



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5640/1
CMH:emw

2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 100

January 19, 2024 - Introduced by Senators TOMCZYK, WANGGAARD, BRADLEY and FELZKOWSKI, cosponsored by Representatives WITTKE, SCHUTT, TUSLER, PLUMER, ROZAR, SCHMIDT, RETTINGER, MELOTIK, ALLEN, PENTERMAN, DITTRICH, DUCHOW, GUSTAFSON, MURPHY, CALLAHAN, GREEN and O'CONNOR. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** declaring the week of January 21 to 27, 2024, School Choice Week and
2 recognizing the right of parents to select the best educational path for their
3 children.

4 Whereas, National School Choice Week informs, inspires, and empowers
5 parents to discover the K–12 education options available to their children, while
6 generating widespread public awareness of the importance of opportunity in K–12
7 education; and

8 Whereas, Wisconsin's pioneering school choice program was launched in
9 Milwaukee in 1990 to offer scholarships to low-income students wishing to attend
10 a private school; and

11 Whereas, the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program was the first of its kind in
12 the United States and has since grown to educate more than 29,000 students in 130
13 schools; and

14 Whereas, the Wisconsin Legislature expanded school choice to Racine in 2011,
15 statewide in 2013, and to the special needs scholarships in 2015; and

1 Whereas, the Racine Parental Choice Program educates more than 4,000
2 students in 35 schools, the Special Needs Scholarship Program educates more than
3 2,700 students in 160 schools, and the statewide choice program educates over
4 19,000 students in 330 schools; and

5 Whereas, over 124,000 students attend private schools in Wisconsin, and
6 approximately 44 percent of private school students receive a state-supported
7 scholarship via the four Wisconsin parental choice programs; and

8 Whereas, nearly 50,000 students attend charter schools in Wisconsin,
9 including public, virtual, and independent charter options; and

10 Whereas, parents across Wisconsin choose public school open enrollment, with
11 over 71,000 students statewide transferring from one public school district to
12 another; and

13 Whereas, nearly 30,000 Wisconsin students are homeschooled; and

14 Whereas, 72 percent of Wisconsin parents enroll their children in their resident
15 public school, while the remaining 28 percent choose a different option based on what
16 works best for each child and family; and

17 Whereas, choice schools see significant success in student achievement and are
18 regularly lauded as innovators in education; and

19 Whereas, all of these options provide parents with more educational
20 opportunities and a variety of pathways to consider; now, therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
22 Legislature hereby declares January 21 to 27, 2024, School Choice Week and
23 encourages Wisconsin families to discover more about the different educational
24 options available to them in our great state.

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(END)