

SCHOOL CHOICE and COMMUNITY RENEWAL

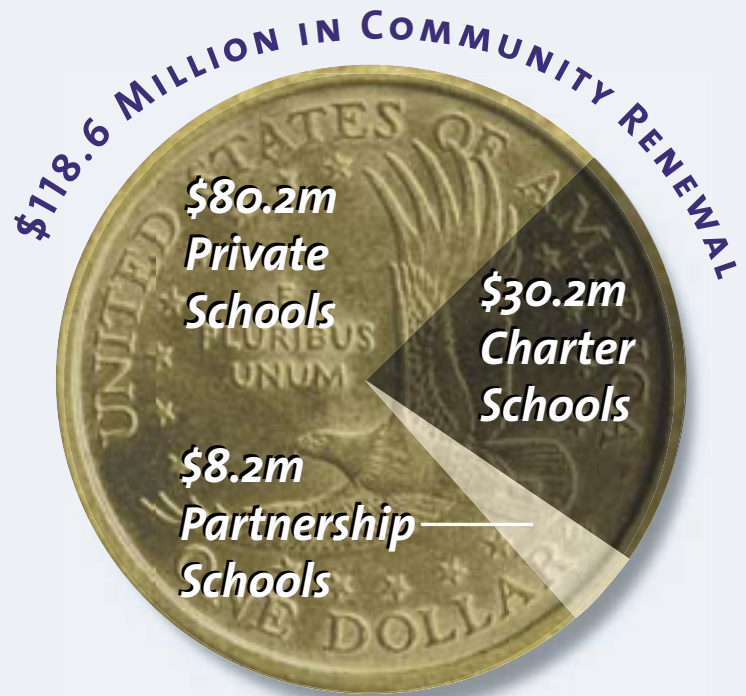
Milwaukee's school choice programs have spurred expenditures of more than \$118 million for new and remodeled educational facilities. Dozens of projects — financed largely with private grants and loans — have expanded educational opportunity and increased stability in several high poverty neighborhoods.

Benefits extend well beyond students attending the schools and adjacent neighborhoods. Taxpayers statewide are winners, too. Higher taxes would be needed if students at the schools instead attended the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS).

Examples of projects are described on pages two and three. A complete list of new and remodeled schools and their locations is on page four.

Most projects involve schools that participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP). Others were carried out at independent charter schools authorized by the City of Milwaukee or the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Still other projects occurred at private, nonprofit partnership schools serving students from MPS.

Information for this report comes from a survey conducted in 2005 by School Choice Wisconsin (SCW) and a survey conducted in 2002 by its predecessor, the American Education Reform Council. SCW is a nonprofit organization located in Milwaukee that seeks to ensure an honest debate about school choice by providing accurate information on the impact of school choice on families, communities, and schools.



Private Schools:

Nonsectarian & religious schools in the MPCP.

Charter Schools:

Independent schools chartered by the City of Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Partnership Schools:

Privately run schools with MPS contracts.

Additional Survey Data:

- **Seventy-one** schools, enrolling **17,690** students, made **ninety-one** capital improvement projects.
- Improvements totaled **\$118,624,562**, ranging from **\$1,000** to **\$8,200,000**.
- The average project cost was **\$1,303,566** with the median project cost at **\$250,000**.
- **Twenty-nine** projects cost more than **\$1 million**, accounting for **90%** of all spending.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

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Schools Map – page 4

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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROFILES

Garden Homes Lutheran School • 2475 W. Roosevelt Drive

Part of the Garden Homes Community of Schools, **Garden Homes Lutheran** currently serves 128 students, 92 receiving vouchers. The 77-year-old school first joined the choice program in 2000, and opened the doors to a brand-new facility for the 2004-2005 school year. The \$2.4 million school and gymnasium were funded through private donations and loans. The new facility will eventually serve up to 250 students from Milwaukee's central city.

\$2.4 million project



Darrell Lynn Hines College Preparatory Academy of Excellence • 7151 N. 86th Street

The six-year-old **D. L. Hines Academy** on Milwaukee's far northwest side originally participated in the MPCP. The privately financed, \$2.8 million school has operated under City charter status since the 2002-2003 school year. It provides an International Baccalaureate curriculum for its 244 students.

\$2.8 million project



Notre Dame Middle School • 1420 W. Scott Street

Located on Milwaukee's south side in the Walker's Point neighborhood, **Notre Dame Middle School** serves 90 Hispanic girls, 75 of whom qualify for MPCP vouchers. The school has raised \$1.4 million in private funds as part of a \$2.6 million renovation and expansion. The project includes replacement of old windows and updating of classrooms, as well as a new two-story brick addition that includes a new gym, science lab, art classroom, and four additional classrooms.

