

Research Brief

Student Achievement Slips in Southeastern Wisconsin

On the whole, our region's schools are losing ground to schools elsewhere in Wisconsin.

The achievement gap between southeastern Wisconsin schools and those in the rest of the state has widened in all subjects and at all grade levels from last year. When the Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha public school districts are removed from the equation, overall performance in southeastern Wisconsin schools improves, and in some subjects, surpasses the rest of the state.

The biggest gap has been in eighth grade science. In 2006-07, 65% of the region's eighth graders scored proficient or advanced on the state's standardized exam, compared to nearly 81% of eighth graders throughout the rest of Wisconsin. The 16 percentage point gap is nearly double the eighth grade science gap of last year. Removing the three largest urban school districts narrows the gap to two percentage points.

Why has our region continued to slip versus the rest of the state? One reason appears to be that districts in smaller urban areas are now undergoing stresses similar to those in larger urban areas—declining enrollment, more poverty, and less student engagement. The widening achievement gap is troubling because soon we will not be able to improve the numbers by taking the biggest cities out of the equation.

Complete district-by-district performance, enrollment, and finance data are at www.publicpolicyforum.org.

Table 1: Achievement gap between southeastern Wisconsin and rest of state, 2006-07

Grade	Reading				Math			Science		
	3rd	4th	8th	10th	4th	8th	10th	4th	8th	10th
Region	78.5%	77.1%	77.7%	70.3%	71.7%	65.9%	64.9%	71.1%	65.2%	65.6%
Rest of State	82.2%	83.8%	87.6%	78.4%	80.1%	80.2%	75.2%	81.3%	80.7%	76.8%
Difference	-3.7	-6.8	-9.9	-8.1	-8.4	-14.3	-10.3	-10.2	-15.6	-11.2
Difference 2005-06	-3.4	-3.2	-5.1	-4.9	-5	-6.5	-6.7	-6	-8.5	-7.6

Table 2: Achievement gap, excluding Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha, 2006-07

Grade	Reading				Math			Science		
	3rd	4th	8th	10th	4th	8th	10th	4th	8th	10th
Region	80.1%	87.9%	85.8%	84.5%	85.7%	79.2%	80.9%	85.8%	78.6%	82.2%
Rest of State	82.2%	83.8%	87.6%	78.4%	80.1%	80.2%	75.2%	81.3%	80.7%	76.8%
Difference	-2.1	4.0	-1.8	6.0	7.5	-1.0	5.7	4.6	-2.1	5.4
Difference 2005-06	7.3	8.6	7.3	9.5	10.8	10.1	10.1	9.2	9.4	11.1

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Enrollment down in southeastern Wisconsin schools

Total public school enrollment in our region declined 0.2% over the past year - from 315,610 in 2005-06 to 314,969 in 2006-2007. Statewide, enrollment increased 0.17%.

The three largest districts in southeastern Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Racine - enroll roughly 43% of all public school students in our region. While these three districts have much in common, only Milwaukee experienced an enrollment decline over the past year. Milwaukee saw a loss of about 2,480 students, or 2.7%, of its 2005-06 enrollment. Racine grew by 2.5%, while Kenosha increased about 1.5%.

Milwaukee's enrollment loss is most likely attributable to the increase in the number of private school vouchers available.

Of the growing districts, Oak Creek increased 6% in 2005-06, or 303 students.

On the shrinking side in addition to Milwaukee were Williams Bay, which lost 26 students or 5% of enrollment; Cudahy, with a loss of 4%; and Mequon-Thiensville, with a loss of more than 2% of its students.

**Note: Enrollment increase in Whitefish Bay most likely due to data error in previous year.*

Table 2: Total enrollment by district, 2005-06 to 2006-07

	2005-06 Total		2006-07 Total		% Change
	Rank	Enroll	Rank	Enroll	
Kenosha County		29,353		29,707	
Central/Westosha Union	27	3,370	27	3,361	-0.27%
Kenosha	2	22,131	2	22,482	1.59%
Wilmot Union	22	3,852	23	3,864	0.31%
Milwaukee County		143,656		141,753	
Brown Deer	46	1,817	46	1,822	0.28%
Cudahy	32	2,891	34	2,777	-3.94%
Franklin Public	20	4,079	20	4,190	2.72%
Greendale	37	2,519	37	2,536	0.67%
Greenfield	28	3,337	28	3,296	-1.23%
Milwaukee	1	92,395	1	89,912	-2.69%
Nicolet Union	24	3,735	24	3,749	0.37%
Oak Creek-Franklin	10	5,430	10	5,733	5.58%
Saint Francis	49	1,373	49	1,355	-1.31%
Shorewood	42	2,006	42	2,012	0.30%
South Milwaukee	26	3,466	26	3,474	0.23%
Wauwatosa	9	6,715	9	6,743	0.42%
West Allis	5	8,746	5	8,770	0.27%
Whitefish Bay*	35	2,691	32	2,909	8.10%
Whitnall	38	2,456	38	2,475	0.77%
Ozaukee County		13,425		13,344	
Cedarburg	30	3,125	30	3,106	-0.61%
Grafton	41	2,046	41	2,078	1.56%
Mequon-Thiensville	21	4,022	21	3,926	-2.39%
Northern Ozaukee	48	1,610	48	1,600	-0.62%
Port Washington-Saukville	36	2,622	36	2,634	0.46%
Racine County		30,417		30,925	
Burlington Area	25	3,659	25	3,595	-1.75%
Racine	3	21,175	3	21,696	2.46%
Union Grove Union	39	2,338	39	2,396	2.48%
Waterford Union	29	3,245	29	3,238	-0.22%
Walworth County		16,097		16,112	
Big Foot Union	44	1,906	45	1,913	0.37%
Delavan-Darien	34	2,775	35	2,733	-1.51%
East Troy Community	47	1,656	47	1,695	2.36%
Elkhorn Area	31	2,928	31	2,981	1.81%
Lake Geneva-Genoa City	17	4,369	19	4,319	-1.14%
Whitewater	43	1,934	43	1,968	1.76%
Williams Bay	50	529	50	503	-4.91%
Washington County		20,257		20,347	
Germantown	23	3,841	22	3,905	1.67%
Hartford Union	13	4,862	13	4,819	-0.88%
Kewaskum	45	1,887	44	1,921	1.80%
Slinger	33	2,869	33	2,886	0.59%
West Bend	8	6,798	8	6,816	0.26%
Waukesha County		62,405		62,781	
Arrowhead Union	7	6,841	7	6,904	0.92%
Elmbrook	6	7,656	6	7,659	0.04%
Hamilton	19	4,265	18	4,351	2.02%
Kettle Moraine	16	4,414	17	4,416	0.05%
Menomonee Falls	15	4,539	15	4,598	1.30%
Mukwonago	11	5,133	11	5,084	-0.95%
Muskego-Norway	12	4,877	12	4,870	-0.14%
New Berlin	14	4,584	14	4,668	1.83%
Oconomowoc Area	18	4,287	16	4,463	4.11%
Pewaukee	40	2,198	40	2,191	-0.32%
Waukesha	4	13,611	4	13,577	-0.25%
Southeast Wisconsin		315,610		314,969	-0.20%
State of Wisconsin		874,098		875,543	0.17%

