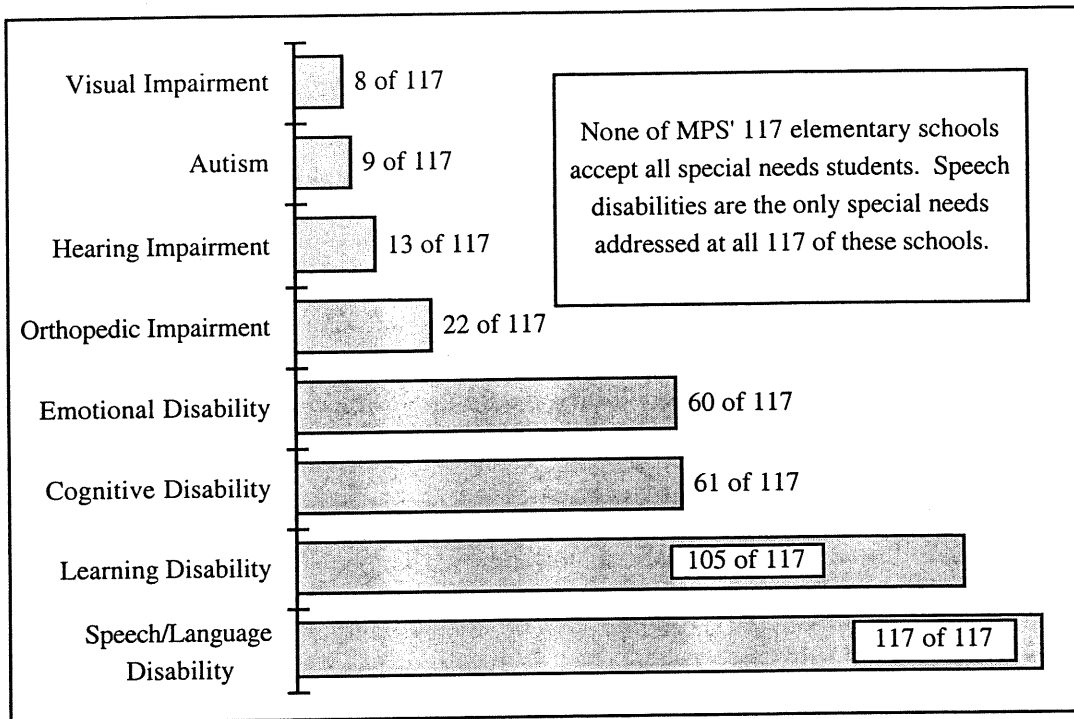


Figure 3. MPS middle schools accepting special needs students.

