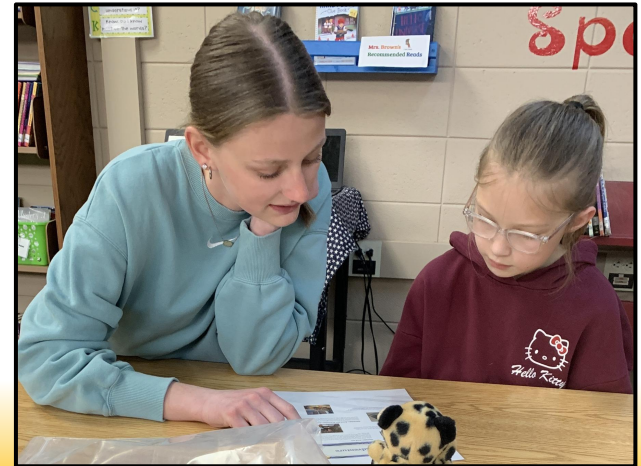




# SCHOOL VOUCHERS & DISTRICT FUNDING: What to Know

# Learning Targets

- History of vouchers
- How vouchers work and who qualifies for vouchers
- Voucher cost vs. open enrollment cost vs. per pupil cost
- History of voucher tax impact to the schools
- Transparency on the tax bill
- Next steps



# History of Vouchers



- **Origin:** Milwaukee in 1989–1990– signed by Governor Tommy Thompson, aimed at giving low income Milwaukee families open to send children to private schools using public funds (Currently: 141 schools)
- **1995–1998:** Vouchers expanded to include religious schools
- **2011:** Racine Parental Choice Program created (Currently 40 schools)
- **2013:** Wisconsin Parental Choice Program created for statewide expansion (Currently 377 schools)
- **2015:** Special Needs Scholarship Program created to allow students with IEPs to attend private schools

# How Do Vouchers Work?

1. Part of the state's Parental Choice Program, allowing families to use public funding to attend private schools
2. The state sets a voucher per-pupil amount
3. Funding is deducted from the resident school district
4. The state partially offsets the deduction through state aid
5. The district can levy property taxes to make up the difference
6. Districts do not control or know which students participate

<u>Student</u>	<u>Grade Last Yr</u>	<u>Applying For Grade</u>	<u>Resident District</u>	<u>Nonresident District</u>
	09	10	Arrowhead UHS (2450)	Two Rivers Public (5824)



# Who Qualifies for Vouchers?

220% of the Federal Poverty Level. Once a student qualifies and enrolls, they may remain in the program even if family income later exceeds the limit.

School Year	Family of 4
2023-2024	\$66,000
2024-2025	\$66,000
2025-2026	\$68,640
2025-2026	\$68,640
2026-2027	Est. \$70,730

## What changes for 26-27?

- No cap on number of students who can participate
- Families can apply monthly instead of a single period



# Voucher vs. Open Enrollment

Voucher: Year	Grades 1-8	Grades 9-12	Two Rivers Per Pupil Cost	Manitowoc Pupil cost
22-23	\$8,399	\$9,045	\$12,387	\$13,917
23-24	\$9,893	\$12,387	\$12,594	\$14,154
24-25	\$10,237	\$12,731	Not released from DPI	Not released from DPI
25-26	<b>\$10,877</b>	<b>\$13,371</b>	<b>In process</b>	<b>In process</b>

Open Enrollment: Year	Regular Education	Special Education
22-23	\$8,224	\$13,076
23-24	\$8,618	\$13,470
24-25	\$8,962	\$13,814
25-26	<b>\$10,102</b>	<b>\$14,454</b>