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Table 3: Racial and ethnic enrollment, 2006-07

	Asian		Black		Hispanic		Native American		Minority	
	Rank	Enroll	Rank	Enroll	Rank	Enroll	Rank	Enroll	Rank	Enroll
Kenosha County										
Central/Westosha Union	42	0.8%	34	1.5%	24	3.8%	35	0.4%	35	6.5%
Kenosha	26	1.7%	5	15.9%	5	17.6%	33	0.4%	5	35.6%
Wilmot Union	50	0.3%	32	1.6%	28	3.3%	22	0.6%	41	5.7%
Milwaukee County										
Brown Deer	2	8.3%	2	41.2%	23	4.0%	12	0.8%	2	54.3%
Cudahy	22	2.4%	17	4.9%	8	14.0%	2	1.7%	12	23.0%
Franklin Public	1	8.5%	15	5.3%	19	4.8%	13	0.8%	18	19.4%
Greendale	15	4.3%	26	2.3%	18	5.3%	21	0.6%	26	12.5%
Greenfield	6	5.9%	14	5.5%	11	11.4%	1	1.9%	8	24.6%
Milwaukee	14	4.5%	1	57.7%	2	21.0%	11	0.8%	1	84.0%
Nicolet Union	12	5.1%	4	19.7%	29	3.1%	19	0.6%	6	28.5%
Oak Creek-Franklin	9	5.7%	13	5.6%	16	9.7%	6	1.3%	13	22.2%
Saint Francis	7	5.8%	11	6.3%	12	10.7%	4	1.3%	9	24.2%
Shorewood	4	6.7%	7	12.9%	21	4.1%	8	1.1%	7	24.8%
South Milwaukee	25	1.9%	18	4.4%	15	9.7%	5	1.3%	20	17.2%
Wauwatosa	11	5.1%	6	14.1%	25	3.7%	10	0.8%	10	23.8%
West Allis	21	3.0%	10	7.0%	10	11.6%	3	1.6%	11	23.3%
Whitefish Bay	5	6.2%	8	11.3%	33	3.0%	49	0.1%	15	20.5%
Whitnall	18	3.7%	22	3.3%	20	4.8%	17	0.7%	27	12.5%
Ozaukee County										
Cedarburg	27	1.6%	40	1.0%	49	1.1%	37	0.4%	47	4.0%
Grafton	30	1.4%	29	1.9%	41	2.2%	41	0.3%	38	5.9%
Mequon-Thiensville	13	4.9%	12	6.0%	47	1.5%	43	0.2%	25	12.6%
Northern Ozaukee	35	1.2%	24	2.5%	46	1.6%	27	0.4%	39	5.8%
Port Washington-Saukville	44	0.7%	20	3.6%	26	3.7%	14	0.7%	32	8.7%
Racine County										
Burlington Area	40	0.9%	35	1.4%	17	6.3%	48	0.1%	33	8.7%
Racine	28	1.5%	3	26.7%	3	19.6%	40	0.3%	3	48.1%
Union Grove Union	29	1.5%	47	0.6%	22	4.0%	9	1.1%	34	7.2%
Waterford Union	48	0.4%	46	0.6%	42	2.0%	28	0.4%	49	3.5%
Walworth County										
Big Foot Union	47	0.6%	39	1.2%	7	15.1%	45	0.2%	21	16.9%
Delavan-Darien	43	0.8%	25	2.3%	1	35.8%	20	0.6%	4	39.5%
East Troy Community	46	0.6%	50	0.5%	35	2.9%	38	0.4%	45	4.3%
Elkhorn Area	33	1.3%	33	1.5%	14	9.8%	42	0.3%	23	12.9%
Lake Geneva-Genoa City	39	0.9%	28	2.0%	6	16.2%	39	0.3%	17	19.5%
Whitewater	23	2.0%	30	1.8%	4	17.8%	36	0.4%	14	22.0%
Williams Bay	24	2.0%	41	1.0%	13	9.9%	50	0.0%	24	12.9%
Washington County										
Germantown	17	3.8%	21	3.4%	43	1.9%	29	0.4%	30	9.6%
Hartford Union	34	1.2%	37	1.2%	27	3.5%	34	0.4%	37	6.3%
Kewaskum	49	0.4%	43	0.9%	45	1.8%	7	1.2%	44	4.3%
Slinger	45	0.7%	48	0.6%	50	0.9%	46	0.1%	50	2.4%
West Bend	41	0.8%	31	1.7%	30	3.1%	15	0.7%	36	6.3%
Waukesha County										
Arrowhead Union	32	1.3%	45	0.7%	48	1.4%	44	0.2%	48	3.6%
Elmbrook	3	8.1%	16	4.9%	39	2.5%	47	0.1%	22	15.6%
Hamilton	16	4.3%	23	2.7%	40	2.3%	25	0.5%	29	9.8%
Kettle Moraine	36	1.0%	44	0.8%	44	1.9%	32	0.4%	46	4.1%
Menomonee Falls	10	5.2%	9	9.9%	38	2.6%	24	0.5%	19	18.2%
Mukwonago	38	1.0%	42	1.0%	37	2.6%	18	0.6%	43	5.2%
Muskego-Norway	31	1.4%	49	0.6%	36	2.6%	16	0.7%	42	5.3%
New Berlin	8	5.7%	38	1.2%	34	2.9%	30	0.4%	28	10.3%
Oconomowoc Area	37	1.0%	36	1.3%	31	3.0%	31	0.4%	40	5.7%
Pewaukee	19	3.6%	27	2.2%	32	3.0%	23	0.5%	31	9.3%
Waukesha	20	3.1%	19	3.6%	9	12.8%	26	0.5%	16	20.0%
Southeastern Wisconsin		3.3%		22.0%		12.1%		0.6%		38.0%
State of Wisconsin		3.6%		10.5%		7.2%		1.5%		22.7%

Two minority majority districts

Southeastern Wisconsin now has two school districts enrolling more minority students than white students: Milwaukee and Brown Deer. In addition, 48% of Racine school district students are minorities.