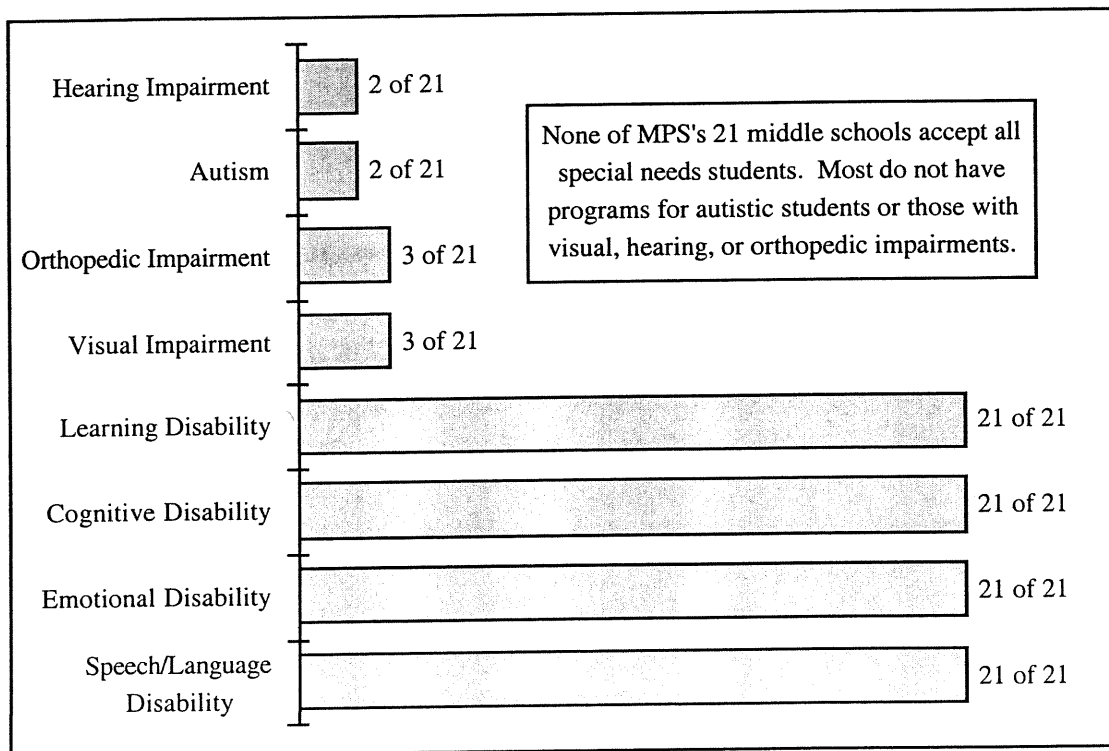
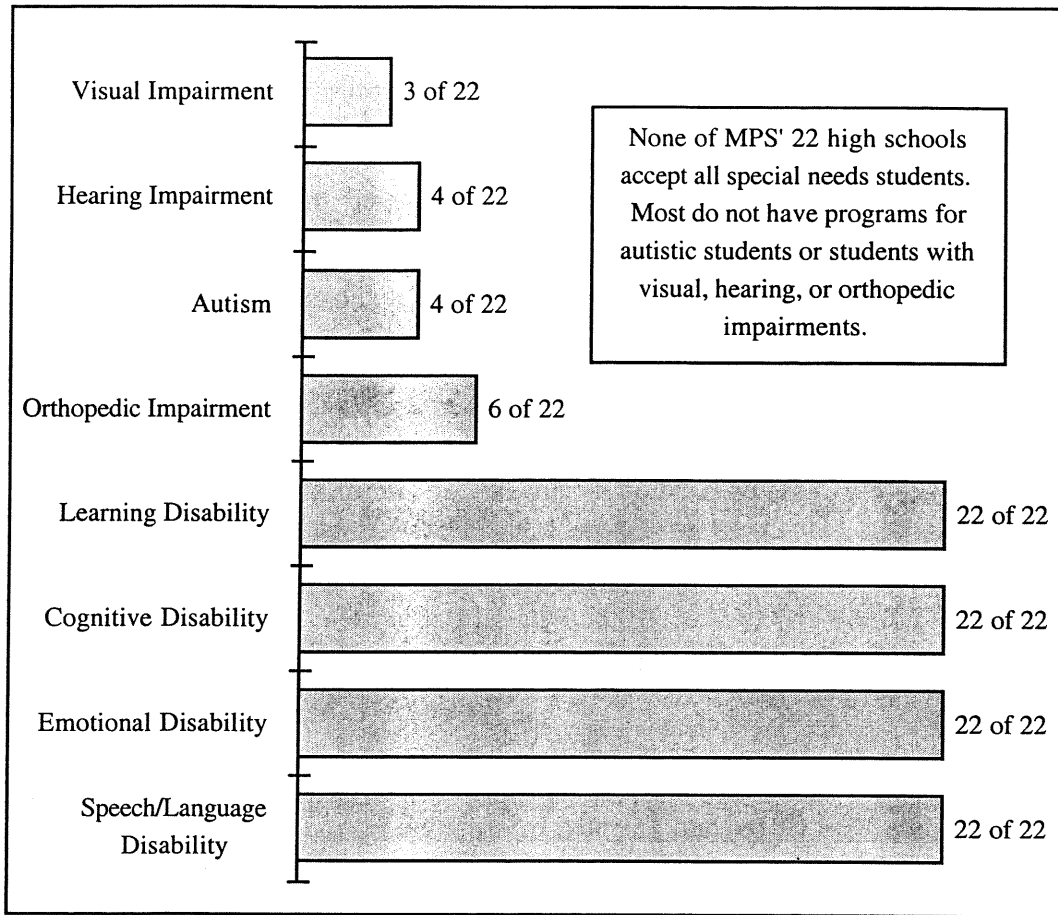


