



Regional *Report*

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Study authors

Jeffrey K. Schmidt
Researcher

Melissa Lemke
Research Intern

Jeffrey C. Browne
President

Anneliese Dickman, J.D.
Research Director

Ryan Horton
Researcher

Jerry Slaske
Communications Director

Catherine A. Crother
Office Manager



633 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 406
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203
www.publicpolicyforum.org
Phone (414) 276-8240

Established in 1913 as a local government watchdog, the Public Policy Forum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness of government and the development of southeastern Wisconsin through objective research of public policy issues.

How productive are southeastern Wisconsin schools?

Public schools can be considered a form of workforce development, and thus it is important to measure the “work product” of the schools. To do that, the Forum’s annual analysis of public schools in the 50 districts serving southeastern Wisconsin measured absenteeism as educational opportunities lost because children were not in class. Considering that the 318,000 students enrolled in the region’s public schools are tomorrow’s employees, this measurement can be seen as an indicator of lost productivity in today’s schools – and potentially in future workplaces.

The analysis found that the region’s students missed 3.6 million days of school for the 2004-05 school year, the latest year for which data were available. That represents 6.5% of all school days – ranging from 2.8% in Whitefish Bay to 10.9% in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). The numbers showed an improvement in absenteeism over the past five years, especially at MPS where absenteeism dropped nearly 2 percentage points.

Even so, the lost educational opportunity was higher in our region than for Wisconsin. Moreover, almost 2/3 of the state’s days lost to suspension took place in southeastern Wisconsin.

These findings help to explain a gap between our region and the state when it comes to outcomes as measured by standardized tests. At every grade level and in every subject, average scores in southeastern Wisconsin were lower than the state average. For example, 65% of the region’s 10th graders scored “proficient” in science, well below the 72% for the rest of the state.

Measurements of absenteeism and test outcomes are important in understanding what has to happen to strengthen our region’s economic competitiveness. The latest analysis found that the region invested \$10,202 last year in each student, slightly more than average for the state. This ranges from just over \$8,000 in several districts to nearly \$15,000 in the Nicolet High School and its feeder districts. One of the ways of looking at this report is in terms of our return on this investment.

Table 1 - Achievement gap between southeastern Wisconsin and the rest of the state, 2005-06

	Reading				Math			Science		
	3rd Grade	4th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	4th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	4th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade
Region	76.8%	78.8%	80.1%	70.9%	67.9%	68.7%	66.2%	73.5%	67.6%	64.8%
State	79.1%	80.9%	83.5%	74.1%	71.3%	73.1%	70.7%	77.5%	73.3%	69.9%
Rest of State	80.2%	81.9%	85.2%	75.7%	73.0%	75.2%	72.9%	79.5%	76.1%	72.4%
Difference	-3.4%	-3.2%	-5.1%	-4.9%	-5.0%	-6.5%	-6.7%	-6.0%	-8.5%	-7.6%

Table 2 - Achievement gap without Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha, 2005-06

	Reading				Math			Science		
	3rd Grade	4th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	4th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	4th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade
Region	87.5%	90.5%	92.5%	85.3%	83.8%	85.3%	82.9%	88.7%	85.5%	83.6%
State	79.1%	80.9%	83.5%	74.1%	71.3%	73.1%	70.7%	77.5%	73.3%	69.9%
Rest of State	80.2%	81.9%	85.2%	75.7%	73.0%	75.2%	72.9%	79.5%	76.1%	72.4%
Difference	7.3%	8.6%	7.3%	9.5%	10.8%	10.1%	10.1%	9.2%	9.4%	11.1%

There are more than 90 school districts that serve nearly 318,000 pupils and their parents in southeastern Wisconsin. Many of those districts are feeder schools for high schools, and for purposes of this report, the Public Policy Forum has combined those feeder and high school districts and treated them as if they were a single district.

Taken as a whole, southeastern Wisconsin’s schools are performing somewhat below the average for the state. As table 1 above shows, this general finding applies across all grade levels and for reading, math, and science standardized test scores. The gap between the region and the state is most pronounced in the higher grade levels for science.

However, the gap in scores reverses when we exclude the urban districts in the region from the calculations, with southeastern Wisconsin students performing considerably better on average than their peers elsewhere in the state (see table 2).

Other findings:

- Overall, the region’s dependence on property taxes decreased while reliance on state aid increased. Table 1.2 depicts the current school tax rate in southeastern Wisconsin.
- Per-pupil spending in the region increased. In the 2005-06 school year, southeastern Wisconsin spent \$220 more per-pupil than the rest of the state (see table 1.3).

- During the past two years minority enrollment in the three largest school districts has increased. In MPS, it climbed one percentage point, making 83.7% of the district’s enrollment minority (see table 2.1).
- Productivity lost to absenteeism, expulsions, suspensions and truancies fell a considerable one percentage point over the last five years. Whitefish Bay had the lowest lost productivity per year; MPS, the district with the highest rate of lost productivity, improved by 1.9% (see table 3.2).
- For the third consecutive year, fewer schools than the year before, in both the region and MPS, were classified as “in need of improvement.” In 2005, 40 schools in the region and 37 in MPS fell into this category. The 2006 Adequate Yearly Progress report found that 35 schools in the region and 34 in MPS failed to meet standards of the “No Child Left Behind Act,” which identifies schools for improvement (see table 4.5).
- ACT composite scores remained unchanged this year. In 2005, students in southeastern Wisconsin scored an average of 22, identical to last year. Statewide, the average score was 22.2 out of a possible 36 points.

Part 1. School finance

Revenue

Table 1.1 depicts school district revenue data. In the past year, total revenue per pupil in the seven county region increased from \$10,288 to \$10,576. Total operating revenue per pupil was 3.9% higher in the region than statewide.

The major source of revenue for the region was state aid. Counties with large urban districts had more revenue from state aid than other districts. A number of individual school districts, particularly suburban districts, received most of their revenue from property taxes.

In 2006, reliance on property taxes and federal aid was higher in the seven county region than the state. Property taxes made up 33.4% of the state's total operations revenue and 35.7% of the region's total operations revenue. State aid continued to be a greater source of revenue for districts outside the seven county region. Somewhat higher property taxes and lower state aid have been endemic in the region since 2002.

While the school tax burden has been higher in the region than in the rest of the state, the percentage of revenue coming from property taxes in the region

decreased in 2006. In 2005, property taxes accounted for 37.2% of the region's total operations spending. Table 1.2 shows, however, that in 2006 only 35.7% of the budgeted revenue was attributed to property taxes. The revenue lost in the form of taxes was offset by an increase in state aid to the region, increasing from 52.2% to 53.3% of the region's total operating revenue. This was the first reprieve from an escalating property tax burden since 2002.

Trends in per-pupil budgeted revenue among counties have been relatively consistent over the years, as shown in table 1.1. Of all counties in the region, Milwaukee County budgeted to receive the most revenue per pupil, \$11,115. Walworth County budgeted to receive the lowest revenue, \$9,362 per pupil. This continued a long-term trend.

Changes in trends at the regional level often are generated by changes in trends within the largest school districts. In Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine, property tax revenue was lower and state aid was indeed higher than in previous years, consistent with changing trends observed at the regional level. In districts throughout the region's seven counties, the percentage of property tax revenue going to schools decreased and state aid increased.