Several districts have relatively large Hispanic populations, including Delevan-Darien at 36%, and Whitewater and Kenosha, both at 18%.

The districts with the fewest minority students are Slinger at 98% white, Waterford Union at 97%, and Arrowhead Union at 96%.

On average, school districts in our region enroll 17% minority students.

Most schools needing improvement located in southeastern Wisconsin

As **tables 1 & 2** on page 1 show, southeastern Wisconsin’s poor performance as compared to the rest of the state is largely attributable to the performance in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha. (Even without these districts, however, our region’s scores in third and eighth grades are lower than in the rest of the state.) These three urban districts include most of the schools in our state identified as in need of improvement under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act. In addition, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) has been identified as needing improvement.

Schools listed as being in need of improvement have failed to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years. To be removed from the list of schools identified as in need of improvement, a school must meet AYP goals for two consecutive years. AYP measures progress on attendance and test participation as well as reading and math scores. Sixty-eight schools in our region failed to make AYP* this year.

- Four Kenosha schools
- Fifty-four Milwaukee schools
- Six Racine schools
- Four Waukesha schools
- Both Milwaukee and Kenosha failed to make AYP on district-level measures.

Table 4: Schools in need of improvement

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
MPS	55	43	37	34	32
Kenosha	2	3	2	1	1
Racine	2	1	1	0	4
Southeastern Wisconsin	59	47	40	35	37
State	68	51	45	38	45

Our region accounts for most of Wisconsin’s underperforming schools under NCLB criteria. Across the state, the number of schools needing improvement increased from 38 in 2005-06 to 45 in 2006-07. Southeastern Wisconsin saw an overall increase in the number of schools in need of improvement compared to last year, from 35 to 37.

- One Kenosha school (one last year)
- Thirty-two Milwaukee schools (34 last year)
- Four Racine schools (none last year)

Table 5: Year-to-year reading performance 2004-2005

	4th Grade 2004-05	5th Grade 2005-06	6th Grade 2006-07	4th to 5th	5th to 6th
Kenosha County					
Central/Westosha Union	83.1%	85.2%	88.2%	2.1	3.0
Kenosha	78.8%	79.6%	82.7%	0.8	3.2
Wilmot Union	77.3%	80.5%	86.7%	3.2	6.2
Milwaukee County					
Brown Deer	78.9%	81.8%	82.1%	2.9	0.2
Cudahy	83.9%	90.0%	90.3%	6.1	0.3
Franklin	92.1%	92.6%	95.2%	0.5	2.5
Greendale	87.2%	90.0%	94.0%	2.8	4.0
Greenfield	83.9%	86.1%	88.0%	2.2	1.9
Milwaukee	60.9%	60.7%	61.8%	-0.3	1.1
Nicolet Union	91.6%	89.8%	89.2%	-1.8	-0.6
Oak Creek-Franklin	85.9%	90.5%	92.6%	4.7	2.0
Saint Francis	77.8%	78.8%	82.1%	1.0	3.4
Shorewood	91.7%	94.6%	95.3%	2.9	0.7
South Milwaukee	86.6%	87.1%	91.2%	0.6	4.1
Wauwatosa	88.9%	91.4%	91.7%	2.5	0.3
West Allis-West Milwaukee	81.7%	80.9%	86.9%	-0.8	6.1
Whitefish Bay	94.5%	95.2%	93.8%	0.7	-1.4
Whitnall	90.6%	90.8%	91.3%	0.1	0.5

*Note: Schools may appeal their AYP status; successful appeals may result in differing counts as the year goes on.

Region's gains smaller than rest of state

Our region's overall underperformance as compared to the rest of the state is further demonstrated by the cohort analysis the NCLB criteria allow us to make. Beginning in 2005-06, the NCLB legislation required students in grades 3-8 and 10 to be tested in reading and math. In Wisconsin, the test used is the WKCE-CRT. Test scores for 2004-05 and later can be compared. **Table 5** shows the proficient or advanced reading scores for the 2004-05 fourth grade cohort. Most districts' former fourth graders showed small

gains as they moved on to fifth and sixth grade. Students in Williams Bay had the largest improvement: nearly eight percentage points better from fourth to fifth grade and 8.6 points better from fifth to sixth grade. Southeastern Wisconsin had a 1.1 percentage point increase in cohort students scoring proficient or advanced compared to last year, while the cohort scores in the rest of the state increased 7.6 points. Note that districts for which initial fourth grade scores were above 90% cannot achieve big gains, but most maintained high scores.

Table 5, continued: Year-to-year reading performance, 2004-2005

	4th Grade 2004-05	5th Grade 2005-06	6th Grade 2006-07	4th to 5th	5th to 6th
Ozaukee County					
Cedarburg	91.3%	94.9%	94.7%	3.7	-0.2
Grafton	94.9%	96.0%	93.5%	1.2	-2.5
Mequon-Thiensville	96.1%	92.1%	95.5%	-4.0	3.4
Northern Ozaukee	85.7%	87.6%	92.6%	1.9	4.9
Port Washington-Saukville	84.7%	86.2%	87.7%	1.6	1.5
Racine County					
Burlington Area	83.6%	84.3%	87.4%	0.7	3.2
Racine	73.0%	70.2%	72.3%	-2.8	2.1
Union Grove Union	88.5%	87.8%	92.0%	-0.7	4.2
Waterford Union	92.2%	93.8%	95.2%	1.6	1.3
Walworth County					
Big Foot Union	88.5%	85.9%	89.5%	-2.6	3.7
Delavan-Darien	72.3%	62.9%	64.3%	-9.5	1.5
East Troy Community	90.1%	91.8%	91.3%	1.6	-0.5
Elkhorn Area	89.2%	89.0%	92.2%	-0.2	3.2
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	79.2%	80.9%	85.4%	1.7	4.5
Whitewater	84.9%	87.1%	89.0%	2.2	1.9
Williams Bay	77.4%	85.3%	93.9%	7.9	8.6
Washington County					
Germantown	96.6%	97.8%	95.7%	1.2	-2.1
Hartford Union	89.3%	92.1%	92.7%	2.8	0.6
Kewaskum	82.1%	87.3%	91.6%	5.1	4.3
Slinger	91.8%	94.8%	91.2%	3.1	-3.7
West Bend	84.9%	86.7%	86.6%	1.8	-0.1
Waukesha County					
Arrowhead Union	92.5%	93.5%	94.6%	1.0	1.1
Elmbrook	91.3%	92.7%	93.2%	1.3	0.6
Hamilton	87.3%	92.7%	92.8%	5.4	0.1
Kettle Moraine	87.4%	90.0%	92.7%	2.6	2.7
Menomonee Falls	86.6%	88.1%	90.6%	1.4	2.5
Mukwonago	93.5%	93.7%	95.5%	0.2	1.8
Muskego-Norway	92.6%	92.8%	93.8%	0.2	1.0
New Berlin	92.9%	93.1%	95.5%	0.2	2.4
Oconomowoc Area	88.4%	88.0%	91.6%	-0.3	3.6
Pewaukee	87.5%	90.7%	90.5%	3.2	-0.2
Waukesha	87.0%	86.2%	90.6%	-0.8	4.4
Southeastern Wisconsin	77.9%	79.1%	80.2%	1.2	1.1
Rest of State	82.0%	81.7%	89.2%	-0.3	7.6