Figure 4. MPS high schools accepting special needs students.



Students with disciplinary or behavior problems

Previous sections described screening based on academic ability and special needs. Voucher opponents also claim that private schools rely on admission screening to exclude students with past disciplinary problems.

To reiterate the general point previously made, state law does not allow private schools to use screening criteria in reviewing MPCP-eligible student applications.

As with programs that screen for academic ability and special needs, MPS has an extensive program of alternative and partnership schools to which it may transfer students who are truants, adjudicated juveniles, or meet other criteria that define them, under state law, as "at risk" of not graduating.

Fifteen alternative programs are operated by MPS; another 32 are operated under contract to MPS by other entities, most of whom are private, non-profit organizations. The capacity of these alternative programs as of October, 1999, was 3,579 students, or more than 3% of the MPS enrollment. The majority of this capacity was in private organizations.²⁴

MPS is not alone among public schools in relying heavily on private schools to educate some of its most difficult students.²⁵ This again contrasts with frequent assertions that public schools take all students and that private schools are selective in enrolling MPCP

students. With specific respect to MPS, its former director of alternative programs said they enable "MPS to provide a whole range of different options. We want tailor-made programs for pregnant teens, chronic disrupters, or students coming from juvenile institutions. With contracting, we can offer those programs. In some cases [contract schools] are more effective than the traditional schools."²⁶

Conclusion

Milwaukee's experience with the nation's longest-running program of school vouchers directly contradicts the claims of voucher opponents regarding public and private school admission practices. It illustrates that a targeted, tax-supported school voucher program for low-income parents can be designed to provide essentially an open admission policy.

We did not evaluate allowable practices in other jurisdictions with tax-supported and, in some case, privately supported voucher programs. Such studies would be worthwhile.

We also did not evaluate the merits of (1) selective admission programs such we describe are used by MPS or (2) the prohibition in state law on use of selection criteria in reviewing MPCP applications. This is an issue worthy of analysis.

Attachments

- I. Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program Student Application Form — 2000-2001 School Year (2 pages).
- II. MPS Program for the Academically Talented — Information Form (2 pages).
- III. MPS Golda Meir Gifted and Talented Information Form (2 pages).
- IV. "Request for Student Records" used by the Public School Open Enrollment Program (1 page).

Endnotes

¹ Fuller is founder/director of The Institute for the Transformation of Learning (ITL), Marquette University. From 1991-95 he was superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools. Mitchell, owner of The Mitchell Company, is a consulting research associate at the Institute. All errors and interpretations are ours.

Sharon Schmeling, research associate at ITL, and Deborah Meyer, project assistant at The Mitchell Company, provided research. Donna Schmidt, Prince of Peace School; Brother Bob Smith, Messmer High School; Roger Laesch, former Superintendent of Lutheran Schools, Missouri Synod, Milwaukee; and Debra Dosemagen, Academic Vice Principal, Pius XI High School, provided information about special education students at their schools. Spence Korte, MPS Superintendent, and Aquine Jackson, Director, Division of Parent/Student Services, MPS, and staff at various MPS schools provided information regarding MPS admissions practices.

² Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, "Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program Membership and Payment History, in Total, 1990 to Present," <http://www.dpi.state.wi>.