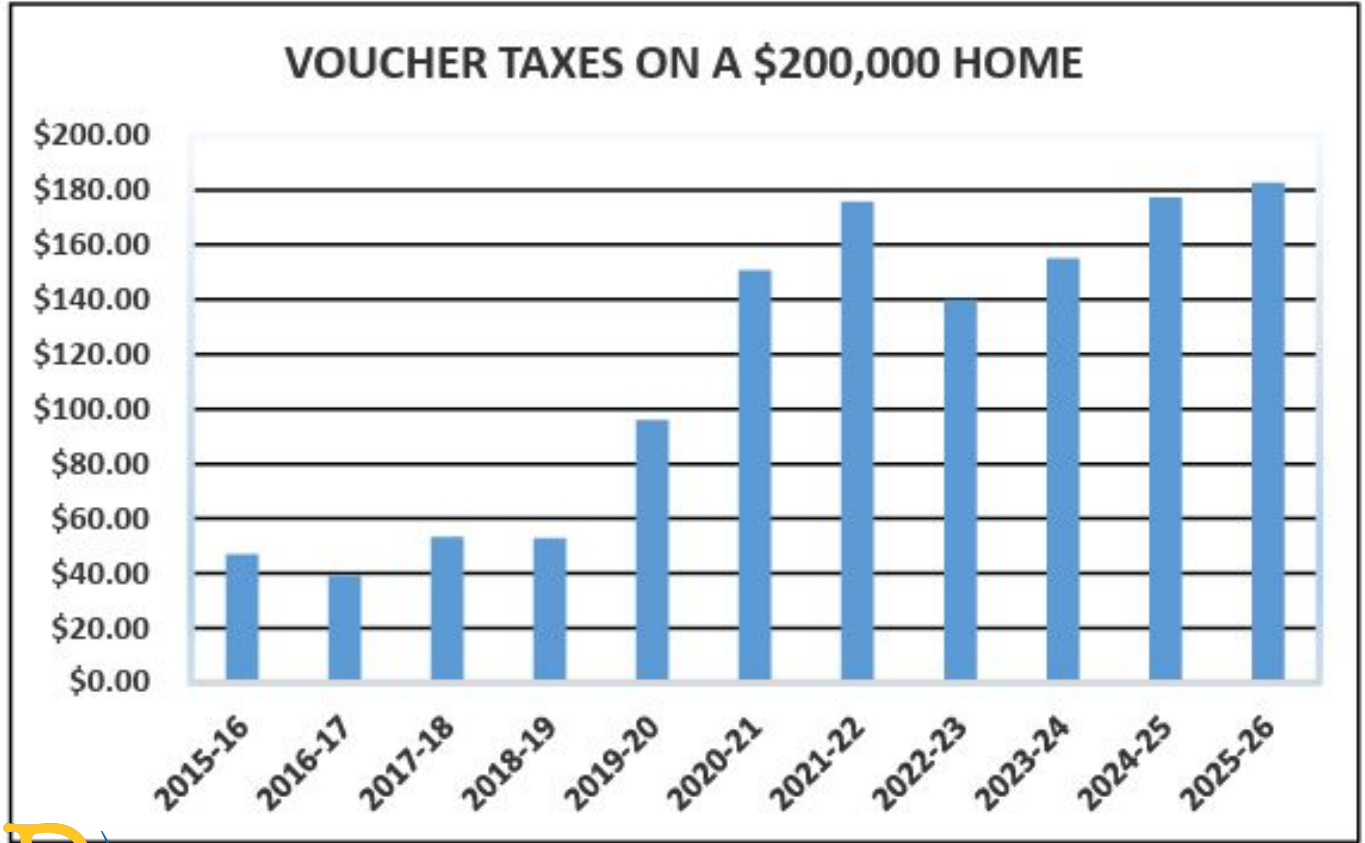
# History of Private School Voucher Aid

## TWO RIVERS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT HISTORY OF PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHER AID DEDUCTION

SCHOOL YEAR	VOUCHER TAX LEVY	EQUALIZED VALUE OF DISTRICT	VOUCHER MILL RATE	VOUCHER TAXES ON A \$200,000 HOME
2015-16	\$128,800	550,665,589	0.2339	\$46.78
2016-17	\$109,628	561,502,146	0.1952	\$39.05
2017-18	\$150,822	567,475,423	0.2658	\$53.16
2018-19	\$147,478	558,409,773	0.2641	\$52.82
2019-20	\$283,262	591,806,745	0.4786	\$95.73
2020-21	\$468,009	622,383,107	0.7520	\$150.39
2021-22	\$585,091	666,411,200	0.8780	\$175.59
2022-23	\$546,903	781,365,826	0.6999	\$139.99
2023-24	\$693,151	894,338,049	0.7750	\$155.01
2024-25	\$910,681	1,028,459,383	0.8855	\$177.10
2025-26	\$1,093,490	1,197,853,591	0.9129	\$182.57



# Ten Year Impact on Taxes in Two Rivers



# 2025-2026 Impact

Two Rivers (\$1,093,489.60)