Table 1.1 - Per-pupil school district budgeted revenue, 2005-06

	Property tax	State aid	Federal aid	Total revenue
Kenosha County	\$2,893	\$6,223	\$530	\$9,988
Central/Westosha Union	\$3,713	\$5,242	\$81	\$9,771
Kenosha	\$2,531	\$6,566	\$659	\$9,992
Wilmot Union	\$4,199	\$5,162	\$197	\$10,150
Milwaukee County	\$2,963	\$6,633	\$1,162	\$11,115
Brown Deer	\$6,536	\$4,338	\$79	\$12,212
Cudahy	\$2,393	\$7,485	\$335	\$10,696
Franklin Public	\$5,331	\$5,494	\$259	\$11,619
Greendale	\$5,712	\$4,846	\$298	\$11,958
Greenfield	\$5,442	\$4,285	\$351	\$11,146
Milwaukee	\$1,943	\$7,397	\$1,558	\$11,058
Nicolet Union	\$11,235	\$2,184	\$169	\$15,024
Oak Creek-Franklin	\$3,696	\$5,073	\$202	\$9,338
St. Francis	\$2,929	\$6,726	\$487	\$12,236
Shorewood	\$6,826	\$4,207	\$350	\$12,546
South Milwaukee	\$2,104	\$7,012	\$427	\$10,043
Wauwatosa	\$5,615	\$4,627	\$335	\$11,413
West Allis	\$3,909	\$5,559	\$440	\$10,441
Whitefish Bay	\$6,234	\$4,444	\$925*	\$12,195
Whitnall	\$5,048	\$4,530	\$222	\$10,379
Ozaukee County	\$6,072	\$3,583	\$199	\$10,557
Cedarburg	\$5,185	\$3,965	\$273	\$9,807
Grafton	\$5,546	\$4,074	\$299	\$10,356
Mequon-Thiensville	\$9,100	\$1,359	\$36	\$10,879
Northern Ozaukee	\$5,140	\$4,243	\$281	\$14,285
Port Washington-Saukville	\$3,491	\$5,703	\$247	\$9,907
Racine County	\$2,560	\$6,357	\$482	\$9,804
Burlington Area	\$2,601	\$5,240	\$74	\$8,728
Racine	\$2,426	\$6,869	\$657	\$10,163
Union Grove Union	\$3,093	\$5,126	\$112	\$9,657
Waterford Union	\$3,026	\$5,103	\$52	\$8,761
Walworth County	\$4,642	\$4,161	\$177	\$9,362
Big Foot Union	\$6,293	\$3,328	\$125	\$10,514
Delavan-Darien	\$3,524	\$4,772	\$244	\$8,697
East Troy Community	\$4,551	\$3,611	\$84	\$8,540
Elkhorn Area	\$3,024	\$5,049	\$189	\$8,567
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	\$5,503	\$3,906	\$171	\$10,083
Whitewater	\$3,639	\$4,807	\$209	\$8,907
Williams Bay	\$10,966	\$394	\$167	\$12,039
Washington County	\$4,166	\$4,745	\$304	\$9,590
Germantown	\$6,145	\$3,437	\$212	\$10,141
Hartford Union	\$4,601	\$4,974	\$302	\$10,332
Kewaskum	\$3,885	\$5,072	\$319	\$9,617
Slinger	\$3,088	\$5,229	\$62	\$8,843
West Bend	\$3,327	\$4,977	\$448	\$9,060
Waukesha County	\$5,918	\$3,730	\$288	\$10,602
Arrowhead Union	\$5,550	\$3,680	\$237	\$10,312
Elmbrook	\$9,296	\$1,622	\$357	\$12,425
Hamilton	\$4,629	\$5,000	\$0	\$9,865
Kettle Moraine	\$5,015	\$4,085	\$232	\$9,816
Menomonee Falls	\$6,332	\$4,017	\$345	\$11,532
Mukwonago	\$3,205	\$5,229	\$294	\$9,158
Muskego-Norway	\$4,670	\$4,903	\$241	\$10,118
New Berlin	\$9,085	\$1,794	\$287	\$12,188
Oconomowoc	\$6,266	\$2,878	\$312	\$9,773
Pewaukee	\$8,598	\$932	\$255	\$10,337
Waukesha	\$4,717	\$4,619	\$367	\$10,377
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$3,777	\$5,638	\$725	\$10,576
State of Wisconsin	\$3,399	\$5,798	\$555	\$10,167

* The Whitefish Bay federal aid is artificially high because Whitefish Bay acts as the fiscal agent for the North Shore Educational Cooperative that consists of Whitefish Bay, Fox Point-Bayside, Glendale-River Hills, Maple Dale-Indian Hill, Nicolet UHS, and Shorewood.

Table 1.2 - Budgeted revenue distribution, 2005-06

	Property tax	State aid	Federal aid	Total revenue
Kenosha County	\$2,893	\$6,223	\$530	\$9,988
Milwaukee County	\$2,963	\$6,633	\$1,162	\$11,115
Ozaukee County	\$6,072	\$3,583	\$199	\$10,557
Racine County	\$2,560	\$6,357	\$482	\$9,804
Walworth County	\$4,642	\$4,161	\$177	\$9,362
Washington County	\$4,166	\$4,745	\$304	\$9,590
Waukesha County	\$5,918	\$3,730	\$288	\$10,602
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$3,777	\$5,638	\$725	\$10,576
State of Wisconsin	\$3,399	\$5,798	\$555	\$10,167

Spending

Within the region, total per-pupil spending increased this year to \$10,202 (see table 1.3). Total operations spending was 2.8% higher per pupil in the seven county region than the rest of the state in 2006. Statewide, \$9,914 was spent per pupil. The increase continued a trend that began in 2000.

Spending priorities in the region showed little change in 2006 (see table 1.4). Instruction was the highest expenditure in every school district, amounting to 61.3% of the region's total annual spending, although it did decrease by 0.6%. General administration remained the lowest expenditure, at 1.9% of annual spending. Nevertheless, spending on general administration and transportation both increased, reversing a trend since 2002.

In past years, spending in most categories in the seven county region, with the exception of instruction and general administration, had been slightly greater per pupil than in the rest of the state categories. The trend did not change this year.

Milwaukee County continued to be the county that spends the most per pupil, with an average of \$10,604. High per-pupil spending by MPS, the county's largest school district, drove spending figure at the county level. MPS had operations expenditures of \$10,406 per-pupil. Walworth County spent \$8,969 per-pupil, the lowest in the region. Table 1.2 shows total spending per pupil by county.

Unlike changes in revenue, which were similar throughout the seven counties, changes in spending priorities differed.

Table 1.3 - Per-pupil school district operations spending, 2005-06

	Instruction	Pupil services	Instructional staff services	General admin.	Building admin.	Transportation	Total spending
Kenosha County	\$6,317	\$552	\$497	\$140	\$486	\$287	\$9,776
Central/Westosha Union	\$5,684	\$447	\$344	\$283	\$512	\$372	\$9,277
Kenosha	\$6,492	\$582	\$541	\$51	\$519	\$265	\$9,923
Wilmot Union	\$5,891	\$477	\$385	\$511	\$283	\$337	\$9,382
Milwaukee County	\$6,349	\$519	\$659	\$220	\$619	\$484	\$10,604
Brown Deer	\$6,716	\$325	\$560	\$378	\$788	\$412	\$11,680
Cudahy	\$6,747	\$518	\$441	\$132	\$537	\$90	\$10,540
Franklin Public	\$7,172	\$607	\$219	\$237	\$611	\$443	\$11,409
Greendale	\$7,007	\$486	\$692	\$265	\$623	\$207	\$12,212
Greenfield	\$6,644	\$472	\$470	\$223	\$622	\$342	\$10,789
Milwaukee	\$6,225	\$533	\$716	\$236	\$630	\$572	\$10,406
Nicolet Union	\$8,071	\$639	\$747	\$377	\$638	\$931	\$14,928
Oak Creek-Franklin	\$5,668	\$465	\$452	\$121	\$471	\$513	\$9,169
St. Francis	\$7,200	\$506	\$415	\$577	\$497	\$179	\$11,635
Shorewood	\$7,479	\$401	\$598	\$258	\$676	\$142	\$12,050
South Milwaukee	\$6,108	\$480	\$572	\$151	\$586	\$53	\$9,914
Wauwatosa	\$6,910	\$454	\$513	\$78	\$655	\$109	\$11,030
West Allis	\$6,069	\$447	\$505	\$111	\$578	\$240	\$10,210
Whitefish Bay	\$6,909	\$546	\$1,205	\$166	\$672	\$94	\$12,292
Whitnall	\$5,594	\$534	\$468	\$232	\$510	\$382	\$10,131
Ozaukee County	\$6,207	\$483	\$613	\$174	\$575	\$410	\$10,359
Cedarburg	\$5,614	\$506	\$663	\$225	\$436	\$340	\$9,626
Grafton	\$5,961	\$398	\$542	\$182	\$617	\$386	\$10,099
Mequon-Thiensville	\$6,696	\$544	\$365	\$130	\$616	\$539	\$10,737
Northern Ozaukee	\$7,339	\$290	\$2,547	\$307	\$997	\$546	\$13,865
Port Washington-Saukville	\$5,997	\$494	\$355	\$132	\$504	\$283	\$9,725
Racine County	\$6,178	\$467	\$417	\$134	\$499	\$409	\$9,629
Burlington Area	\$5,405	\$331	\$331	\$100	\$513	\$393	\$8,361
Racine	\$6,469	\$530	\$446	\$81	\$504	\$438	\$10,018
Union Grove Union	\$5,976	\$237	\$302	\$444	\$348	\$354	\$9,377
Waterford Union	\$5,271	\$368	\$401	\$311	\$552	\$278	\$8,685
Walworth County	\$5,476	\$402	\$391	\$281	\$452	\$388	\$8,969
Big Foot Union	\$5,886	\$563	\$731	\$971	\$0	\$390	\$10,130
Delavan-Darien	\$4,918	\$394	\$394	\$100	\$511	\$353	\$8,148
East Troy Community	\$5,385	\$440	\$271	\$153	\$389	\$366	\$8,516
Elkhorn Area	\$5,200	\$363	\$337	\$165	\$510	\$362	\$8,368
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	\$5,844	\$369	\$317	\$259	\$539	\$412	\$9,396
Whitewater	\$5,258	\$341	\$353	\$184	\$482	\$467	\$8,739
Williams Bay	\$6,726	\$465	\$593	\$424	\$835	\$277	\$11,523
Washington County	\$5,917	\$392	\$501	\$192	\$428	\$414	\$9,344
Germantown	\$5,714	\$440	\$503	\$105	\$476	\$668	\$9,910
Hartford Union	\$6,467	\$386	\$564	\$329	\$391	\$382	\$10,038
Kewaskum	\$5,493	\$311	\$379	\$295	\$400	\$493	\$9,075
Slinger	\$5,672	\$461	\$462	\$131	\$442	\$387	\$8,725
West Bend	\$5,848	\$367	\$506	\$134	\$433	\$291	\$8,872
Waukesha County	\$6,371	\$462	\$472	\$175	\$508	\$460	\$10,299
Arrowhead Union	\$6,164	\$377	\$621	\$451	\$301	\$336	\$9,893
Elmbrook	\$7,701	\$616	\$633	\$172	\$407	\$496	\$12,214
Hamilton	\$5,570	\$420	\$376	\$205	\$472	\$422	\$9,570
Kettle Moraine	\$6,133	\$462	\$394	\$145	\$488	\$539	\$9,594
Menomonee Falls	\$6,592	\$513	\$438	\$182	\$566	\$563	\$10,902
Mukwonago	\$5,751	\$386	\$568	\$68	\$513	\$488	\$8,937
Muskego-Norway	\$6,076	\$422	\$479	\$178	\$539	\$460	\$9,842
New Berlin	\$6,556	\$290	\$545	\$240	\$770	\$585	\$11,631
Oconomowoc	\$5,873	\$416	\$325	\$100	\$495	\$386	\$9,398
Pewaukee	\$5,848	\$471	\$539	\$225	\$500	\$390	\$9,997
Waukesha	\$6,494	\$524	\$353	\$67	\$565	\$436	\$10,218
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$6,257	\$491	\$559	\$195	\$551	\$442	\$10,202
State of Wisconsin	\$5,414	\$427	\$500	\$182	\$481	\$396	\$9,914