\$2.6 million project

NOVA (the Northwest Opportunities Vocational Academy) • 3718 W. Lancaster Avenue

MPS contracts with **NOVA**, an MPS partnership school, to teach approximately 100 at-risk middle and high school students on Milwaukee's near northwest side. The school's landlord, the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, purchased a vacant factory and converted a portion for space used by **NOVA**. The private, non-profit Transcenter for Youth provides **NOVA**'s educational program. The \$1.1 million project was financed through a combination of local and federal government loans and grants, private foundation donations, and private bank loans.

\$1.1 million project

The Hope School/Hope Christian School

3229 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and 2345 N. 25th Street

The Lutheran **Hope Schools** are building a high quality community of schools in Milwaukee's central city. Serving 285 voucher students, the **Hope Schools** used \$3.2 million in grants and loans to build a new high school along King Drive and to build new classrooms and a new multi-purpose room in its elementary school on North 25th St. The **Hope Schools** are opening a new middle school for the 2005-2006 school year on Milwaukee's east side.

\$3.2 million project





St. Marcus Lutheran School • 2215 N. Palmer Street

St. Marcus School has served families in the north side Brewer’s Hill neighborhood since 1872. Spurred by expansion in the MPCP, St. Marcus Lutheran Church raised \$5.6 million in private grants and loans to build a new school that opened for the 2003-2004 school year. The 56,000 square foot, three-story, red-brick school has vastly improved capacity from the former, now-demolished school. **St. Marcus** enrolls 270 students, 230 of whom receive MPCP vouchers.

\$5.6 million project

St. Anthony School • 1669 S. 5th Street and 1747 S. 9th Street

This 133-year-old Catholic school once served a predominantly Polish student body. Today the school enrolls 700 mostly Hispanic students at two locations on Milwaukee’s south side. Loans and donations of \$1.1 million have been used to renovate a former church basement into classrooms and to remodel existing school facilities.

\$1.1 million project



Pius XI High School • 135 N. 76th Street

Originally opened in 1929, **Pius** joined the MPCP in 1997. The school serves 238 choice students out of 1,241 on Milwaukee’s west side. It continues to fill the growing need for high school spots in the MPCP. The \$7.1 million in grants and loans to be paid back by private donations are being used to build a new state-of-the-art athletic field house and performing arts center.

\$7.1 million project

Siloah Lutheran School • 3721 N. 21st Street

First opened in 1962, this north side Lutheran school joined the MPCP in 2000. Currently serving 165 voucher students out of 206, **Siloah** spent \$3.1 million in grants and loans on four new classrooms, a new entrance with elevator, and a new educational center with a gym and classrooms. One of these new classrooms is a state-of-the-art computer lab.