Poverty increasing in smaller urban districts

Smaller urban districts in our region saw an increase over last year in the percent of their students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

The Lake Geneva/Delavan area enrolled more than 2,600 impoverished students this year, over half of such students in Walworth County, for an 8% increase from last year. More than 9,000 of Kenosha County’s 10,400 poor students attend Kenosha

Unified School District, 11% more than last year. The percentage of poor students in Racine’s Unified School District increased to 40% from 38% last year.

Milwaukee County’s largest school district, MPS, saw an increase as well, going from 74% of its students being poor last year to 79% this year. Also, the Cudahy, West Allis, and South Milwaukee districts enroll significant populations of poor students and all had increases over last year.

See Web site for complete poverty data.

Table 6: Ten highest poverty rates, 2006-07

	Enrollment	Free/reduced-price lunch enrollment	Percent receiving free/reduced-price lunch	2006-07 Rank	2005-06 Percent receiving free/reduced-price lunch
Milwaukee	89,912	68,363	76.0%	1	73.4%
Racine	21,696	9,036	41.6%	2	38.2%
Delavan-Darien	2,733	1,122	41.1%	3	44.2%
Kenosha	22,482	8,781	39.1%	4	37.3%
West Allis	8,770	3,291	37.5%	5	34.8%
Cudahy	2,777	1,005	36.2%	6	33.4%
Lake Geneva-Genoa City	4,319	1,372	31.8%	7	29.8%
Whitewater	1,968	582	29.6%	8	28.6%
South Milwaukee	3,474	971	28.0%	9	28.9%
Greenfield	3,296	794	24.1%	10	23.7%
Southeast Wisconsin	314,969	112,977	35.9%		
State of Wisconsin	875,543	274,698	31.4%		

College preparation

The graduation rate for our entire region was 86% in 2005-06, below the statewide rate of 89.3%. While most districts in our region beat the state rate, those falling behind were Milwaukee, Racine, Delavan-Darien, Whitnall, Kenosha, and Elkhorn Area. Again, many of the smaller urban districts are falling behind the rest of the region.

Two districts, Mequon-Thiensville and Greendale, had graduation rates of 100%. The average rate for districts in our region was 93.8%.

In terms of college preparation courses, our region’s average ACT composite score of 21.9 was just below the state average of 22.1. Measuring a district’s overall score, however, does not give a complete picture of how well the district prepares its students for college.

Another measure is the number of AP exams passed as a percentage of high school enrollment. That figure indicates whether the majority of high school students can perform at a college level. On this measure, our region does better than the state, 9.6% vs. 7.5%. Milwaukee and Racine fall to the bottom on this measure, with passing scores representing just a fraction of their high school enrollment, while another 22 districts have passing rates below 10%.

Three Milwaukee County districts are in the top 10 for composite ACT scores and AP tests passed as a percentage of high school enrollment. Whitefish Bay ranked first in both AP passing rate and ACT composite score. Arrowhead Union, Cedarburg, Elmbrook, Mequon-Thiensville, Nicolet Union, and Shorewood also ranked in the top 10 on each measure. MPS was last in both measures.

Table 7: ACT scores and graduation rates, 2005-06

	ACT Composite Score		AP Exams passed as % of enrollment		Graduation Rate	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent
Kenosha County						
Central/Westosha Union	37	21.7	20	12.5%	35	92.6%
Kenosha	44	21.5	44	5.1%	46	88.3%
Wilmot Union	34	21.9	43	5.1%	27	95.1%
Milwaukee County						
Brown Deer	49	20.3	17	13.5%	8	98.2%
Cudahy	46	21.3	47	3.2%	26	95.1%
Franklin Public	35	21.9	40	6.2%	38	92.1%
Greendale	15	23.1	10	22.1%	1	100.0%
Greenfield	39	21.5	36	7.2%	15	97.1%
Milwaukee	50	17.8	50	1.5%	50	67.9%
Nicolet Union	3	24.4	4	29.1%	3	99.3%
Oak Creek-Franklin	41	21.5	18	12.7%	13	97.3%
Saint Francis	36	21.7	48	3.1%	18	96.8%
Shorewood	5	24.3	2	34.0%	9	98.0%
South Milwaukee	45	21.4	45	4.0%	4	99.3%
Wauwatosa	7	23.6	14	14.9%	24	95.9%
West Allis	42	21.5	22	11.9%	42	91.0%
Whitefish Bay	1	25.1	1	40.4%	11	97.4%
Whitnall	21	22.7	46	3.5%	47	85.8%
Ozaukee County						
Cedarburg	6	24.0	7	26.5%	5	99.0%
Grafton	19	22.9	9	22.3%	22	96.3%
Mequon-Thiensville	2	24.6	5	28.7%	1	100.0%
Northern Ozaukee	26	22.5	32	9.0%	34	93.0%
Port Washington-Saukville	20	22.7	19	12.7%	20	96.6%
Racine County						
Burlington Area	31	22.1	37	7.0%	41	91.6%
Racine	48	21.1	49	2.1%	49	71.3%
Union Grove Union	29	22.3	28	10.2%	44	89.9%
Waterford Union	18	22.9	34	7.8%	25	95.7%
Walworth County						
Big Foot Union	38	21.6	39	6.6%	43	90.0%
Delavan-Darien	47	21.3	41	5.9%	48	79.6%
East Troy Community	22	22.7	35	7.6%	36	92.5%
Elkhorn Area	27	22.4	16	14.6%	45	88.8%
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	43	21.5	25	10.8%	37	92.5%
Whitewater	40	21.5	26	10.5%	40	91.6%
Williams Bay	32	22.0	11	17.9%	29	95.0%
Washington County						
Germantown	17	23.0	23	11.9%	14	97.1%
Hartford Union	33	22.0	33	8.4%	39	91.9%
Kewaskum	28	22.4	29	9.8%	7	98.8%
Slinger	13	23.3	21	12.4%	33	93.7%
West Bend	14	23.2	15	14.7%	21	96.4%
Waukesha County						
Arrowhead Union	9	23.4	6	27.8%	10	97.5%
Elmbrook	4	24.4	3	30.5%	16	97.0%
Hamilton	11	23.4	38	6.9%	23	96.2%
Kettle Moraine	10	23.4	13	14.9%	31	94.9%
Menomonee Falls	25	22.5	42	5.3%	30	95.0%
Mukwonago	8	23.5	12	16.5%	6	98.9%
Muskego-Norway	24	22.6	31	9.5%	12	97.3%
New Berlin	12	23.3	8	24.6%	19	96.8%
Oconomowoc Area	23	22.6	30	9.6%	17	96.9%
Pewaukee	16	23.0	24	10.9%	32	94.4%
Waukesha	30	22.3	27	10.5%	28	95.0%
Southeastern Wisconsin State		21.9		9.6%		86.0%
		22.1		7.5%		89.3%