³ The MPCP statutes are found in Section 119.23, Wisconsin Statutes. Section.119.23(2) specifies (emphasis added) that "**any** pupil in grades kindergarten through 12" who meets MPCP eligibility standards "may attend, at no charge, any [MPCP-eligible] private school" in Milwaukee. The statutes give private schools two primary areas of discretion regarding MPCP participation: (1) they are not obligated to join the program; and (2) those that do may designate how many spaces are available. A lottery is held if there are more applicants than space available. Other eligibility criteria involve prior year school attendance.

⁴ "Private School Vouchers — Overview," <http://www.nea.org>.

⁵ "Vouchers and the Accountability Dilemma," <http://www.aft.org>.

⁶ Based on answers allegedly given by schools to anonymous phone callers hired by PFAW-NAACP to pose as parents. There has been no independent verification of these claims. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction states that it has no record of receiving an actual parent or student complaint regarding admission practices in the 10-year history of the MPCP.

⁷ The first quote from Rep. Sinicki is from the Fall, 1999 edition Rethinking Schools, a Milwaukee publication; the second quote is from comments Rep. Sinicki made November 17, 1999, at a public hearing at the Milwaukee Area Technical College.

⁸ "Through One City's Eyes — A Live Town Hall Meeting," September 9, 1999, WMVS-TV, Milwaukee Public Television. In the same broadcast, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Sociology Professor Gregory Squires said: "...[T]here's no reason to believe that [school choice] is going to somehow magically resolve these problems, in part for the reason that was just mentioned [by Tammy Johnson]...[T]he public schools have to take certain students the private schools don't have to take...For MPS students, a place will be found and that is not the case for all private schools. They don't all have to accept any student." The implication to some listeners of Squires' statement was that private schools in programs such as the MPCP will apply more selective admissions criteria than public schools. As this study demonstrates, in Milwaukee, that would not be the case for MPCP-eligible students.

⁹ We did not examine actual (v. allowable) admission practices at any MPS or MPCP school. As stated above, Note 5, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction states that it has received no actual parent or student complaint regarding admission practices in the 10-year history of the MPCP.

¹⁰ MPS, "Directions — Your School Selection Guide for the 2000-2001 School Year."

¹² An "M-team" is a multi-disciplinary team of education specialists that evaluate students with potential learning disabilities or related needs. It prepares an Individual Education Plan (IEP) identifying a student's special education needs.

¹³ MPS, "Enrollment By Ethnic Categories and Schools," September 17, 1999.

¹⁴ From MPS brochure on entrance requirements for these six high schools in 1999-2000.

¹⁵ In 1989, George Mitchell summarized various earlier reports on widespread academic and family screening criteria by suburban public schools in considering the applications of minority students from MPS ("An Evaluation of State-Financed School Integration in Metropolitan Milwaukee," June, 1989, by Wisconsin Policy Research Institute).

In a later report describing suburban screening of MPS transfer students, UW-Milwaukee Professor Harold Rose wrote: Suburban "...districts that identify themselves principally as college preparatory districts employ selection criteria that do not appear to be used by districts providing a comprehensive education. In some districts, results of specific performance instruments weigh heavily in the decision to approve admission as does an effort to increase the certainty that the range in abilities of transfer students does not deviate greatly from that of the resident population...[T]he practices with regard to admissions vary greatly across districts, with some [seeming; to select from a pool of [MPS] students who appear to differ least from resident students..." See "Milwaukee's City - Suburban Interdistrict Integration Program: A Review of the Student Application & Assignment Process," by Professor Harold Rose for the Compact for Educational Opportunity, January 1990.

¹⁶ Jane R. Henkel and Robert J. Conlin, Wisconsin Legislative Council staff, "Information Memorandum 97-3, New Law Relating to Interdistrict Public School Open Enrollment," October 15, 1997. Provisions of this new law are found in ss. 118.51 and 118.52, Wisconsin Statutes.