Statewide  
Parental Choice  
Programs Costs  
1,093,489.6



Source: Wisconsin Department of Public  
Instruction Impacts Data 2025-2026

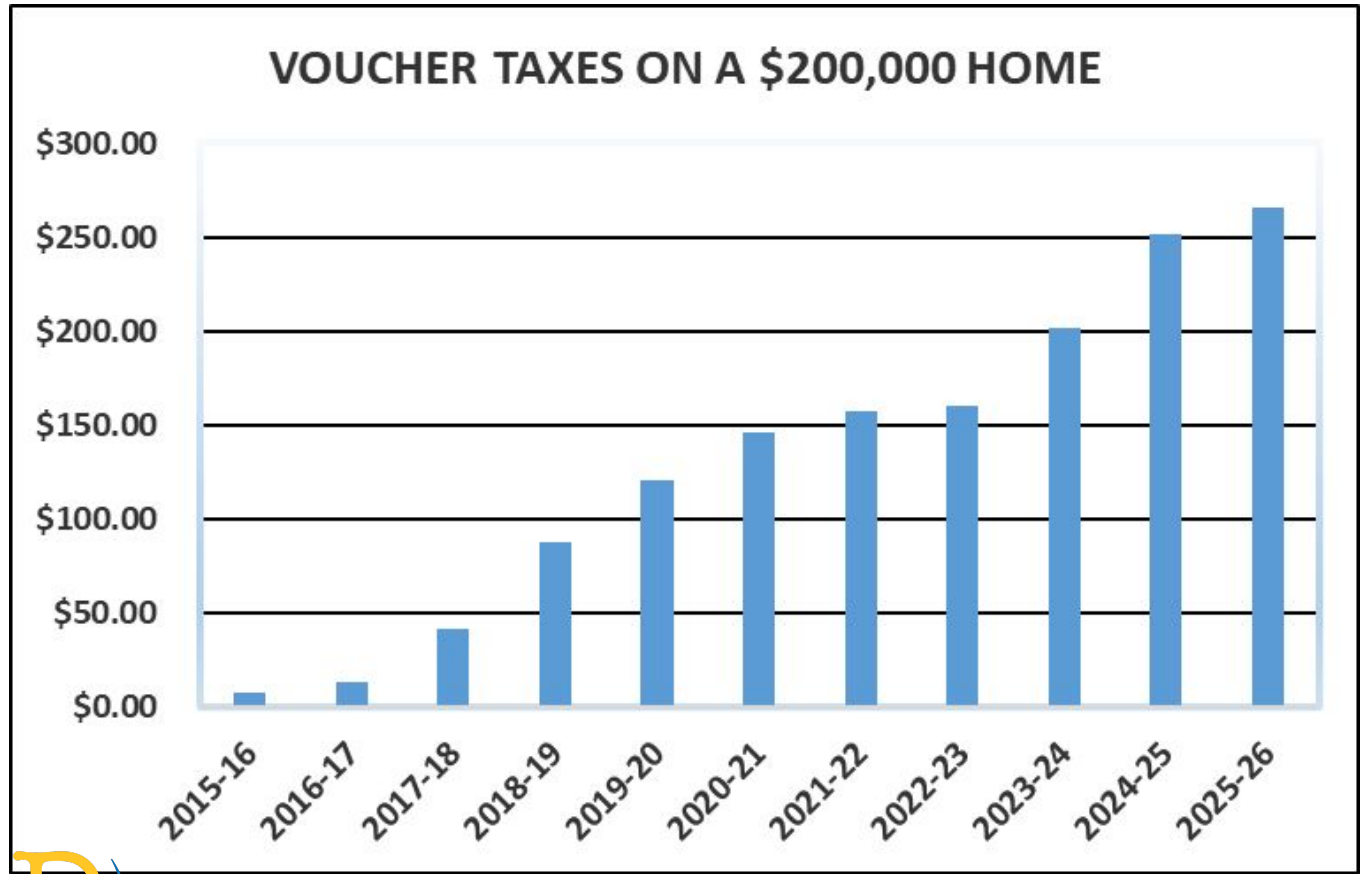
# History of Private School Voucher Aid

## Manitowoc Public School District HISTORY OF PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHER AID DEDUCTION

SCHOOL YEAR	VOUCHER TAX LEVY	EQUALIZED VALUE OF DISTRICT	VOUCHER MILL RATE	VOUCHER TAXES ON A \$200,000 HOME
2015-16	\$82,786	2,328,265,815	0.0356	\$7.11
2016-17	\$150,982	2,350,651,554	0.0642	\$12.85
2017-18	\$476,015	2,313,151,023	0.2058	\$41.16
2018-19	\$1,055,981	2,422,257,581	0.4359	\$87.19
2019-20	\$1,547,761	2,577,128,511	0.6006	\$120.12
2020-21	\$1,972,499	2,696,099,414	0.7316	\$146.32
2021-22	\$2,240,823	2,849,652,491	0.7863	\$157.27
2022-23	\$2,672,559	3,331,264,769	0.8023	\$160.45
2023-24	\$3,824,713	3,796,172,650	1.0075	\$201.50
2024-25	\$5,115,909	4,075,573,237	1.2553	\$251.05
2025-26	\$6,015,748	4,522,426,892	1.3302	\$266.04