Student participation

Student performance and college preparation are directly related to school attendance and participation. Teachers cannot improve student performance if the students are not in the classroom.

Our region's attendance rate was below the state rate, due to poor attendance in districts, such as Milwaukee, Kenosha, Cudahy, and Racine. Those with the highest truancy rates were Milwaukee, Kenosha, Delavan-Darien, and St. Francis.

Every county except Waukesha had a district in the top 10 for dropouts. Those tended to be the smaller urban districts like Delavan-Darien, Lake Geneva-Genoa City, Kenosha, and Racine.

Table 8: Student participation, 2005-06

	Attendance Rate High School		Attendance Rate All Grades		Truancy Rate		High School Dropout Rate		
	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	
Kenosha County									
Central/Westosha Union	41	93.0%	40	94.5%	16	2.66%	12	1.53%	
Kenosha	49	88.0%	48	92.6%	2	16.73%	6	2.29%	
Wilmot Union	17	95.8%	32	95.3%	15	2.86%	4	2.92%	
Milwaukee County									
Brown Deer	7	97.3%	4	97.0%	22	2.00%	30	0.57%	
Cudahy	48	90.4%	47	93.3%	18	2.35%	37	0.43%	
Franklin Public	13	96.3%	15	96.2%	23	1.93%	21	1.09%	
Greendale	15	96.0%	9	96.4%	49	0.21%	48	0.12%	
Greenfield	6	97.4%	16	96.2%	17	2.40%	18	1.30%	
Milwaukee	50	81.3%	49	88.6%	1	48.96%	1	7.36%	
Nicolet Union	26	94.6%	33	95.3%	25	1.86%	49	0.00%	
Oak Creek-Franklin	34	94.0%	14	96.3%	7	6.81%	28	0.62%	
Saint Francis	29	94.2%	38	94.6%	4	10.32%	5	2.37%	
Shorewood	45	92.7%	42	94.4%	35	1.10%	46	0.15%	
South Milwaukee	40	93.1%	43	94.2%	6	8.69%	45	0.16%	
Wauwatosa	20	95.5%	27	95.7%	12	3.28%	40	0.32%	
West Allis	46	92.6%	44	94.2%	13	2.92%	14	1.47%	
Whitefish Bay	11	96.6%	11	96.4%	40	0.71%	39	0.32%	
Whitnall	18	95.6%	21	95.9%	20	2.14%	43	0.21%	
Ozaukee County									
Cedarburg	2	98.0%	5	97.0%	46	0.32%	29	0.59%	
Grafton	19	95.6%	18	96.1%	34	1.10%	47	0.13%	
Mequon-Thiensville	47	91.4%	45	93.9%	10	4.11%	49	0.00%	
Northern Ozaukee	42	92.9%	1	97.4%	50	0.00%	7	2.24%	
Port Washington-Sauville	1	98.3%	6	96.8%	30	1.58%	34	0.54%	
Racine County									
Burlington Area	39	93.2%	41	94.4%	8	6.68%	19	1.19%	
Racine	44	92.8%	46	93.6%	5	8.71%	2	5.44%	
Union Grove Union	16	95.9%	12	96.3%	9	6.41%	11	1.59%	
Waterford Union	23	95.1%	24	95.7%	47	0.31%	32	0.55%	
Walworth County									
Big Foot Union	35	93.9%	37	94.9%	33	1.18%	10	1.72%	
Delavan-Darien	37	93.8%	39	94.6%	3	14.42%	3	4.83%	
East Troy Community	30	94.2%	35	94.9%	43	0.42%	16	1.42%	
Elkhorn Area	32	94.1%	34	95.1%	48	0.28%	17	1.39%	
Lake Geneva-Genoa City	28	94.5%	31	95.3%	26	1.80%	9	2.01%	
Whitewater	31	94.2%	50	78.5%	24	1.91%	13	1.50%	
Williams Bay	38	93.3%	36	94.9%	28	1.71%	31	0.56%	
Washington County									
Germantown	8	96.9%	13	96.3%	31	1.37%	22	1.03%	
Hartford Union	3	98.0%	3	97.0%	21	2.06%	8	2.06%	
Kewaskum	25	94.8%	22	95.9%	38	0.78%	41	0.30%	
Slinger	9	96.7%	7	96.8%	39	0.74%	20	1.15%	
West Bend	22	95.4%	20	96.0%	14	2.89%	23	0.90%	
Waukesha County									
Arrowhead Union	10	96.7%	8	96.5%	44	0.38%	38	0.42%	
Elmbrook	21	95.5%	23	95.8%	27	1.72%	36	0.47%	
Hamilton	33	94.0%	28	95.6%	11	3.47%	35	0.48%	
Kettle Moraine	14	96.0%	17	96.1%	37	0.83%	24	0.88%	
Menomonee Falls	43	92.8%	30	95.4%	29	1.67%	15	1.44%	
Mukwonago	36	93.9%	29	95.4%	42	0.57%	42	0.29%	
Muskego-Norway	24	95.0%	26	95.7%	32	1.20%	26	0.75%	
New Berlin	12	96.5%	19	96.1%	41	0.68%	27	0.62%	
Oconomowoc Area	4	97.7%	2	97.1%	19	2.33%	33	0.55%	
Pewaukee	27	94.5%	25	95.7%	45	0.37%	25	0.80%	
Waukesha	5	97.5%	10	96.4%	36	1.09%	44	0.21%	
Southeastern Wisconsin		91.3%		93.2%		16.95%		2.91%	
State		93.1%		94.4%		9.75%		1.99%	

* Likely data error for middle school attendance in Whitewater.