Table 1.4 - Budgeted spending distribution, 2005-06

	Instruction	Pupil services	Instructional staff services	General administration	Building administration	Transportation
Kenosha County	64.6%	5.7%	5.1%	1.4%	5.0%	2.9%
Milwaukee County	59.9%	4.9%	6.2%	2.1%	5.8%	4.6%
Ozaukee County	59.9%	4.7%	5.9%	1.7%	5.6%	4.0%
Racine County	64.2%	4.9%	4.3%	1.4%	5.2%	4.3%
Walworth County	61.1%	4.5%	4.4%	3.1%	5.0%	4.3%
Washington County	63.3%	4.2%	5.4%	2.1%	4.6%	4.4%
Waukesha County	61.9%	4.5%	4.6%	1.7%	4.9%	4.5%
Southeastern Wisconsin	61.3%	4.8%	5.5%	1.9%	5.4%	4.3%
State of Wisconsin	61.6%	4.7%	5.3%	2.0%	5.2%	4.3%

Note: Percentages do not add up to 100 because there are other categories not included, such as community services and transfers from one fund to another.

Changes in revenue and spending rates

A comparison of 2006 fiscal data with that from the prior five years showed that both operations revenue and operations spending per pupil was higher in the region than in the rest of the state, and increased at a faster rate. This contributed to the continuation of higher revenue and expenditures within each of the seven counties. The rate of change in revenue growth is shown in table 1.5.

Property tax revenue per pupil is higher in the region than throughout the state. But state property tax revenue is growing faster than throughout the region. Tax rates in other areas of the state grew 1.5% faster than those in the region.

Table 1.5 - Percent change in revenue, 2001-02 to 2005-06

	Property tax	State aid	Federal aid	Total operations revenue
Southeastern Wisconsin	16.6%	14.0%	61.2%	17.6%
Rest of state	18.1%	11.1%	55.7%	15.1%
State	17.5%	12.1%	58.2%	16.0%

Table 1.6 - Percent change in spending, 2001-02 to 2005-06

	Instruction	Pupil services	Instructional staff services	General administration	Building administration	Transportation	Total operations spending
Southeastern Wisconsin	15.9%	10.9%	26.3%	10.2%	3.8%	-0.2%	15.3%
Rest of state	12.9%	5.0%	17.9%	16.4%	32.8%	42.5%	14.4%
State	14.0%	7.2%	21.0%	14.1%	20.0%	22.9%	14.7%

Part II. Enrollment

School districts in the region enrolled 317,695 students in the 2005-06 school year. Table 2.1 shows enrollment figures for the seven counties. The 2004-05 enrollment data was unreliable and incomplete. As a result, the two-year (2003-04 to 2005-06) change in enrollment data was used to provide a more accurate picture of changes in the region's school districts.

From 2003-04 to 2005-06, student enrollment increased in 29 districts and decreased in 21 districts. During that time the region lost 0.6% of its students, or 2,018. Enrollment statewide decreased by the same percentage during this time as well, or 4,857 students. Over a five-year period, regional enrollment patterns have closely mirrored enrollment patterns at the state level.

From 2003-04 to 2005-06, only Milwaukee and Racine counties experienced lower enrollment. The decline in the region was in large part due to an enrollment drop in Milwaukee County schools of 3.8%, or 5,578 pupils. Not including Milwaukee County, the region's enrollment increased 2.1%. The largest increase in pupils came in Kenosha County schools, which added 840 students for a 2.8% gain, due in part to an influx of people from northern Illinois.

Minority enrollment

School districts in southeastern Wisconsin have 15.3 percentage points more minority students than districts in the rest of the state. Minorities constitute 37.5% of the total enrollment in southeastern Wisconsin; 22.3% throughout the state.

Milwaukee County had the highest percentage of minority students in its 15 school districts, due primarily to high MPS minority enrollment. Within the county, 88,388 students, or 61.5%, were Asian, Hispanic, black or Native American. Table 2.2 shows that Racine County districts had the second highest minority enrollment percentage, 34.2%.

For the fifth straight year, Delavan-Darien had the highest percentage of Hispanic students, 34.2%.

MPS had the largest number of students from any minority group. African Americans made up 58.3% of its enrollment, or 53,870.

Table 2.1 - Enrollment trends, 2005-06

	2003-04	2005-06	Two-year change	2005-06 minority enrollment	% minority enrollment
Kenosha County	28,513	29,353	2.9%	7,917	27.0%
Central/Westosha Union	3,308	3,370	1.9%	198	5.9%
Kenosha	21,426	22,131	3.3%	7,511	33.9%
Wilmot Union	3,779	3,852	1.9%	208	5.4%
Milwaukee County	149,234	143,660	-3.7%	88,388	61.5%
Brown Deer	1,861	1,817	-2.4%	903	49.7%
Cudahy	2,849	2,891	1.5%	635	22.0%
Franklin Public	3,956	4,079	3.1%	723	17.7%
Greendale	2,376	2,519	6.0%	325	12.9%
Greenfield	3,397	3,337	-1.8%	796	23.9%
Milwaukee	97,359	92,395	-5.1%	77,308	83.7%
Nicolet Union	3,921	3,735	-4.7%	1,056	28.3%
Oak Creek-Franklin	5,063	5,430	7.2%	1,131	20.8%
St. Francis	1,450	1,373	-5.3%	317	23.1%
Shorewood	2,161	2,006	-7.2%	488	24.3%
South Milwaukee	3,532	3,466	-1.9%	562	16.2%
Wauwatosa	7,040	6,715	-4.6%	1,542	23.0%
West Allis	8,827	8,746	-0.9%	1,775	20.3%
Whitefish Bay	2,941	2,691	-8.5%	536	19.9%
Whitnall	2,501	2,456	-1.8%	291	11.8%
Ozaukee County	13,194	13,425	1.8%	1,002	7.5%
Cedarburg	3,119	3,125	0.2%	101	3.2%
Grafton	2,003	2,046	2.1%	102	5.0%
Mequon-Thiensville	4,120	4,022	-2.4%	516	12.8%
Northern Ozaukee	1,324	1,610	21.6%	75	4.7%
Port Washington-Saukville	2,628	2,622	-0.2%	208	7.9%
Racine County	30,435	30,417	-0.1%	10,401	34.2%
Burlington Area	3,650	3,659	0.2%	300	8.2%
Racine	21,457	21,175	-1.3%	9,841	46.5%
Union Grove Union	2,205	2,338	6.0%	159	6.8%
Waterford Union	3,123	3,245	3.9%	101	3.1%
Walworth County	15,500	16,097	3.9%	3,028	18.8%
Big Foot Union	1,876	1,906	1.6%	282	14.8%
Delavan-Darien	2,819	2,775	-1.6%	1,053	37.9%
East Troy Community	1,682	1,656	-1.5%	60	3.6%
Elkhorn Area	2,596	2,928	12.8%	357	12.2%
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	3,967	4,369	10.1%	801	18.3%
Whitewater	2,051	1,934	-5.7%	408	21.1%
Williams Bay	509	529	3.9%	67	12.7%
Washington County	20,144	20,256	0.6%	1,142	5.6%
Germantown	3,716	3,841	3.4%	332	8.6%
Hartford Union	4,883	4,862	-0.4%	296	6.1%
Kewaskum	1,874	1,887	0.7%	70	3.7%
Slinger	2,847	2,869	0.8%	67	2.3%
West Bend	6,824	6,798	-0.4%	377	5.5%
Waukesha County	60,746	62,469	2.8%	6,651	10.6%
Arrowhead Union	6,568	6,841	4.2%	198	2.9%
Elmbrook	7,664	7,656	-0.1%	1,125	14.7%
Hamilton	4,075	4,265	4.7%	387	9.1%
Kettle Moraine	4,378	4,414	0.8%	171	3.9%
Menomonee Falls	4,455	4,539	1.9%	783	17.3%
Mukwonago	5,041	5,133	1.8%	248	4.8%
Muskego-Norway	4,640	4,877	5.1%	235	4.8%
New Berlin	4,592	4,584	-0.2%	441	9.6%
Oconomowoc	4,210	4,287	1.8%	215	5.0%
Pewaukee	2,160	2,198	1.8%	192	8.7%
Waukesha	12,892	13,611	5.6%	2,619	19.2%
Southeastern Wisconsin State	317,695	315,677	-0.6%	118,529	37.5%
State	880,031	875,174	-0.6%	194,414	22.2%

