



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873
Email: fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov • Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #590

Milwaukee Private School Choice Program Funding (DPI -- Choice, Charter, and Open Enrollment)

[LFB 2019-21 Budget Summary: Page 337, #1]

CURRENT LAW

Under the Milwaukee private school choice program, the state pays a statutorily-determined maximum per pupil amount for children from eligible families to attend participating private schools located in the City of Milwaukee. In 2018-19, the payment for a K-8 pupil is \$7,754 and for a 9-12 pupil is \$8,400. In 2018-19, 28,067 pupils attended a private school under the program. Base level funding is equal to \$222,227,100 GPR.

GOVERNOR

Provide an additional \$10,754,100 GPR in 2019-20 and \$23,203,600 GPR in 2020-21 for the Milwaukee choice program to reflect changes in pupil participation and the per pupil payment amount, as well as other provisions of the bill.

MODIFICATION

Delete \$900,000 GPR in 2019-20 and \$15,291,100 GPR in 2020-21 and adjust GPR lapses by \$144,000 in 2019-20 and \$1,957,300 in 2020-21 to reflect revised cost estimates in 2019-20 and pupil participation estimates in 2020-21.

Explanation: The Governor estimated that participation in 2020-21 would be 29,400 under all choice-related provisions of the bill, including a cap on pupil participation and a proposal to count 4K pupils as 1.0 FTE. Those provisions were deleted under prior Committee action, which also restored funding consistent with a pupil count of 31,200 in 2020-21. The modification reestimates participation based on prior year increases in pupil counts, and reflects a total pupil participation of approximately 29,430 pupils (22,380 K-8 and 7,050 9-

12) in 2020-21.

The choice and independent charter program estimates will need further revision once decisions are made on school district resources and the related pupil adjustment provisions. Payments are made from a sum-sufficient appropriation, and the total cost of the program will vary depending on the number of pupils participating in the program each year.

	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	- \$16,191,100	- \$16,191,100
GPR Lapse	<u>2,101,300</u>	<u>2,101,300</u>
Net GPR	- \$14,089,800	- \$14,089,800

Prepared by: Christa Pugh