	Suspension Rate		Expulsion Rate	
	Rank	%	Rank	%
Kenosha County				
Central/Westosha Union	8	8.3%	32	0.09%
Kenosha	4	11.7%	20	0.17%
Wilmot Union	23	4.0%	29	0.10%
Milwaukee County				
Brown Deer	3	12.1%	21	0.17%
Cudahy	6	8.4%	42	0.00%
Franklin Public	19	4.6%	28	0.12%
Greendale	37	3.0%	42	0.00%
Greenfield	12	6.1%	8	0.33%
Milwaukee	1	26.0%	6	0.43%
Nicolet Union	20	4.5%	41	0.03%
Oak Creek-Franklin	16	5.0%	15	0.22%
Saint Francis	5	9.5%	17	0.22%
Shorewood	30	3.4%	30	0.10%
South Milwaukee	14	5.7%	13	0.26%
Wauwatosa	7	8.3%	37	0.06%
West Allis	9	7.5%	10	0.31%
Whitefish Bay	46	2.0%	42	0.00%
Whitnall	32	3.2%	42	0.00%
Ozaukee County				
Cedarburg	45	2.2%	40	0.03%
Grafton	36	3.0%	14	0.24%
Mequon-Thiensville	42	2.4%	31	0.10%
Northern Ozaukee	48	1.9%	42	0.00%
Port Washington-Saukville	31	3.3%	33	0.08%
Racine County				
Burlington Area	21	4.3%	16	0.22%
Racine	2	13.9%	2	0.57%
Union Grove Union	15	5.5%	39	0.04%
Waterford Union	26	3.6%	27	0.12%
Walworth County				
Big Foot Union	27	3.6%	4	0.47%
Delavan-Darien	10	6.8%	3	0.54%
East Troy Community	41	2.7%	36	0.06%
Elkhorn Area	25	3.7%	12	0.27%
Lake Geneva-Genoa City	11	6.2%	7	0.39%
Whitewater	13	6.0%	9	0.31%
Williams Bay	17	4.8%	1	0.57%
Washington County				
Germantown	28	3.4%	5	0.44%
Hartford Union	22	4.2%	22	0.14%
Kewaskum	49	1.6%	42	0.00%
Slinger	33	3.2%	24	0.14%
West Bend	40	2.9%	38	0.06%
Waukesha County				
Arrowhead Union	38	2.9%	42	0.00%
Elmbrook	35	3.1%	26	0.13%
Hamilton	50	1.6%	18	0.21%
Kettle Moraine	44	2.3%	42	0.00%
Menomonee Falls	18	4.7%	11	0.29%
Mukwonago	29	3.4%	42	0.00%
Muskego-Norway	43	2.3%	35	0.06%
New Berlin	39	2.9%	34	0.07%
Oconomowoc Area	47	2.0%	23	0.14%
Pewaukee	34	3.2%	25	0.14%
Waukesha	24	3.8%	19	0.21%
Southeast Wisconsin State		11.8%		0.26%
		7.2%		0.21%

The suspension and expulsion rates also are important measures of student engagement or participation. Students who are not in school are missing valuable learning experiences.

While high suspension rates in larger districts reflect greater numbers of student being suspended, high suspension rates in small districts could reflect multiple suspensions for a handful of students. In addition, actions that might merit a suspension in one district could be dealt with in-school in another district. Therefore, it is not very valuable to compare suspension rates across districts.

Expulsion rates are low across the region because most districts expel few students each year. Many districts treat expulsions on a case-by-case basis and districts will vary in their willingness to work with troubled students to keep them in school. As with suspensions, expulsion rankings are not especially helpful. Milwaukee, for instance, ranked sixth in expulsions, one of the few measures in which MPS was not ranked last. Whether this reflected fewer troubled students, more lenient policies, or more opportunities for students to attend alternative schools in the district could not be determined from the data.

Relative performance of school districts in SE Wisconsin

We ranked each school district's performance on reading and math tests in every tested grade level. Districts were ranked according to the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced. The sum of the rankings is then ranked to provide a total ranking. Milwaukee, for the past two years, ranked last on this total ranking. The other low-ranking districts, in order, were Racine, Delavan-Darien, Kenosha, Lake Geneva-Genoa City, Whitewater, Cudahy, St. Francis, West Allis, and Waukesha.

Waukesha School District was the only district in Waukesha County to be ranked in the bottom 10 overall. In fact, five of the top 10 ranked districts were in Waukesha County - Arrowhead Union, New Berlin, Elmbrook, Hamilton, and Pewaukee. Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties had no districts ranked in the top 10 overall. In Milwaukee County, Shorewood fell out of the top 10 this year, leaving only Whitefish Bay and Greendale as top 10 performers in that county. See *Web site for more detailed achievement data*.