Part III. Absenteeism

In past schooling reports the Forum has looked at attendance rates as the percentage of days that students attended school. This year we are looking days lost due to absences, suspensions, and expulsions. We wanted to combine these numbers to find the total number of days students were not in school. In the process of compiling this data, we found that school districts across southeastern Wisconsin record attendance data in different ways. Some districts count days suspended and/or expelled as days absent. Thus, if a student is suspended for five days, they are marked absent for five days. Other districts report days absent and days suspended and/or expelled separately. According to DPI, districts are supposed to submit zero for actual and possible days attended for students who are either suspended or expelled (if the expelled student retains enrollment status) when reporting attendance data.

In 2004-05, students in southeastern Wisconsin missed 3.6 million days, or 6.5% of the total possible days, due to absences. Milwaukee County school districts had the highest percentage (8.7%) of days missed because of absences. Kenosha County school districts followed with students missing 6.8% of the total possible days. Racine County students missed 5.2% of the days. These three counties are home to the three largest districts in southeastern Wisconsin - MPS, Kenosha, and Racine - which ranked one, two,

and seven in absences respectively. MPS students missed 10.9% of all MPS school days in 2004-05 due to absences, while Kenosha students missed 7.3% of all Kenosha school days. Students at Whitefish Bay School District had the lowest percentage of days absent in the region with students missing 2.8% of the days. At the state level, 5.5% of the total possible days were missed due to absences, and if southeastern Wisconsin is taken out of the state total, students in the rest of the state missed 4.9% of possible days.

In terms of the five-year change in attendance, we looked at the difference between the percentage of days lost in 2000-01 and those lost in 2004-05. Southeastern Wisconsin improved by 12.7%. In 2000-01, students in the region missed 7.5% of possible days. Southeastern Wisconsin districts showed more improvement than the state, where the percentage of days lost decreased 5.1%. Racine School District showed the greatest improvement (27%) from 2000-01 to 2004-05.

There are other reasons students may not be in school besides absences. Expelled students missed more than 62,000 days in southeastern Wisconsin in 2003-04, or 0.11% of all possible days. That was slightly greater than the state percentage of 0.09%. Students in the region lost more than 167,000 days because of suspensions, or 0.3% of the total. State-wide, the percentage was 0.2% in 2003-04.

Table 3.1 - Absenteeism

	2004-05 possible days	2004-05 days absent	% of days absent	Rank	2003-04* possible days	2003-04* days expelled	% days lost to expulsions	2003-04* days suspended	% days lost to suspensions
Kenosha County	5,156,355.5	352,292.5	6.8%		5,103,591	9,546	0.19%	13,566	0.27%
Central/Westosha Union	592,123.5	29,806.5	5.0%	13	590,287	552	0.09%	494	0.08%
Kenosha	3,886,393	283,344	7.3%	2	3,837,347	8,364	0.22%	11,771	0.31%
Wilmot Union	677,839	39,142	5.8%	5	675,957	630	0.09%	1,301	0.19%
Milwaukee County	25,079,822.5	2,172,437	8.7%		25,822,796	34,416	0.13%	127,589	0.49%
Brown Deer	343,505	11,433.5	3.3%	44	362,244	114	0.03%	538	0.15%
Cudahy	519,888	20,249.5	3.9%	37	517,065	0	0.00%	1,350	0.26%
Franklin Public	706,472.5	30,841.5	4.4%	30	739,487	102	0.01%	815	0.11%
Greendale	442,798	22,485.5	5.1%	12	420,076	0	0.00%	189	0.04%
Greenfield	593,260.5	28,493.5	4.8%	17	600,960	516	0.09%	947	0.16%
Milwaukee	16,022,397	1,742,549	10.9%	1	16,672,382	30,265	0.18%	116,571	0.70%
Nicolet Union	684,573.5	35,211	5.1%	11	687,092	81	0.01%	1,049	0.15%
Oak Creek-Franklin	919,813.5	41,001.5	4.5%	26	925,581	1,041	0.11%	717	0.08%
St. Francis	255,389	14,013.5	5.5%	8	256,001	0	0.00%	424	0.17%
Shorewood	357,336.5	16,215.5	4.5%	23	370,937	262	0.07%	208	0.06%
South Milwaukee	610,939	41,832.5	6.8%	3	607,895	1,364	0.22%	933	0.15%
Wauwatosa	1,180,092.5	56,652	4.8%	18	1,194,218	0	0.00%	1,288	0.11%
West Allis	1,494,501	81,298	5.4%	9	1,496,436	671	0.04%	2,233	0.15%
Whitefish Bay	507,750	14,311	2.8%	50	525,618	0	0.00%	181	0.03%
Whitnall	441,106.5	15,849.5	3.6%	41	446,805	0	0.00%	147	0.03%
Ozaukee County	2,401,269	95,118.5	4.0%		2,347,832	230	0.01%	933	0.04%
Cedarburg	568,807	17,907.5	3.1%	49	560,022	39	0.01%	259	0.05%
Grafton	368,006	18,484.5	5.0%	14	360,542	75	0.02%	150	0.04%
Mequon-Thiensville	713,910	29,217.5	4.1%	32	746,303	0	0.00%	112	0.01%
Northern Ozaukee	290,931.5	9,392.5	3.2%	47	225,394	0	0.00%	90	0.04%
Port Washington-Saukville	459,614.5	20,116.5	4.4%	29	455,571	116	0.03%	323	0.07%
Racine County	5,356,935	281,184.5	5.2%		5,296,453	2,230	0.04%	12,787	0.24%
Burlington Area	661,859	36,788.5	5.6%	6	662,324	123	0.02%	261	0.04%
Racine	3,709,487	204,199.5	5.5%	7	3,671,940	1,866	0.05%	11,719	0.32%
Union Grove Union	412,829.5	13,713	3.3%	45	396,858	60	0.02%	303	0.08%
Waterford Union	572,759.5	26,483.5	4.6%	22	565,331	181	0.03%	504	0.09%
Walworth County	2,767,452	139,955.5	5.1%		2,709,254	6,237	0.23%	3,972	0.15%
Big Foot Union	336,444	17,670	5.3%	10	323,847	435	0.13%	286	0.09%
Delavan-Darien	472,871	29,555	6.3%	4	465,529	1,819	0.39%	1,637	0.35%
East Troy Community	304,699	14,788.5	4.9%	15	300,267	82	0.03%	150	0.05%
Elkhorn Area	498,943	24,178.5	4.8%	16	467,293	0	0.00%	371	0.08%
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	713,697	33,182.5	4.6%	20	699,681	1,584	0.23%	1,045	0.15%
Whitewater	347,808	16,121	4.6%	21	362,949	2,317	0.64%	456	0.13%
Williams Bay	92,990	4,460	4.8%	19	89,690	0	0.00%	29	0.03%
Washington County	3,612,151	132,971	3.7%		3,592,903	3,649	0.10%	2,508	0.07%
Germantown	659,918	24,528	3.7%	39	648,637	404	0.06%	463	0.07%
Hartford Union	876,803	30,965.5	3.5%	42	873,429	2,430	0.28%	1,023	0.12%
Kewaskum	332,806	11,147.5	3.3%	43	328,375	0	0.00%	222	0.07%
Slinger	513,880	16,797	3.3%	46	509,096	205	0.04%	191	0.04%
West Bend	1,228,744	49,533	4.0%	34	1,233,367	610	0.05%	609	0.05%
Waukesha County	10,973,631	439,134	4.0%		10,726,325	6,431	0.06%	6,466	0.06%
Arrowhead Union	1,183,364	46,163	3.9%	36	1,162,359	0	0.00%	334	0.03%
Elmbrook	1,358,981	55,542.5	4.1%	33	1,336,900	0	0.00%	691	0.05%
Hamilton	721,943	32,425	4.5%	25	700,719	92	0.01%	449	0.06%
Kettle Moraine	784,617	34,529	4.4%	28	778,561	0	0.00%	186	0.02%
Menomonee Falls	815,269.5	32,139.5	3.9%	35	801,024	255	0.03%	482	0.06%
Mukwonago	910,272	40,557	4.5%	27	883,705	0	0.00%	858	0.10%
Muskego-Norway	856,493	35,272.5	4.1%	31	837,550	154	0.02%	412	0.05%
New Berlin	825,185.5	30,097	3.6%	40	817,235	0	0.00%	398	0.05%
Oconomowoc Area	747,386	23,687.5	3.2%	48	725,475	334	0.05%	358	0.05%
Pewaukee	394,469	17,865	4.5%	24	383,851	74	0.02%	198	0.05%
Waukesha	2,364,357	90,359	3.8%	38	2,298,948	5,522	0.24%	2,102	0.09%
Southeastern Wisconsin	55,347,616	3,613,093	6.5%		55,599,153	62,737	0.11%	167,818	0.30%
State of Wisconsin	153,267,317.5	8,454,602.5	5.5%		154,018,158	132,202	0.09%	263,867	0.17%

