

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Overall MPS results higher than choice schools on statewide exams

Wisconsin Student Assessment System provides first look at MPCP achievement on statewide exams

MADISON — Results from the first administration of statewide exams to students participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) show lower academic achievement in choice schools than performance by students attending Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). Results also show that both MPS and choice schools have significantly lower student achievement than the statewide average, including for students statewide who are from economically disadvantaged families.

“Clearly for the children of Milwaukee, whether in MPS or choice schools, dramatic improvements in academic achievement are needed,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “While both systems have some good schools, our statewide assessment data shows, with very few exceptions, that the choice program provides similar or worse academic results than MPS. For the sake of the city and the state, MPS and MPCP results must be improved. And, these results reinforce the need to continue using the same test for all students.”

Results from the 2010 fall administration of exams that are part of the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) show that in mathematics, 77.2 percent of all students and 63.2 percent of economically disadvantaged students statewide scored proficient or advanced. For MPS students, 47.8 percent scored proficient or advanced, and for choice students, 34.4 percent scored proficient or advanced in mathematics.

2010-11 Wisconsin Student Assessment System Results - All Grades		
Percent Proficient or Advanced		
	Mathematics	Reading
State	77.2	83.0
State Economically Disadvantaged	63.2	71.7
MPS	47.8	59.0
MPS Economically Disadvantaged	43.9	55.3
MPCP	34.4	55.2

In reading, 55.2 percent of choice students scored proficient or advanced, compared with 59.0 percent of MPS students. Statewide, 83.0 percent of all students and 71.7 percent of economically disadvantaged students scored proficient or advanced in reading.

When comparing low-income MPS students to students in the choice program, 43.9 percent scored proficient or advanced in mathematics, which is higher than choice students. Mean scale scores show that low-

(more)

income MPS students have higher mathematics achievement than choice students in elementary and middle school. Scores for 10th-grade students were not statistically different for mathematics. In reading, 55.3 percent of low-income MPS students were proficient or advanced in reading, which is nearly the same as for choice students. Mean scale scores show slightly higher reading achievement for MPCP students in grades six through eight and grade 10 than for low-income MPS students. Reading achievement was higher for low-income MPS fourth-graders, and in grades three and five, reading achievement for choice and low-income MPS students was not statistically different.

State funds paid for about 10,600 Milwaukee choice students in grades three through eight and grade 10 to take WSAS exams in mathematics and reading last fall at no cost to the private schools. Parents and educators received the results. Choice students in grades four, eight, and 10 also took the state's language arts, science, and social studies exams, along with students in Milwaukee and throughout the state. MPS students' results were higher than choice students on the language arts, science, and social studies exams.

While demographic data about MPCP students was incomplete, the private schools reported about 1.6 percent of choice students have a disability and 0.05 percent of choice students with disabilities took the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD). In MPS, about 19 percent of students have a disability and less than 2 percent took the WAA-SwD.

“Given results from our statewide assessments, I question plans in the 2011-13 state budget for expanding the choice program in Milwaukee or anywhere else in Wisconsin,” Evers stated. “The proposed budget directs more than \$22 million to expand vouchers for more students, including those from higher wealth families, which will have an impact on Milwaukee property taxpayers. Wisconsin should not prioritize more funding for vouchers in Milwaukee while 870,000 public school children across the state will get \$834 million less in state support for their education.”