Table 9: School district performance ranking, 2006-07

	3rd Grade		4th Grade		5th Grade		6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade		10th Grade		2006-07		2005-06		
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Total Rank	Total Rank			
Kenosha County																			
Central/Westosha Union	35	43	33	38	33	45	37	40	40	28	42	33	31	38	38	36			
Kenosha	42	42	41	41	46	46	45	43	48	46	45	45	48	48	47	47			
Willmot Union	27	25	34	37	43	40	42	41	39	42	40	37	44	44	39	38			
Milwaukee County																			
Brown Deer	44	38	42	31	36	38	47	29	42	33	31	42	46	45	40	39			
Cudahy	29	36	43	44	44	43	33	42	43	35	47	44	45	46	44	42			
Franklin Public	11	14	13	16	12	5	7	17	34	18	17	24	15	17	14	18			
Greendale	17	5	8	3	9	8	10	3	24	9	12	7	7	6	8	9			
Greenfield	39	33	38	33	27	32	38	45	38	37	32	38	43	40	37	33			
Milwaukee	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50			
Nicolet Union	23	17	23	21	25	21	35	27	31	27	34	39	6	3	24	22			
Oak Creek-Franklin	33	31	35	29	31	31	19	26	33	29	33	30	28	26	32	28			
Saint Francis	47	44	47	46	41	41	46	44	47	32	37	28	42	29	43	46			
Shorewood	12	28	4	27	23	28	5	15	13	21	7	13	3	5	13	6			
South Milwaukee	38	46	36	40	38	44	28	38	29	36	25	27	41	42	36	40			
Wauwatosa	28	26	14	17	18	29	23	23	27	22	21	11	30	21	21	21			
West Allis	37	30	44	36	47	33	41	32	47	38	44	40	40	43	42	44			
Whitefish Bay	9	13	6	8	19	9	12	2	6	10	6	9	1	7	5	3			
Whitnall	34	27	28	18	30	23	26	22	17	17	27	12	34	36	26	20			
Ozaukee County																			
Cedarburg	1	2	1	2	2	12	8	10	3	6	5	20	5	10	2	2			
Grafton	4	11	3	5	14	20	14	5	20	34	26	35	26	23	16	17			
Mequon-Thiensville	14	10	2	6	5	11	3	11	5	1	10	3	4	4	3	1			
Northern Ozaukee	25	29	12	35	8	26	20	39	16	44	38	41	29	30	30	35			
Port Washington-Saukville	22	24	27	24	21	17	39	30	41	23	11	17	19	15	23	19			

	3rd Grade		4th Grade		5th Grade		6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade		10th Grade		2006-07 Total Rank		2005-06 Total Rank	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Total Rank	Total Rank	Total Rank	Total Rank
Racine County																		
Burlington Area	40	34	16	23	45	47	40	35	35	39	36	43	32	34	35	37		
Racine	48	49	48	49	48	48	48	48	49	49	49	48	49	49	49	49		49
Union Grove Union	20	32	32	39	34	39	22	34	28	30	15	31	38	39	33	34		34
Waterford Union	6	20	19	13	22	19	6	13	18	14	14	10	17	33	15	15		15
Walworth County																		
Big Foot Union	36	37	39	43	29	36	34	47	22	25	39	8	27	31	34	32		32
Delavan-Darien	49	48	49	48	49	49	49	49	46	48	48	49	47	47	48	48		48
East Troy Community	18	6	20	22	11	15	26	24	23	7	22	23	24	35	20	25		25
Elkhorn Area	32	35	25	34	32	34	21	28	30	39	12	32	33	25	31	30		30
Lake Geneva-Genoa City	45	47	45	47	37	35	44	46	45	43	46	47	35	32	46	43		43
Whitewater	46	41	46	45	40	37	36	36	44	47	41	46	37	37	45	45		45
Williams Bay	16	19	16	32	23	16	11	33	11	45	1	13	8	18	19	31		31
Washington County																		
Germanatown	2	1	7	1	1	3	1	1	21	16	28	16	14	12	7	14		14
Hartford Union	26	40	26	30	17	27	17	25	19	12	35	26	19	22	25	23		23
Kewaskum	43	39	40	15	42	25	24	18	9	31	19	25	11	28	28	29		29
Slinger	3	4	5	11	6	10	28	20	15	19	9	22	23	16	12	13		13
West Bend	31	22	30	25	26	22	43	31	14	23	20	34	21	24	27	27		27
Waukesha County																		
Arrowhead Union	5	7	11	4	4	2	9	4	10	3	8	1	10	8	1	4		4
Elmbrook	10	16	10	12	7	7	15	16	7	11	3	2	2	1	6	5		5
Hamilton	15	9	21	7	10	6	16	9	1	15	4	5	13	14	9	11		11
Kettle Moraine	21	12	15	10	20	13	18	12	4	4	2	19	9	9	11	10		10
Menomonee Falls	24	21	29	19	35	30	31	21	32	26	24	15	39	27	29	26		26
Mukwonago	30	23	18	20	15	14	2	7	12	13	29	29	18	11	17	12		12
Muskego-Norway	8	18	22	26	16	24	13	19	24	8	23	18	16	13	18	16		16
New Berlin	7	8	9	9	13	4	4	6	8	5	18	4	12	2	4	7		7
Oconomowoc Area	19	15	31	28	28	18	25	14	26	20	30	21	25	19	22	24		24
Pewaukee	13	3	24	14	3	1	32	8	2	2	16	6	22	20	10	8		8
Waukesha	41	45	37	42	39	42	30	37	36	41	43	36	36	41	41	41		41

School spending above average in southeastern Wisconsin

Our region spent more per pupil than the statewide average on school district operations, including instruction. The lowest-spending districts were in Walworth County, which spent \$9,357.50 per pupil. If the school districts were ranked by per-pupil operations spending, Walworth would include the bottom four districts: Elkhorn Area, Delavan-Darien, Whitewater, and East Troy Community, which all spent less than \$9,100 per pupil. Ozaukee County's districts spent the most, \$10,798.50 per pupil, ranging from \$9,855 in Cedarburg to \$14,597 in Northern Ozaukee. Milwaukee County's per-pupil spending ranged from \$9,221 in Oak Creek-Franklin to \$14,720 in Nicolet Union.

The biggest increases in spending in our region over the past two years were for transportation and pupil services. (Large transportation increases were seen throughout the state because of higher fuel costs.) Southeastern Wisconsin's increase in instructional staff services was much greater than the statewide increase, while our instruction increase was slightly less than statewide. Our region's school district budgets, however, were distributed similarly to those across the state. *See Web site for district-by-district spending information.*

Table 10: Budgeted operations spending distribution, 2006-07

	Instruction	Pupil Services	Instructional Staff Services	General Admin.	Building Admin.	Transportation
Kenosha County	65.0%	5.8%	5.0%	1.4%	4.8%	2.9%
Milwaukee County	59.5%	5.0%	6.1%	1.9%	5.6%	4.8%
Ozaukee County	60.1%	4.4%	6.0%	1.6%	5.4%	4.0%
Racine County	65.3%	4.9%	4.1%	1.4%	5.2%	4.7%
Walworth County	61.9%	4.2%	4.0%	2.8%	4.9%	4.2%
Washington County	62.6%	4.2%	5.3%	1.8%	4.5%	4.5%
Waukesha County	61.3%	4.3%	4.6%	1.7%	5.0%	4.5%
Southeastern Wisconsin	61.2%	4.8%	5.4%	1.8%	5.2%	4.5%
Rest of State	60.4%	4.5%	4.9%	2.0%	5.1%	4.2%
State of Wisconsin	61.5%	4.7%	5.1%	1.9%	5.2%	4.4%