* 2003-04 was the latest data available from DPI for suspension and expulsion.

Table 3.2 - 5-year percent change in absenteeism

	2000-01 % of days absent	2004-05 % of days absent	% change	Rank
Kenosha County	7.2%	6.8%	-4.5%	
Central/Westosha Union	5.8%	5.0%	-12.6%	34
Kenosha	7.6%	7.3%	-3.8%	23
Wilmot Union	6.0%	5.8%	-3.1%	20
Milwaukee County	10.0%	8.7%	-13.1%	
Brown Deer	4.3%	3.3%	-23.2%	48
Cudahy	4.5%	3.9%	-13.8%	38
Franklin Public	4.5%	4.4%	-2.3%	18
Greendale	4.3%	5.1%	18.3%	3
Greenfield	4.8%	4.8%	0.3%	14
Milwaukee	12.8%	10.9%	-15.0%	42
Nicolet Union	4.5%	5.1%	15.5%	4
Oak Creek-Franklin	4.6%	4.5%	-3.3%	21
Saint Francis	6.5%	5.5%	-15.2%	43
Shorewood	4.6%	4.5%	-1.2%	15
South Milwaukee	4.8%	6.8%	41.5%	1
Wauwatosa	4.6%	4.8%	3.9%	9
West Allis	4.9%	5.4%	10.9%	6
Whitefish Bay	3.3%	2.8%	-14.7%	40
Whitnall	4.0%	3.6%	-10.9%	33
Ozaukee County	4.1%	4.0%	-3.1%	
Cedarburg	3.6%	3.1%	-13.0%	37
Grafton	4.2%	5.0%	18.5%	2
Mequon-Thiensville	3.8%	4.1%	7.7%	7
Northern Ozaukee	4.0%	3.2%	-18.6%	45
Port Washington-Saukville	5.0%	4.4%	-12.7%	36
Racine County	6.8%	5.2%	-22.3%	
Burlington Area	5.0%	5.6%	11.7%	5
Racine	7.5%	5.5%	-27.1%	50
Union Grove Union	4.3%	3.3%	-23.2%	49
Waterford Union	5.1%	4.6%	-9.5%	31
Walworth County	5.6%	5.1%	-10.1%	
Big Foot Union	5.4%	5.3%	-2.0%	17
Delavan-Darien	7.3%	6.3%	-14.2%	39
East Troy Community	5.7%	4.9%	-14.7%	41
Elkhorn Area	4.8%	4.8%	1.1%	13
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	5.6%	4.6%	-16.6%	44
Whitewater	5.0%	4.6%	-7.5%	28
Williams Bay	4.9%	4.8%	-1.7%	16
Washington County	4.2%	3.7%	-11.7%	
Germantown	4.1%	3.7%	-9.2%	30
Hartford Union	4.4%	3.5%	-19.7%	46
Kewaskum	4.2%	3.3%	-20.1%	47
Slinger	3.5%	3.3%	-5.7%	24
West Bend	4.3%	4.0%	-6.9%	27
Waukesha County	4.1%	4.0%	-3.1%	
Arrowhead Union	3.8%	3.9%	1.9%	11
Elmbrook	3.9%	4.1%	4.6%	8
Hamilton	4.4%	4.5%	1.6%	12
Kettle Moraine	4.3%	4.4%	2.1%	10
Menomonee Falls	4.1%	3.9%	-3.1%	19
Mukwonago	4.8%	4.5%	-7.7%	29
Muskego-Norway	4.6%	4.1%	-9.9%	32
New Berlin	3.9%	3.6%	-6.0%	25
Oconomowoc Area	3.6%	3.2%	-12.7%	35
Pewaukee	4.8%	4.5%	-6.0%	26
Waukesha	4.0%	3.8%	-3.6%	22
Southeastern Wisconsin	7.5%	6.5%	-12.7%	
State of Wisconsin	5.8%	5.5%	-5.1%	

Part IV. Student performance

The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) is administered annually to students in grades 3-8 and grade 10. Students in the 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades are tested on reading and math. Students in the 4th, 8th, and 10th grades are tested on content in language arts, science, and social studies, in addition to reading and math. Students' scores on the exam are classified as minimal, basic, proficient, or advanced.

The WKCE underwent two major changes in 2005-06. The Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (WRCT) formerly measured 3rd grade skills. In fact, 3rd graders did not take the WKCE. DPI phased out the WRCT and administered the WKCE to 3rd graders as "No Child Left Behind" standards dictate. This change in testing must be taken into account when studying 3rd grade performance.

Another change to the WKCE during 2005-06 was the addition of 5th, 6th, and 7th grade tests, as mandated by "No Child Left Behind Act." In the past, only 4th, 8th, and 10th graders took the examination. As a result, no historical test data are available for 5th, 6th, and 7th graders.

Administrators of the "No Child Left Behind Act" use scores from WKCE to determine those schools that need improvement and meet annual yearly progress goals. Scores on the test are significant because federal "No Child Left Behind Act" funding is determined in part by how well students perform on standardized tests.

Finally, historical comparisons can only be made with data from 2002-03 or more recent exams because of the change in testing procedures.

Key statistics

- Overall, WKCE scores in the region trailed in the rest of the state. Nevertheless, they're encouraging because scores improved in 6 of 10 categories in 2005. Table 1 displays the current gap between scores in southeastern Wisconsin and the rest of the state.

- WKCE scores in the region are dramatically higher than scores in the rest of the state when schools in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha are not included in the analysis. The immense disparity between suburban and large urban schools becomes glaringly apparent in reviewing WKCE outcomes (see table 2).
- The highest aggregate scores across all grades in the region were in reading - higher than those in either math or science. The state shows a similar pattern, with the highest scores in reading.
- In reading and math, the 8th grade outperformed other grades. Reading and math scores peaked in the 8th grade and fell off in the 10th grade.
- Science scores remained an area of concern. They were highest among 4th graders and then declined steadily as grade levels increased. Science was also the area in which there was the greatest disparity between the region and the state.

WKCE reading

- Cedarburg was the only district that ranked in the top 10 for reading scores across all grade levels (see table 4.2).
- The gap between reading scores in the region and the rest of the state was smallest across all grades.
- The smallest achievement gap in WKCE outcomes was in 4th grade reading scores.

WKCE math

- WKCE math scores in southeastern Wisconsin trailed scores in reading and science. The percentage of students "at or above proficient" in math was lower than in any other subject with the exception of 10th grade students (see table 1).
- For the second year in a row, the Arrowhead and Elmbrook districts were ranked in the top 10 across all grades in math scores.
- Williams Bay showed the greatest improvement in math scores in the 4th grade; Wilmot Union in the 8th grade, and Wauwatosa in the 10th grade.

WKCE science

- Although WKCE science scores as a whole were higher than the region's math scores, performance in science dropped sharply in the higher grades.
- The achievement gap between the region and the rest of the state was greatest in science at every grade level (see table 1). The greatest disparity in any subject area or grade occurred in 8th grade science scores, where the region trailed the rest of the state by 8.5 percentage points.
- Arrowhead, Cedarburg, and Mukwonago schools were in the top 10 science rankings for all grades tested. Cedarburg and Mukwonago also ranked in the top 10 in every grade tested last year (see table 4.3).
- The most improved science score rankings were in Pewaukee and Williams Bay in the 4th grade; Waterford Union and West Bend in the 8th grade; and Burlington Area in the 10th grade.