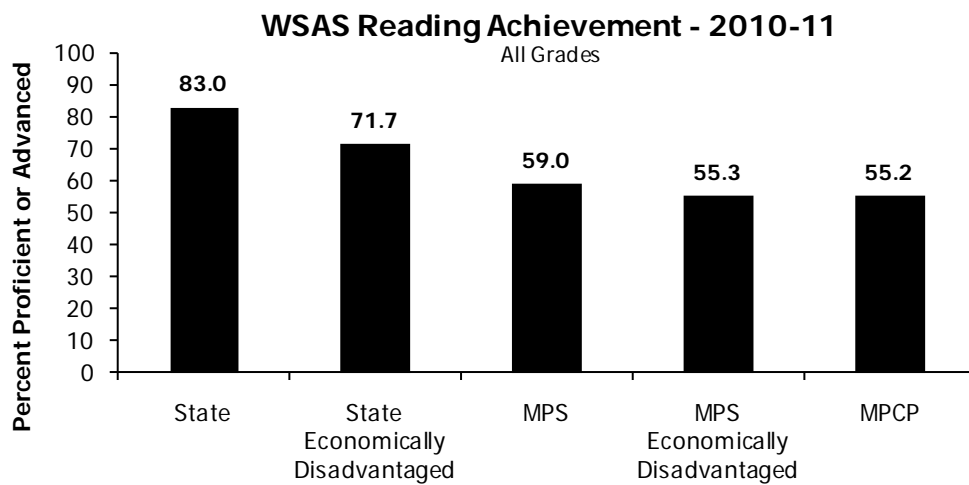
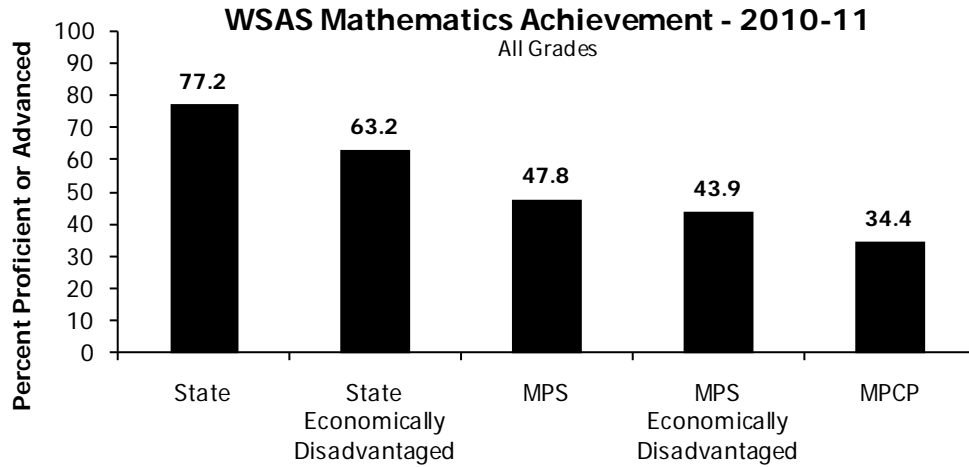
Evers also expressed concern about biennial budget provisions to remove the requirement that choice schools administer statewide assessments. “Taxpayers deserve accountability for a program that will cost the state an estimated \$130.8 million for this year and has cost \$1.1 billion in the past 20 years,” he said. “Additionally, with high student mobility in Milwaukee, both within MPS and choice schools and from choice schools to MPS, statewide assessments are one way that parents can monitor their students' achievement. We should not take away tools that can help parents stay involved in their children's education. Parental involvement is a key factor in student success.”

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ATTACHMENT: Charts and a table providing additional data on student achievement follow.

NOTES: Results in this news release are reported for all students, not the full academic year (FAY) reporting that appears on the Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools (WINSS) and is customary for school and district-level accountability. Additional data on MPCP performance on the 2010-11 WSAS testing, including data by school, is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/mpcp/results.html>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011_30.pdf. The August 2010 Legislative Audit Bureau report on “Test Score Data for Pupils in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program” is available at http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/10-schoolchoice_ltr.pdf.

Wisconsin Student Assessment System Results



2010-11 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam Results by Grade

Mean Scale Scores

MATHEMATICS	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 10
State	431.9*	469.9*	498.2*	522.5*	537.2*	547.2*	562.2*
State Economically Disadvantaged	415.4*	452.7*	478.5*	500.9*	517.7*	524.0*	538.8*
MPS	402.5*	439.3*	463.0*	483.8*	500.7*	500.0*	515.7*
MPS Economically Disadvantaged	397.0*	434.2*	457.5*	478.3*	495.6*	494.2*	512.4
MPCP	384.3	421.5	443.3	468.5	492.0	487.7	509.3
READING	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 10
State	457.8*	477.5*	484.0*	504.3*	516.4*	532.7*	538.9*
State Economically Disadvantaged	442.4*	459.5*	465.4*	483.2*	497.1*	510.5*	510.4*
MPS	432.5*	446.7*	450.0*	466.4	481.6	492.0	483.1
MPS Economically Disadvantaged	426.9	440.9*	444.1	460.3*	475.9*	485.7*	477.2*
MPCP	424.2	437.3	444.9	464.5	480.6	492.6	483.6

* An asterisk means this score is statistically different at the 0.05 level than the score for Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) students.