¹⁷ MPS says the term special education needs applies to children with "hearing impairments, emotional disturbances, learning disabilities, orthopedic impairments, cognitive disabilities, speech and language disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, visual impairments, and other health impairments...." ("Directions," elementary and middle school edition, p. 6).

We do not in this paper discuss the rights, responsibilities, and tax-supported programs for special education students in public or private schools. Our purpose is confined to providing information about allowable practices in the context of claims by school choice opponents.

¹⁸ AFT, "Milwaukee Voucher Program A Failure, Says AFT," www.aft.org, July 1997.

¹⁹ Based on information provided to ITL research assistant Sharon Schmeling by Principal Donna Schmidt.

²⁰ Based on information provided to Schmeling by Smith. Examples involve students in the MPCP or eligible for it but excluded during the 1995-98 litigation over the program's constitutionality. On June 10, 1998, Wisconsin's Supreme Court upheld the MPCP.

²¹ From testimony presented July 30, 1998, by Roger Laesch, then-Superintendent of Lutheran Schools, Missouri Synod, Milwaukee.

²² From testimony presented July 30, 1998, by Debra Dosemagen, Academic Vice Principal, Pius XI High School, Milwaukee.

²³ Figures 2, 3, and 4 are based on correspondence in September, 1999, between Deborah Meyer and MPS Superintendent Spence Korte. This correspondence, a public record, is available from MPS.

²⁴ Henryette Fisher, Acting Director, MPS Division of Small Community Schools, "ALT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AS OF 10/18/99."

²⁵ Beales, J.R., and Bertonneau, T.F., "Do Private Schools Serve Difficult-to-Educate Students?", Mackinac Center for Public Policy and The Reason Foundation, October 1997.

²⁶ Beales, et.al., quoting Fermin Burgos, p. 15.



ATTACHMENT I
 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
MILWAUKEE PARENTAL SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM
STUDENT APPLICATION FORM 2000-2001 School Year
 (Wi Stat., 119.23) 1995 Act 27
 MPS-PCP-3A (◆ Rev. 12/99)

INSTRUCTIONS - A separate form must be completed for each child applying under this program. Print clearly in ink. Return completed form to the school.

School applying to:			Grade level for school year 2000-2001
Student's name (Last)	(First)	(Middle Initial)	Date of birth (Month/Day/Year)
Student home address (Street)	(City)	(ZIP)	Telephone area/no.
Parent / guardian name (Last)	(First)	(Middle Initial)	School attended during 1999-2000 school year:

Please truthfully answer the following six (6) questions to determine the student's eligibility for the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program in the 2000-2001 school year. Question #1 and at least one of questions #2-6 must be checked yes to be eligible.

Check only one box by the number that corresponds with your household size. Include any parents, grand-parents, children, other relatives, and unrelated people who live in your household. Foster children are counted as a household of one (1) and only the child's income is counted.

Household Size	Maximum Yearly Income*
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.....	\$ 14,824
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.....	\$ 19,897
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.....	\$ 24,970
<input type="checkbox"/> 4.....	\$ 30,043
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.....	\$ 35,116
<input type="checkbox"/> 6.....	\$ 40,190

For each additional household member add \$5,073.

*Schools will first use Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on the federal income tax return (line 33 of Form 1040, line 18 of Form 1040A, or line 4 of Form 1040EZ) for the prior calendar year (1999 for the 2000-2001 Choice program.) You must provide the school with a federal income tax return for the prior year if filed. You may also provide the school with evidence of expected income for the current calendar year that makes you eligible for the program.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| YES | NO | <i>Please check only one box for each question</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. If your yearly income level is at or below the amount listed for your household size under question #1, check yes . If higher than the amount listed, check no . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Was your child enrolled in the Milwaukee Public School System during the 1999-2000 school year? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Did your child participate in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program during the 1999-2000 school year? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. If your child was not in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program, was your child enrolled in one of grades kindergarten through 3 in a private school located in the city of Milwaukee? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Check yes if your child was not enrolled in any school, in Milwaukee or elsewhere, during the 1999-2000 school year; otherwise, check no . |

If you have answered NO to questions 2 through 5, you may be eligible for the program under question 6 on the back of this application form.