Table 4.1 - Percentage of 3rd, 4th, 8th and 10th grade reading “at or above proficient”, 2005-06

	3rd grade	Rank	4th grade	Rank	8th grade	Rank	10th grade	Rank
Kenosha County								
Central/Westosha Union	86.4%	31	81.1%	43	92.7%	22	79.0%	38
Kenosha	76.7%	45	79.7%	44	81.7%	46	71.1%	47
Wilmot Union	81.3%	42	81.6%	42	90.6%	34	76.1%	42
Milwaukee County								
Brown Deer	87.5%	27	87.1%	35	86.3%	43	83.9%	24
Cudahy	82.9%	38	82.2%	41	84.9%	44	71.3%	46
Franklin Public	91.4%	13	94.3%	12	92.4%	25	86.4%	18
Greendale	95.4%	4	97.1%	1	92.5%	24	92.9%	3
Greenfield	88.3%	25	89.9%	28	91.4%	30	78.8%	39
Milwaukee	59.2%	50	60.0%	50	57.5%	50	39.5%	50
Nicolet Union	89.8%	22	92.5%	19	91.2%	33	90.4%	6
Oak Creek-Franklin	83.1%	37	88.6%	30	92.2%	26	83.5%	25
St. Francis	68.5%	47	74.7%	47	79.6%	47	73.3%	45
Shorewood	89.4%	23	94.1%	15	95.1%	12	92.8%	4
South Milwaukee	89.0%	24	75.6%	46	92.7%	21	82.2%	32
Wauwatosa	90.6%	18	90.6%	25	91.3%	32	88.0%	17
West Allis	78.4%	43	82.4%	40	83.9%	45	79.7%	37
Whitefish Bay	95.8%	3	91.3%	23	96.3%	5	89.8%	9
Whitnall	83.7%	34	88.8%	29	97.4%	2	81.7%	33
Ozaukee County								
Cedarburg	96.7%	1	95.0%	6	96.7%	4	92.0%	5
Grafton	93.8%	7	94.1%	14	93.9%	17	88.7%	14
Mequon-Thiensville	96.7%	1	94.8%	7	92.8%	20	90.4%	7
Northern Ozaukee	86.2%	32	90.4%	26	91.9%	27	80.0%	36
Port Washington-Saukville	92.7%	10	92.9%	18	96.1%	9	88.1%	16
Racine County								
Burlington Area	91.1%	16	87.7%	34	92.6%	23	84.9%	22
Racine	66.1%	48	72.2%	48	69.8%	49	56.1%	49
Union Grove Union	87.8%	26	88.1%	32	87.5%	41	73.5%	44
Waterford Union	92.9%	8	95.2%	5	94.6%	14	81.3%	34
Walworth County								
Big Foot Union	83.2%	36	83.0%	39	93.8%	18	81.0%	35
Delavan-Darien	62.3%	49	66.7%	49	78.9%	48	67.0%	48
East Troy Community	85.7%	33	94.7%	10	96.1%	8	84.1%	23
Elkhorn Area	77.2%	44	91.8%	22	96.2%	7	83.0%	29
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	83.5%	35	87.0%	36	88.6%	38	77.0%	40
Whitewater	69.9%	46	76.6%	45	88.3%	39	73.6%	43
Williams Bay	90.3%	20	92.3%	20	87.0%	42	83.3%	27
Washington County								
Germantown	95.0%	5	94.8%	7	94.2%	16	83.1%	28
Hartford Union	86.4%	30	90.2%	27	91.8%	28	85.7%	21
Kewaskum	81.9%	40	84.5%	37	88.8%	36	95.4%	1
Slinger	94.3%	6	93.0%	17	94.7%	13	85.9%	19
West Bend	86.9%	28	91.1%	24	88.6%	37	83.4%	26
Waukesha County								
Arrowhead Union	90.6%	19	94.4%	11	94.6%	15	88.4%	15
Elmbrook	92.7%	9	93.7%	16	95.4%	11	94.1%	2
Hamilton	91.2%	14	94.3%	13	96.3%	6	89.3%	11
Kettle Moraine	90.0%	21	92.1%	21	97.2%	3	90.2%	8
Menomonee Falls	86.6%	29	88.1%	31	87.8%	40	85.9%	20
Mukwonago	91.2%	15	95.6%	4	95.8%	10	89.1%	13
Muskego-Norway	90.7%	17	94.8%	9	91.4%	31	89.4%	10
New Berlin	92.5%	11	95.7%	3	91.4%	29	89.3%	12
Oconomowoc	82.1%	39	87.7%	33	93.1%	19	82.6%	30
Pewaukee	91.4%	12	95.9%	2	98.8%	1	82.6%	31
Waukesha	81.7%	41	83.7%	38	89.1%	35	76.4%	41
Southeastern Wisconsin	76.8%		78.8%		80.1%		70.9%	
State	79.1%		80.9%		83.5%		74.1%	

Table 4.2 - Percentage of 3rd, 4th, 8th and 10th grade math “at or above proficient”, 2005-06

	3rd Grade	Rank	4th Grade	Rank	8th Grade	Rank	10th Grade	Rank
Kenosha County								
Central/Westosha Union	80.1%	28	66.7%	45	88.0%	16	69.2%	43
Kenosha	68.7%	43	66.7%	45	74.1%	46	63.2%	47
Wilmot Union	79.3%	30	75.2%	39	85.6%	22	76.8%	30
Milwaukee County								
Brown Deer	77.1%	34	79.6%	33	71.9%	47	73.8%	38
Cudahy	70.3%	41	73.6%	40	78.5%	36	67.1%	45
Franklin Public	85.7%	18	89.6%	11	85.2%	23	88.5%	10
Greendale	90.8%	10	90.6%	8	87.1%	18	95.4%	1
Greenfield	85.9%	17	80.8%	30	81.4%	31	74.2%	36
Milwaukee	41.2%	50	43.0%	50	37.3%	50	30.1%	50
Nicolet Union	84.7%	20	90.7%	7	86.0%	21	89.2%	7
Oak Creek-Franklin	77.9%	33	80.5%	31	85.1%	24	80.6%	25
St. Francis	47.9%	49	67.1%	44	74.5%	45	65.9%	46
Shorewood	87.8%	16	84.7%	23	90.9%	8	91.4%	3
South Milwaukee	71.3%	39	65.6%	47	77.7%	40	75.5%	33
Wauwatosa	87.9%	15	84.4%	25	84.6%	26	86.7%	13
West Allis	72.2%	37	79.3%	34	76.0%	44	77.5%	29
Whitefish Bay	89.0%	13	89.1%	12	92.2%	4	88.5%	9
Whitnall	82.1%	26	86.2%	18	89.7%	13	76.6%	32
Ozaukee County								
Cedarburg	92.8%	4	88.9%	13	90.5%	9	89.3%	6
Grafton	91.2%	8	86.3%	17	86.5%	20	82.5%	23
Mequon-Thiensville	92.9%	3	93.1%	4	92.4%	1	86.8%	12
Northern Ozaukee	78.0%	32	81.9%	28	82.9%	30	80.0%	26
Port Washington-Saukville	84.8%	19	85.2%	21	89.3%	14	84.0%	21
Racine County								
Burlington Area	74.6%	36	77.3%	35	80.2%	34	74.5%	35
Racine	51.1%	48	57.4%	49	56.8%	49	53.5%	49
Union Grove Union	76.3%	35	75.5%	38	78.0%	39	72.2%	42
Waterford Union	89.8%	11	85.6%	20	84.8%	25	73.9%	37
Walworth County								
Big Foot Union	62.6%	46	73.2%	41	91.0%	7	78.2%	27
Delavan-Darien	59.9%	47	61.1%	48	58.9%	48	59.9%	48
East Troy Community	81.0%	27	83.3%	26	78.1%	38	75.5%	34
Elkhorn Area	68.5%	44	80.4%	32	86.6%	19	81.3%	24
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	68.8%	42	75.5%	37	76.4%	42	73.1%	39
Whitewater	65.0%	45	68.5%	42	78.6%	35	67.1%	44
Williams Bay	71.0%	40	84.6%	24	76.1%	43	72.9%	40
Washington County								
Germantown	95.5%	1	92.2%	5	82.9%	29	84.9%	19
Hartford Union	79.8%	29	84.9%	22	83.0%	28	76.7%	31
Kewaskum	78.7%	31	76.2%	36	78.3%	37	85.4%	16
Slinger	90.9%	9	88.2%	14	89.0%	15	83.4%	22
West Bend	83.0%	25	82.8%	27	81.2%	32	85.8%	14
Waukesha County								
Arrowhead Union	91.5%	6	93.2%	3	92.3%	2	90.7%	5
Elmbrook	88.5%	14	90.9%	6	90.4%	10	91.9%	2
Hamilton	89.7%	12	87.7%	15	92.2%	5	85.4%	17
Kettle Moraine	94.1%	2	89.8%	10	89.9%	12	89.0%	8
Menomonee Falls	83.7%	23	80.9%	29	76.5%	41	84.8%	20
Mukwonago	83.6%	24	89.9%	9	91.0%	6	88.2%	11
Muskego-Norway	84.3%	21	86.9%	16	90.3%	11	85.4%	18
New Berlin	91.8%	5	93.4%	2	83.8%	27	90.8%	4
Oconomowoc	84.0%	22	85.9%	19	87.6%	17	85.6%	15
Pewaukee	91.4%	7	93.9%	1	92.2%	3	77.9%	28
Waukesha	71.3%	38	67.8%	43	80.8%	33	72.7%	41
Southeastern Wisconsin	66.8%		67.9%		68.7%		66.2%	
State	70.5%		71.3%		73.1%		70.7%	

