

# Private K-12 Schools Serving You



Wisconsin private schools **educate** over 121,000 children; **operate** over 800 schools; and **employ** over 10,000 staff.



WCRIS contracts with the **DPI** to provide Wisconsin's federally required **Private School Ombudsman**.



We ensure **children's safety** by working with the Wisconsin **DOJ** to help schools access grants.



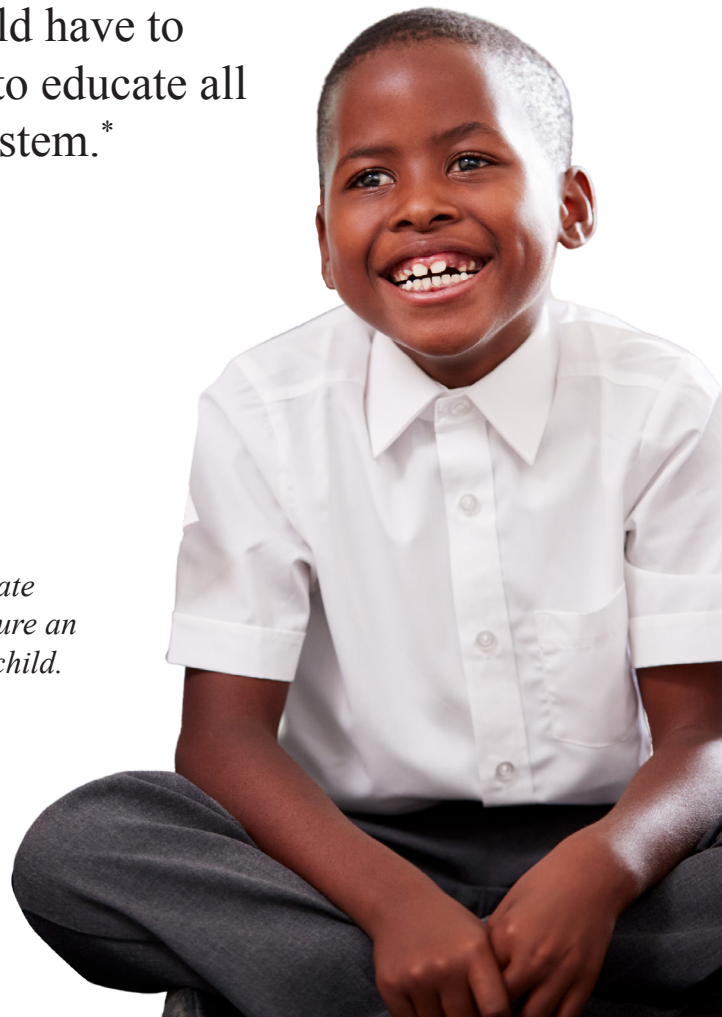
Private schools save taxpayers money. If they closed, state and local taxes would have to increase by **\$1 billion annually** to educate all of those children in the public system.\*

Wisconsin Council  
of Religious &   
Independent Schools







*Committed to a Higher Standard*

*WCRIS supports the unique missions of member K-12 private schools through advocacy, education and partnerships, to ensure an extraordinary education and equitable opportunity for each child.*

[www.wcris.org](http://www.wcris.org)








# Did You Know?

-  The state's average per pupil funding is \$15,329.<sup>1</sup> Milwaukee Public Schools spend an average of \$16,673 per student.<sup>2</sup>
-  One K-8 voucher is \$8,400; high school vouchers are \$9,000 each.<sup>3</sup>
-  Students are selected for a Private School Choice voucher by lottery and are only eligible if they belong to a low-income household.
-  Public School Choice, known as “open enrollment,” has a larger impact than vouchers. Currently, 70,428 Wisconsin students are handpicking their public schools, and the program does not have an income requirement.<sup>4</sup>
-  Most private school students are K-8 and go on to attend public high schools.
-  Wisconsin private schools are regulated by hundreds of state and federal laws.

## Other Accomplishments

*Since its founding in 1974, WCRIS has:*

-  Protected private school teachers' access to full and fair state licensure;
-  Provided needed guidance to private schools about COVID-19 relief programs;
-  Helped create a Wisconsin tax deduction for K-12 tuition expenses, saving private school parents an estimated \$30 million each year;
-  Advocated for the Parental Choice Programs to include religious schools and special needs students statewide;
-  Fought to amend the state constitution to provide equitable busing for private school students.

<sup>1</sup>2020-21 Comparative Cost Using Audited 20-21 Annual Report Data - Milwaukee, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

<sup>2</sup>2020-21 School District Annual Report Data - Comparative Cost Data, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

<sup>3</sup>Choice Program Payments - FAQ #1, Department of Public Instruction

<sup>4</sup>Wisconsin Public School Open Enrollment by the Numbers, Department of Public Instruction