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For Immediate Release
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Parental Choice Program Students Have Higher ACT Scores...Again.
DPI gets an “F” on transparency by withholding crucial data from media

Test results released yesterday by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) show that again this year, students in the Parental Choice Programs are outperforming their full-income, public-school peers on the ACT. As with all test data, a one-year snapshot of raw data has limitations but the trend of higher scores for students on a voucher is great news for both students and taxpayers. New this year were the results of the Aspire Exam as part of the ACT suite. Students in the Parental Choice Programs also scored higher on these exams across the board.

In a troubling maneuver, however, DPI did not release all of the data for the Parental Choice Programs as part of their public release to the media. As required by statute [119.23\(11\)\(d\)](#), DPI should have released all the data at the same time. Instead, not only did they not release the choice data broken out by program, enabling a true comparison to peer groups, they refused to release it when members of the media requested that specific data.

“Once again, with lower funding per student, the Parental Choice Programs continue to show better results for the fourth year in a row on the ACT,” Jim Bender said. “Unfortunately, the lack of transparency by DPI meant the media did not have comparable data when writing their stories. Was this by design?”

ACT Exam Results for 2018-19 - Average Scores			
	MPCP	MPS - Low Income	MPS - Full Income
Composite Score	16.8	14.9	15.5
ELA	16.5	13.5	14.2
MATH	17.6	15.5	15.8
Science	17.6	15.1	15.6
	RPCP	RUSD - Low Income	RUSD - Full Income
Composite Score	17.6	15.3	16.9
ELA	17.0	13.5	15.3
MATH	17.0	15.5	16.6
Science	17.7	15.6	17.3
	WPCP	State - Low Income*	State - Full Income*
Composite Score	20.6	16.7	19.6
ELA	19.3	15.1	18.0
MATH	19.8	16.9	19.4
Science	21.5	17.2	19.9

*State average typically increases .2 average score when Milwaukee and Racine are removed from the state average. The WPCP covers the entire state except Milwaukee and Racine.

Aspire Exam Results for 2018-19			
	MPCP	MPS - Low Income	MPS - Full Income
ELA	21	15	20
MATH	14.5	9	13
	RPCP	RUSD - Low Income	RUSD - Full Income
ELA	35.5	13	24
MATH	26	8	18
	WPCP	State - Low Income*	State - Full Income*
ELA	46	24.8	44
MATH	42.5	21.5	42.1

Forward Exam Results for 2018-19 - % Proficient or Advanced			
	MPCP	MPS - Low Income	MPS - Full Income
ELA	21	14.5	18.9
MATH	17	12.7	16.5
Social Studies	28	18.1	22.7
Science	23	18.4	23.2
	RPCP	RUSD - Low Income	RUSD - Full Income
ELA	25	11.7	21.2
MATH	20	12.5	21.2
Social Studies	38	18.5	30.1
Science	32	17.1	29.5
	WPCP	State - Low Income*	State - Full Income*
ELA	34	24.9	41.4
MATH	31	26.1	44
Social Studies	39	32.7	50.4
Science	34	35.8	54.3

*State average typically increases .2 average score when Milwaukee and Racine are removed from the state average. The WPCP covers the entire state except Milwaukee and Racine.

Income limits for Free and Reduced Lunch (Low Income) in public schools is 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. Income Limits for the MPCP and RPCP are 300% of FPL. The WPCP has an income limit of 220% of the FPL.