Table 4.3 - Percentage of 4th, 8th and 10th grade science “at or above proficient”, 2005-06

	4th Grade	Rank	8th Grade	Rank	10th Grade	Rank
Kenosha County						
Central/Westosha Union	76.6%	44	83.4%	27	77.3%	32
Kenosha	71.0%	46	71.1%	46	61.4%	48
Wilmot Union	81.6%	40	83.9%	22	74.1%	37
Milwaukee County						
Brown Deer	49.2%	50	74.8%	44	72.0%	43
Cudahy	78.5%	42	79.0%	38	66.3%	47
Franklin Public	83.4%	38	85.9%	21	81.0%	25
Greendale	92.9%	10	87.1%	18	88.3%	9
Greenfield	86.4%	31	83.7%	24	71.9%	44
Milwaukee	58.1%	49	36.1%	50	25.2%	50
Nicolet Union	91.1%	17	77.6%	41	83.4%	19
Oak Creek-Franklin	84.2%	36	81.2%	32	80.4%	28
St. Francis	84.8%	35	72.4%	45	68.9%	45
Shorewood	86.4%	30	88.1%	13	92.1%	1
South Milwaukee	73.7%	45	75.2%	43	72.5%	41
Wauwatosa	85.4%	34	83.0%	29	82.7%	23
West Allis	81.8%	39	71.0%	47	72.4%	42
Whitefish Bay	91.3%	16	88.5%	12	88.5%	7
Whitnall	89.5%	22	91.8%	1	83.0%	21
Ozaukee County						
Cedarburg	93.3%	8	91.7%	2	91.6%	3
Grafton	97.1%	2	87.2%	17	91.2%	4
Mequon-Thiensville	91.8%	14	89.0%	11	87.8%	10
Northern Ozaukee	86.2%	32	83.8%	23	82.9%	22
Port Washington-Saukville	90.5%	19	86.5%	19	87.2%	11
Racine County						
Burlington Area	87.2%	28	78.2%	40	79.5%	29
Racine	66.9%	47	53.0%	49	53.1%	49
Union Grove Union	88.7%	25	78.6%	39	73.5%	39
Waterford Union	90.9%	18	89.3%	9	77.4%	31
Walworth County						
Big Foot Union	89.3%	23	91.7%	3	76.9%	34
Delavan-Darien	64.8%	48	68.6%	48	66.5%	46
East Troy Community	92.1%	13	87.5%	16	76.2%	35
Elkhorn Area	87.3%	27	87.6%	15	81.3%	24
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	83.9%	37	76.4%	42	79.3%	30
Whitewater	78.2%	43	80.0%	37	73.6%	38
Williams Bay	100.0%	1	80.4%	34	72.9%	40
Washington County						
Germantown	96.6%	3	90.2%	7	80.4%	27
Hartford Union	89.6%	21	82.7%	30	76.9%	33
Kewaskum	88.1%	26	80.4%	35	86.8%	13
Slinger	93.5%	7	88.0%	14	85.5%	14
West Bend	87.0%	29	83.7%	25	84.2%	16
Waukesha County						
Arrowhead Union	93.2%	9	91.3%	4	90.5%	5
Elmbrook	92.2%	12	91.3%	5	91.6%	2
Hamilton	90.4%	20	89.2%	10	85.4%	15
Kettle Moraine	91.5%	15	91.1%	6	88.4%	8
Menomonee Falls	85.4%	33	81.0%	33	80.5%	26
Mukwonago	94.1%	4	90.0%	8	88.8%	6
Muskego-Norway	92.7%	11	86.0%	20	83.8%	18
New Berlin	94.1%	5	83.5%	26	87.0%	12
Oconomowoc	89.1%	24	82.1%	31	83.2%	20
Pewaukee	93.9%	6	83.2%	28	84.1%	17
Waukesha	78.5%	41	80.1%	36	76.1%	36
Southeastern Wisconsin	73.2%		67.6%		64.8%	
State	77.5%		73.3%		69.9%	

WKCE ranking

This year, the Forum created and assigned a single number ranking to each school district to measure WKCE scores. This indicator was created by totaling the reading and math rankings in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th grades. Based on that sum, each school district was assigned a final ranking (see table 4.4). Scores in single subjects or grade levels do not necessarily give an adequate picture of how students in a school district are performing. A single ranking provides a better measurement of school district performance in the region.

Such rankings also can be useful in tracking student performance over time. WKCE trends in overall performance help to determine whether students improved academically. A single number gives a less fragmented picture of how student scores compare to scores in previous years.

- Mequon-Thiensville was the highest ranked school district. The other districts in the top five were Cedarburg, Whitefish Bay, Arrowhead Union, and Elmbrook.
- Five out of the top 10 school districts were located in Waukesha County.
- Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine - districts with the largest enrollments - were in the bottom five.

“No Child Left Behind Act”

DPI noted that *schools identified for improvement* (SIFI) and *annual yearly progress* (AYP) were measured by examining test participation, attendance in elementary and middle school, secondary school graduation rates, and performance scores on WKCE math and reading exams. Table 4.5 shows the trends in SIFI based on these criteria. For the third year in a row, the number of schools in need of improvement in the region and in the region’s largest district - MPS - have decreased.

Schools that fail to meet standards set by the “No Child Left Behind Act” are required to meet AYP objectives in order to be removed from the list of SIFI. This year, the number of schools failing to meet AYP objectives increased substantially: 66 schools did not make AYP standards, up from 40 in 2005. Trends in AYP and SIFI are important to track because school performance helps to determine the amount of federal funding that schools receive.

Table 4.5 - Number of schools identified for improvement

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

Table 4.4 - Total WKCE performance ranking, 2005-06

	Total reading	Total math	Total score	Total rank
Kenosha County				
Central/Westosha Union	252	221	473	36
Kenosha	319	311	630	47
Wilmot Union	275	211	486	38
Milwaukee County				
Brown Deer	225	264	489	39
Cudahy	256	282	538	42
Franklin Public	124	124	248	18
Greendale	81	70	151	9
Greenfield	216	235	451	33
Milwaukee	350	350	700	50
Nicolet Union	153	135	288	22
Oak Creek-Franklin	195	204	399	28
St. Francis	315	293	608	46
Shorewood	67	64	131	6
South Milwaukee	237	270	507	40
Wauwatosa	154	129	283	21
West Allis	300	266	566	44
Whitefish Bay	55	60	115	3
Whitnall	150	127	277	20
Ozaukee County				
Cedarburg	32	68	100	2
Grafton	97	141	238	17
Mequon-Thiensville	61	25	86	1
Northern Ozaukee	228	235	463	35
Port Washington-Saukville	130	133	263	19
Racine County				
Burlington Area	215	261	476	37
Racine	339	340	679	49
Union Grove Union	207	252	459	34
Waterford Union	90	138	228	15
Walworth County				
Big Foot Union	239	210	449	32
Delavan-Darien	339	330	669	48
East Troy Community	137	213	350	25
Elkhorn Area	202	225	427	30
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	276	277	553	43
Whitewater	296	297	593	45
Williams Bay	178	250	428	31
Washington County				
Germantown	107	97	204	14
Hartford Union	155	174	329	23
Kewaskum	217	203	420	29
Slinger	87	101	188	13
West Bend	209	180	389	27
Waukesha County				
Arrowhead Union	89	31	120	4
Elmbrook	68	61	129	5
Hamilton	68	91	159	11
Kettle Moraine	92	61	153	10
Menomonee Falls	217	170	387	26
Mukwonago	79	86	165	12
Muskego-Norway	119	117	236	16
New Berlin	87	51	138	7
Oconomowoc	196	147	343	24
Pewaukee	72	73	145	8
Waukesha	268	267	535	41

ACT results

The ACT is another indicator of a student's preparedness for higher education, examining aptitude in math, reading, English, and science. According to DPI, the test is designed to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. Ostensibly, students who perform well on the ACT will be better equipped for the challenges of higher education. Table 4.6 shows the region's ACT scores.