For Use of Parent or Guardian: I as the parent or guardian certify that all of the above information is true and correct. I understand that school and/or state officials may verify any of the information on the application.

Name of Parent or Guardian Signing the Application (*Print or Type*)

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date Signed

For Use of School: I as the administrator responsible for pupil admissions have reviewed the student application and have concluded that it is properly and completely filled out to the best of my knowledge.

Based on the information provided by the parent or guardian, the student is eligible.

Name of School Administrator or Designee (*Print or Type*)

YES NO

School Administrator / Designee Signature

Date Signed

YES NO

6. Was your child, on August 25, 1995, a resident of the City of Milwaukee, living in a household that met the income guidelines listed to the right, AND in the 1994-95 school year any one of the following was true (circle which of a through d applies):

a. was enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools, or

b. was enrolled in the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program, or

c. was enrolled in one of grades kindergarten through 1 in a private school located in the City of Milwaukee, or

d. was not enrolled in any school, in Milwaukee or elsewhere, and about to enroll in school in the 1995-96 school year,

AND subsequently has been enrolled in a private school in the City of Milwaukee in at least one of the last five school years: 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 or 1999-2000.

Income guidelines on August 25, 1995 were as follows:

<u>Household size</u>	<u>Maximum Yearly Income</u>
1 -----	\$ 13,073
2 -----	\$ 17,553
3 -----	\$ 22,033
4 -----	\$ 26,513
5 -----	\$ 30,993
6 -----	\$ 35,473
7 -----	\$ 39,953

For each additional household member add \$ 4,480.

IF YOUR CHILD WAS ENROLLED IN THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ANY OF THE SCHOOL YEARS BELOW, CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES.

1998-99 1997-98 1996-97 1995-96

1994-95

PROGRAM FOR THE ACADEMICALLY TALENTED
INFORMATION FORM

I understand that: PLEASE CHECK
1. This Information Form is NOT an application. Completion of this form does NOT guarantee the pupil admission to a program.
2. To apply for the program, the parent/guardian must also submit a School Selection Application Form.
3. A candidate's eligibility for the Program for the Academically Talented may be jeopardized if this form is not filled out completely.
4. The most recent report card must be attached to this form.
5. The bottom copy of this form should be retained for school records.
Teacher's Signature Date Principal's Signature Date

I. GENERAL

Referred by: Parent Classroom Teacher Other(specify):
Name: Last First Gender: MALE FEMALE

Birthdate MPS SDB# Ethnic Code: (check only one)
1. Native American 4. Hispanic
2. Black 5. White
3. Asian 6. Other

Address: Zip Code:
Name of Parent/Guardian: Phone number: (home) (work)

M-Teamed: YES NO

Qualifies for Free/Reduced Lunch: YES NO

Present School:

3-Digit Site Number Present Grade:

II. ACHIEVEMENT TEST DATA (Most Recent)

Table with 4 columns: Name of Test, Date Given, Areas Tested, Percentile Rank. Rows include Reading Comprehension, Mathematics Total, and Other.

OTHER TEST DATA

Table with 4 columns: Name of Test, Date Given, Areas Tested, Percentile Rank.

III. READING BOOK LEVEL (For elementary and middle school nominees)

Identify the reading series being used:

Readiness Primer Grade 3 Grade 6
Pre-Primer 1 Grade 1 Grade 3 Grade 7
Pre-Primer 2 Grade 2 Grade 4 Grade 8
Pre-Primer 3 Grade 2 Grade 5 Other

PLEASE COMPLETE PAGE TWO