Table 11: Budgeted per-pupil operations spending summary by county, 2006-07

	Instruction	Pupil Services	Instructional Staff Services	General Admin.	Building Admin.	Transportation	Total Operations Spending
Kenosha County	\$6,487.10	\$578.09	\$503.10	\$137.68	\$484.14	\$291.81	\$9,985.76
Milwaukee County	\$6,624.18	\$556.12	\$680.95	\$215.35	\$619.21	\$532.51	\$11,130.86
Ozaukee County	\$6,488.02	\$476.56	\$652.62	\$171.01	\$578.99	\$433.89	\$10,798.50
Racine County	\$6,666.97	\$501.51	\$416.23	\$138.80	\$534.61	\$479.39	\$10,214.45
Walworth County	\$5,792.65	\$397.51	\$376.01	\$263.52	\$454.55	\$394.93	\$9,357.50
Washington County	\$6,066.84	\$406.73	\$515.87	\$176.01	\$431.67	\$436.09	\$9,691.38
Waukesha County	\$6,443.78	\$453.23	\$480.57	\$180.76	\$522.85	\$470.23	\$10,511.12
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$6,495.42	\$511.41	\$570.39	\$191.47	\$556.46	\$474.50	\$10,608.93
Rest of State	\$6,228.88	\$464.34	\$503.79	\$202.24	\$524.75	\$434.84	\$10,318.10
State of Wisconsin	\$6,324.19	\$481.66	\$527.43	\$198.43	\$535.87	\$448.85	\$10,287.79

Table 12: Change in budgeted per-pupil operations spending, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Instruction	Pupil Services	Instructional Staff Services	General Admin.	Building Admin.	Transportation	Total Operations Spending
Southeastern Wisconsin	4.21%	7.89%	5.24%	4.06%	2.10%	8.58%	5.44%
State of Wisconsin	4.41%	5.40%	1.43%	2.82%	4.46%	8.16%	5.18%

Property taxes bigger slice of revenue pie in southeastern Wisconsin

School district revenue in southeastern Wisconsin consisted mostly of state aid, at nearly 52%. Property taxes made up about 37% of the revenue picture here, compared to 34% statewide. The average per-pupil revenue from property taxes in southeastern Wisconsin was \$4,088.64, 13% more than the statewide average. Property tax revenue in our region has grown 6.5% over the past two years, compared to 3% statewide.

The average operations revenue per pupil in our region was 4% greater than the statewide average, despite larger property tax revenue, because we received less state aid per pupil on average. Of course, those districts that were less able to levy property taxes received greater state aid. For instance, districts in Kenosha County saw \$3,112.33 per pupil in tax revenue and \$6,215.43 per pupil in state aid, whereas the opposite was true in Waukesha and Ozaukee counties, which each raised more than \$6,100 per pupil in tax revenue and received less than \$4,000 per pupil in state aid.

Federal aid was much less significant for most districts. MPS brought Milwaukee County's total federal aid to more than 10% of the revenue pool, while other counties were less 5%, some less than 2%. The statewide average federal aid share was 5.2%. *See Web site for district-by-district revenue information.*

Table 13: Revenue distribution, 2006-07

	Property Tax	State Aid	Federal Aid
Kenosha County	30.5%	61.0%	5.0%
Milwaukee County	28.0%	58.5%	10.3%
Ozaukee County	57.5%	33.1%	2.3%
Racine County	30.4%	59.3%	4.7%
Walworth County	49.0%	43.8%	1.8%
Washington County	43.3%	48.7%	3.0%
Waukesha County	57.0%	33.7%	2.6%
Southeastern Wisconsin	37.1%	51.7%	6.6%
Rest of State	32.9%	58.3%	4.4%
State of Wisconsin	34.2%	56.1%	5.2%

Table 14: Per-pupil revenue summary by county, 2006-07

	Property Tax	State Aid	Federal Aid	Operations Revenue
Kenosha County	\$3,112.33	\$6,215.43	\$514.21	\$10,192.04
Milwaukee County	\$3,268.79	\$6,831.81	\$1,198.58	\$11,686.60
Ozaukee County	\$6,320.07	\$3,636.71	\$253.13	\$10,993.16
Racine County	\$3,221.98	\$6,293.99	\$497.14	\$10,605.11
Walworth County	\$4,775.85	\$4,274.07	\$176.91	\$9,750.20
Washington County	\$4,287.76	\$4,821.84	\$298.84	\$9,899.36
Waukesha County	\$6,177.13	\$3,657.17	\$281.66	\$10,839.54
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$4,088.64	\$5,702.42	\$732.81	\$11,024.08
Rest of State	\$3,391.73	\$6,017.96	\$449.53	\$10,318.10
State of Wisconsin	\$3,614.05	\$5,926.03	\$552.78	\$10,564.49

Table 15: Change in per-pupil revenue, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Property Tax	State Aid	Federal Aid	Operations Revenue
Southeastern Wisconsin	6.54%	6.02%	3.10%	6.94%
State of Wisconsin	3.02%	6.91%	-1.60%	5.72%

Urban school districts in southeastern Wisconsin show signs of stress

Small cities also scoring low, needing improvement

Bringing our region up to par with the rest of the state is not just about solving Milwaukee's problems. Smaller cities across the region are struggling as well and also require our attention.

Kenosha and Racine schools show symptoms of urban stress, like Milwaukee. Their average test scores are relatively low and improvements are lackluster, the federal No Child Left Behind criteria are not being met satisfactorily, truancy and drop-out rates are high, poverty is on the rise, and most students are not well-prepared for college. Now smaller urban districts, like those in the Lake Geneva/Delavan area, Waukesha, and the older inner-ring suburbs of Milwaukee, also are beginning to show signs of stress.

These districts tend to spend less than highly performing districts, although the relationship is not always direct: Milwaukee ranked 15th among the 50 districts in southeastern Wisconsin in per pupil spending and Racine ranked 29th, while high performing Arrowhead Union ranked 31st.

Smaller urban districts, however, often do not have much choice whether to spend more or less because they are less able to raise revenue from their smaller property tax bases; many of the stressed districts have per-pupil tax revenue below the regional average. State aid is available to fill in the gap, but this aid is much more susceptible to cuts or political maneuvering, and is not reliable as a long term funding solution.