- The region's composite ACT score average was 22, compared to 22.2 for the rest of the state.
- Three of the region's largest districts, MPS, Delavan-Darien, and Racine saw ACT scores go down in 2005.
- MPS ranked 50th in ACT composite scores, slipping to 17.5 in 2005 from 18.1 in 2004.
- Whitefish Bay, Shorewood, Mequon-Thiensville, Nicolet Union, and Elmbrook were the region's top five districts in ACT composite scores in 2006. That has not changed since 1997.

Based on composite scores, the top five most improved districts were Hamilton, Menomonee Falls, Whitewater, South Milwaukee, and Elkhorn Area schools. The most improved district was Hamilton. Its composite ACT score improved to 23.1 from 22.1, improving its ranking among the region's 51 districts by 15 places to 14th.

AP results

The Advanced Placement (AP) exam indicates how well a student is prepared for college. It allows a high school student to receive college credit while still attending high school. AP exam success in a particular district is measured by the number of exams passed as a percentage of student enrollment.

- Whitefish Bay school district ranked 1st with 49% of high school students passing an AP exam.
- There was a great deal of crossover between districts with the highest AP scores and those with the highest ACT scores. Nine districts were ranked in the top 10 in both categories.
- The region ranked 1.3 percentage points higher than the rest of the state on AP exam scores.

Table 4.6 - College preparation indicators, 2004-05

	Composite ACT score	Rank	AP exams passed as % of enrollment	Rank
Kenosha County				
Central/Westosha Union	21.8	39	12.2%	15
Kenosha	21.4	43	3.9%	42
Wilmot Union	20.8	47	5.4%	37
Milwaukee County				
Brown Deer	21.4	42	11.7%	16
Cudahy	22	38	4.2%	40
Franklin Public	22.8	18	9.2%	27
Greendale	23.5	10	19.5%	9
Greenfield	21	46	7.7%	31
Milwaukee	17.5	50	1.1%	48
Nicolet Union	24.7	2	*	*
Oak Creek-Franklin	21.6	41	11.1%	21
St. Francis	20.7	48	0.5%	49
Shorewood	24.4	5	22.6%	7
South Milwaukee	22.4	23	4.3%	39
Wauwatosa	23.8	8	15.8%	10
West Allis	22	37	11.2%	20
Whitefish Bay	25.4	1	49.4%	1
Whitnall	22.2	31	10.3%	24
Ozaukee County				
Cedarburg	24.1	6	21.2%	8
Grafton	22.9	17	29.8%	2
Mequon-Thiensville	24.6	3	26.5%	3
Northern Ozaukee	22.3	26	3.2%	43
Port Washington-Saukville	22.7	21	11.1%	21
Racine County				
Burlington Area	22.1	36	6.2%	33
Racine	21.2	45	1.6%	47
Union Grove Union	21.8	40	5.1%	38
Waterford Union	22.2	32	2.7%	45
Walworth County				
Big Foot Union	21.3	44	4.2%	40
Delavan-Darien	20.6	49	2.8%	44
East Troy Community	22.1	35	5.9%	34
Elkhorn Area	22.2	34	11.5%	19
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	22.2	33	12.6%	13
Whitewater	22.3	28	12.3%	14
Williams Bay	22.3	27	7.6%	32
Washington County				
Germantown	23.1	13	11.7%	16
Hartford Union	22.4	24	5.8%	35
Kewaskum	22.3	29	2.4%	46
Slinger	23.4	12	11.0%	23
West Bend	23.1	15	13.9%	11
Waukesha County				
Arrowhead Union	24	7	25.9%	4
Elmbrook	24.5	4	24.4%	5
Hamilton	23.1	14	8.7%	28
Kettle Moraine	22.8	19	11.6%	18
Menomonee Falls	23.5	11	5.8%	35
Mukwonago	23.1	16	13.9%	11
Muskego-Norway	22.8	20	9.6%	26
New Berlin	23.7	9	24.0%	6
Oconomowoc	22.4	25	8.7%	28
Pewaukee	22.5	22	8.7%	28
Waukesha	22.3	30	9.7%	25
Southeastern Wisconsin	22		8.2%	
State	22.2		6.9%	

Part V. Free and reduced lunch eligibility

DPI tracks annually student eligibility for free or reduced price lunches by school. From 2004-05 to 2005-06, the proportion of students relying on free and reduced lunches increased in five of the seven counties in the region. Only Milwaukee and Racine counties saw the percentage of students in the program decrease.

Table 5.1 shows that 54% of students in Milwaukee County schools were eligible for the program, due in part because 73.4% of MPS students utilized the program. Racine County had the next highest percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch at 30.3%. On the flip side, only 7.4% of the

students in Ozaukee County were eligible for free and reduced lunch in 2005-06. Thirty-seven of the fifty districts in southeastern Wisconsin saw their percentage of free and reduced students increase from 2004-05 to 2005-06.

A link between children's performance in school and nutrition is generally accepted. Coincidentally or not, students attending schools in the top three underperforming districts in the region also had the highest need for free and reduced lunches.

Table 5.1 - Free and reduced lunch, 2005-06

	2005-06 enrollment	Free-reduced count	% free-reduced lunch	Rank
Kenosha County				
Central/Westosha Union	3,361	403	12.0%	26
Kenosha	22,318	8,325	37.3%	4
Wilmot Union	3,853	722	18.7%	16
Milwaukee County				
Brown Deer	1,767	332	18.8%	15
Cudahy	2,873	960	33.4%	6
Franklin Public	4,089	326	8.0%	37
Greendale	2,496	306	12.3%	23
Greenfield	3,164	753	23.8%	11
Milwaukee	91,282	66,976	73.4%	1
Nicolet Union	3,569	484	13.6%	21
Oak Creek-Franklin	5,425	715	13.2%	22
St. Francis	1,378	293	21.3%	12
Shorewood	1,993	185	9.3%	33
South Milwaukee	3,303	955	28.9%	8
Wauwatosa	6,280	747	11.9%	27
West Allis	8,669	3,016	34.8%	5
Whitefish Bay	2,928	93	3.2%	48
Whitnall	2,423	228	9.4%	32
Ozaukee County				
Cedarburg	2,891	84	2.9%	49
Grafton	2,022	195	9.6%	31
Mequon-Thiensville	3,977	194	4.9%	46
Northern Ozaukee	791	80	10.1%	30
Port Washington-Saukville	2,584	357	13.8%	20
Racine County				
Burlington Area	3,630	605	16.7%	17
Racine	21,210	8,109	38.2%	3
Union Grove Union	2,302	239	10.4%	29
Waterford Union	3,180	232	7.3%	39
Walworth County				
Big Foot Union	1,772	422	23.8%	10
Delavan-Darien	2,591	1,144	44.2%	2
East Troy Community	1,673	142	8.5%	35
Elkhorn Area	2,845	459	16.1%	18
Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union	4,238	1,265	29.8%	7
Whitewater	1,970	564	28.6%	9
Williams Bay	516	74	14.3%	19
Washington County				
Germantown	3,547	255	7.2%	40
Hartford Union	4,294	505	11.8%	28
Kewaskum	1,777	217	12.2%	24
Slinger	2,702	207	7.7%	38
West Bend	6,762	1,307	19.3%	14
Waukesha County				
Arrowhead Union	6,289	177	2.8%	50
Elmbrook	7,597	545	7.2%	41
Hamilton	3,954	362	9.2%	34
Kettle Moraine	4,329	217	5.0%	45
Menomonee Falls	4,523	546	12.1%	25
Mukwonago	4,930	283	5.7%	43
Muskego-Norway	4,837	263	5.4%	44
New Berlin	4,481	217	4.8%	47
Oconomowoc Area	4,068	337	8.3%	36
Pewaukee	2,140	137	6.4%	42
Waukesha	13,710	2,718	19.8%	13
Southeastern Wisconsin	309,303	108,277	35.0%	
State of Wisconsin	853,865	256,893	30.1%	

Conclusions from the 2006 schooling report for southeastern Wisconsin

Schools in southeastern Wisconsin showed signs of progress, especially in educational “productivity”. This year, 36 of the 50 school districts examined showed improvements in attendance measurements. Between 2000-01 and 2004-05, each of these districts lost fewer student school days to absences. This indicator reflected positively on schools within the region and suggested an encouraging trend to employers who see these students as crucial to the workforce of the future.

Even so, the region trailed the rest of the state in most performance measurements. Its sub-par performance compared to the state

was due, in large part, to the high proportion of students attending schools in the region’s urban districts. The disparity between urban and suburban districts in nearly all performance, productivity, and participation measures continued to be apparent.

Data sources

Data in this report came from DPI. Comprehensive data on all school districts in Wisconsin and information on the methods used to gather data are available online via the DPI website at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/index.html>.



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