\$3.1 million project

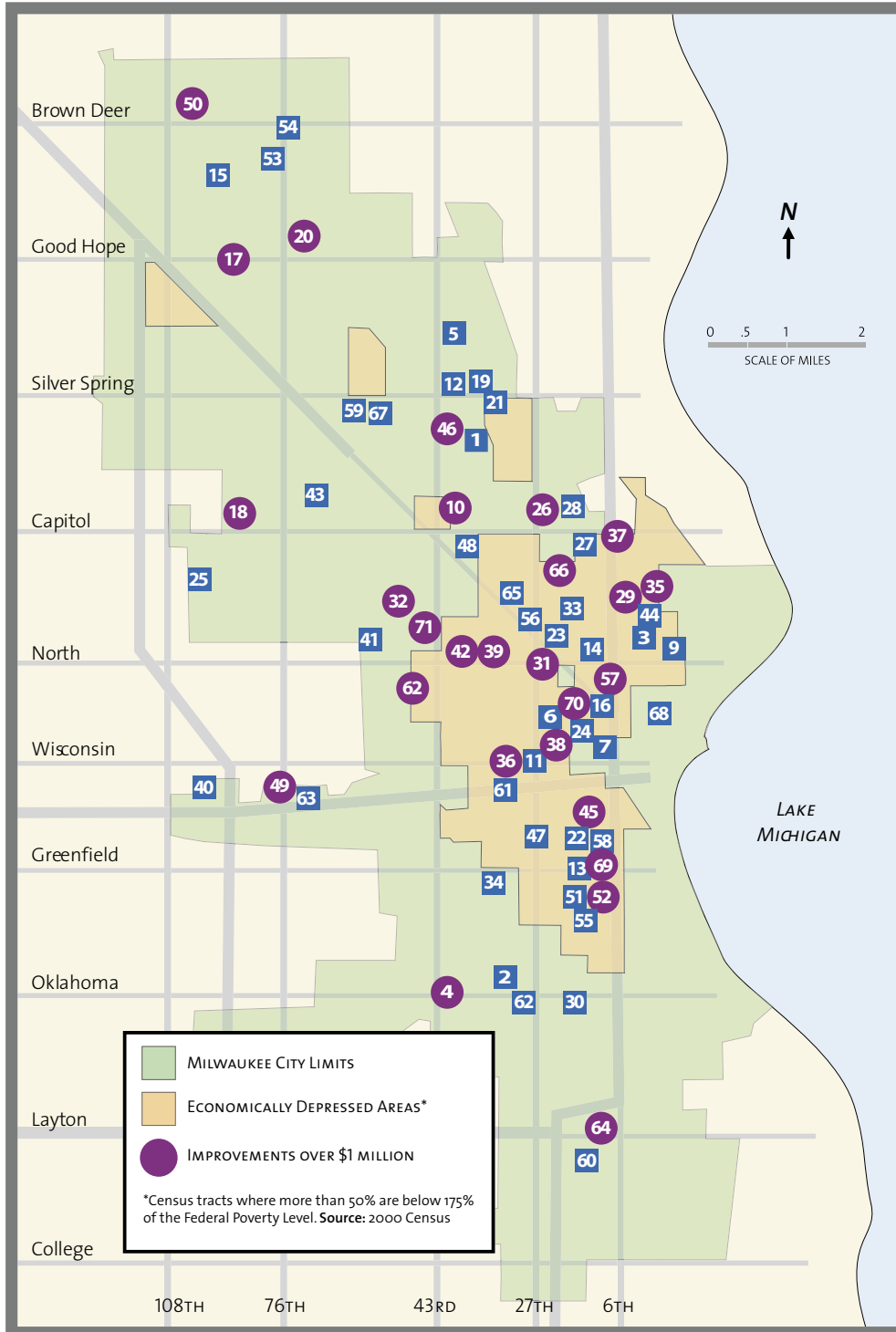


Yeshiva Elementary School • 5115 W. Keefe Avenue

Serving Orthodox Jewish students in the Sherman Park neighborhood, **Yeshiva Elementary School** currently enrolls 187 students, 96 of whom receive MPCP vouchers. A \$2.8 million, privately financed expansion completed in 2001 increased enrollment capacity to 300 from 160. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* architectural critic Whitney Gould praised the project’s design for “sensitively fitt[ing] into a residential neighborhood.... With its generous windows and rhythmic angularity, the addition is jazzy in a gentle, street-friendly way.”

\$2.8 million project

HOW SCHOOL CHOICE HELPS MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS



1. Agape Center of Academic Excellence
2. Atlas Preparatory Academy
3. Aurora Weier Educational Center
4. Blessed Sacrament School
5. Bessie M. Gray Preparatory Academy
6. Blyden Delany Academy
7. Bridging the Gap Learning Center
8. Carter's Christian Academy
9. Catholic East Elementary
10. Central City Cyberschool
11. Ceria M. Travis Academy
12. Christ Memorial Lutheran School
13. Christ St. Peter Lutheran School
14. Clara Mohammed School
15. Concordia University School
16. Cornerstone Achievement Academy
17. Darrell L. Hines Academy
18. Divine Savior Holy Angels School
19. D.J. Perkins Academy of Excellence
20. Early View Academy of Excellence
21. Eastbrook Academy
22. El Puente High School
23. Emmaus Lutheran School
24. Excel Academy
25. Family Montessori
26. Garden Homes Lutheran School
27. Gospel Lutheran School
28. Greater Holy Temple Christian
29. Harambee Community School
30. Holy Wisdom Academy
31. Hope Christian School
32. Jared C. Bruce Academy
33. Keal Preparatory School, Inc.
34. Loyola Academy
35. Malaika Early Learning Center
36. Marquette University High School
37. Messmer High School/Messmer Prep
38. Milwaukee Academy of Science
39. Milwaukee College Preparatory School
40. Milwaukee Montessori School
41. Milwaukee Multicultural Academy
42. Milwaukee Urban League Academy
43. Mount Lebanon Lutheran School
44. Noah's Ark Preparatory School
45. Notre Dame Middle School
46. NOVA
47. Our Lady Queen of Peace School
48. Parklawn Christian School
49. Pius XI High School
50. Risen Savior Evangelical Lutheran School
51. Saint Adalbert School
52. Saint Anthony School
53. Saint Bernadette School
54. Saint Catherine of Alexandria School
55. Saint Josaphat Parish School
56. Saint Leo Catholic Urban Academy
57. Saint Marcus Lutheran School
58. Saint Martini Lutheran School
59. Saint Philip Neri Catholic School
60. Saint Roman Parish School
61. Saint Rose Catholic Urban Academy
62. Saint Sebastian School
63. Saint Vincent Pallotti School
64. Salam School
65. Sherman Park Preschool
66. Siloah Lutheran School
67. Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
68. Tamarack Community School
69. United Community Center Middle School
70. Urban Day School
71. Yeshiva Elementary School