# Ten Year Impact on Taxes in Manitowoc



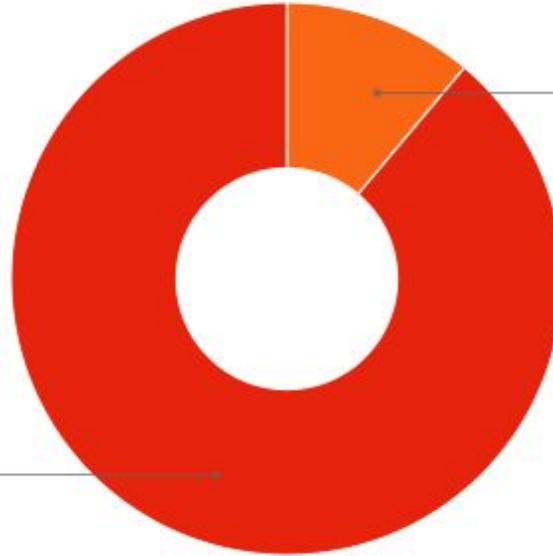
# 2025-2026 Impact

Manitowoc (\$6,015,748.70)

Statewide  
Parental Choice  
Programs Costs

5,345,257.3

Special  
Education  
Vouchers Costs  
670,491.4



Source: Wisconsin Department of Public  
Instruction Impacts Data 2025-2026

# MPSD Projected Statewide Parental Choice Costs

- +\$7,000,000
- Why? Vouchers are no longer capped.
  - MPSD was one of three districts with a waiting list.



# Transparency on the Tax Bill: Green Bay as a Model

Sample tax bill with the 2024-25 levied amount for vouchers:

Personal Visa Debit Cards \$3.95, and Credit Cards/Other Debit Cards 2.55%

**IN PERSON:** City Hall Clerk's Office (available Mon-Fri 8:00AM-4:30PM, except holidays)  
Parking is available at the hooded meter spots on the north-side of City Hall

**DROP BOX:** Located on the Northeast entrance of City Hall (available any time)

**NOTE:** Homeowners check for Lottery Credit deduction on Primary Residence only.  
For mailing address changes go to [www.browncountywi.gov/addresschange](http://www.browncountywi.gov/addresschange)  
Receipts are available at [www.browncountywi.gov/propertysearch](http://www.browncountywi.gov/propertysearch)  
Seasoned 2nd installment payments will be collected by Brown County.

Of the amount levied by GBAPS, \$8,991,023.65 is for the purpose of private school vouchers.

Assessed Value Land	Ass'd Value Improvements	Total Assessed Value	Ave. Assmt. Ratio	Est. Fair Mkt. Land	Est. Fair Mkt. Improvements	Total Est. Fair Mkt.	
43,200	140,900	184,100	0.7985	54,100	176,500	230,600	<input type="checkbox"/> A star in this box means unpaid prior year taxes.
Taxing Jurisdiction	2023 Est. State Aids Allocated Tax Dist.	2024 Est. State Aids Allocated Tax Dist.	2023 Net Tax	2024 Net Tax	% Tax Change	Gross Property Tax	
CITY OF GREEN BAY	24,450,624	24,991,964	1,429.31	1,495.63	4.6%	3,667.70	-69.59
NORTHEAST WI VTAE	7,003,376	6,918,247	124.39	129.85	4.4%		-224.08
						Net Property Tax	3,374.03



# Why Add Voucher Information?

1. Property owners are able to see what is being levied that does not go directly to the school district and with majority (for Two Rivers) going to a different community.
2. Beginning in 2015–16, the Legislature changed the funding. The voucher payments for students within a school district are withheld from a school district's final state aid payment, and show up as an expense in a school district's budget.
3. Reasonable expectation that make the actual cost of privatization on local taxpayers and public schools transparent.





## The Ask.....

1. Add cost of vouchers separate on the tax bill
2. Equalize the cost per pupil of open enrollment and vouchers and share enrollment
3. If a voucher student leaves private education, the amount is prorated
4. Set same standards for public and private schools



## Questions





## Contact Information

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Manitowoc Director of Business Services Nathan Mielke - [mielken@mpsd.school](mailto:mielken@mpsd.school); 920-686-4777

Two Rivers Superintendent Diane Johnson - [diane.johnson@trschoools.k12.wi.us](mailto:diane.johnson@trschoools.k12.wi.us) ; 920-793-4560

Two Rivers Finance Director Mary Kay Slattery - [marykay.slattery@trschoools.k12.wi.us](mailto:marykay.slattery@trschoools.k12.wi.us) ; 920-793-4560