



# SCHOOL CHOICE Advisor

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## Chvala Aide Confirms School Choice Funding Does Not Come From Out-State Districts

**A** top aide to State Sen. Chuck Chvala (D-Madison) has confirmed that financing for the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) does not come from school districts outside Milwaukee.

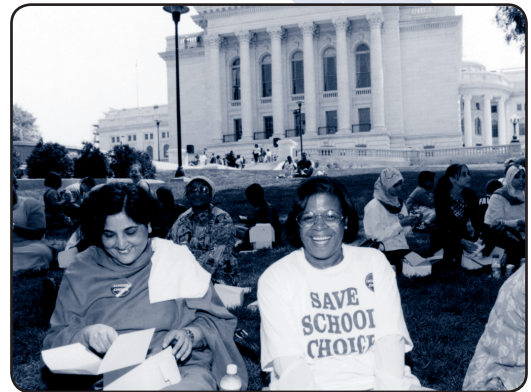
“The voucher program is not taking money from public schools,” said Mike Browne, press secretary to Chvala, the Democratic Senate Majority Leader. Browne’s comment came in a September 17 article in the *Racine Journal Times*.

The fiscal impact of the voucher program on public schools outside Milwaukee has been controversial. In 2001, the Legislature modified the program to ensure that no district outside Milwaukee gains or loses state aid due to the MPCP.

Despite that legislative action, some MPCP opponents persist in claiming that the Milwaukee program takes money away from out-state districts. Browne’s Sept. 17 comment effectively puts Chvala’s office on record as disputing those claims.

While current MPCP funding does not take aid from non-Milwaukee districts, cuts in the program could have that result. The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) estimates that if choice students transferred to the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) there could be shifts of millions of dollars in state school aid to MPS and away from the state’s 425 other school districts (LFB memo to Rep. Antonio Riley, 9/27/01).

These shifts would occur because the state pays a higher percentage (83%) of MPS costs than it does of MPCP costs (55%). *See chart on page 2.*



## New Political Conduit Supports Diverse Backers of School Choice


**S**upporters of Wisconsin school choice programs have formed the Fund for Choices in Education (FCE), a political conduit registered with the Wisconsin State Elections Board (WSEB ID#900152).

As of mid-September, 34 donors had contributed more than \$100,000 to the FCE; \$23,250 in contributions were made prior to the September 10 primary election.

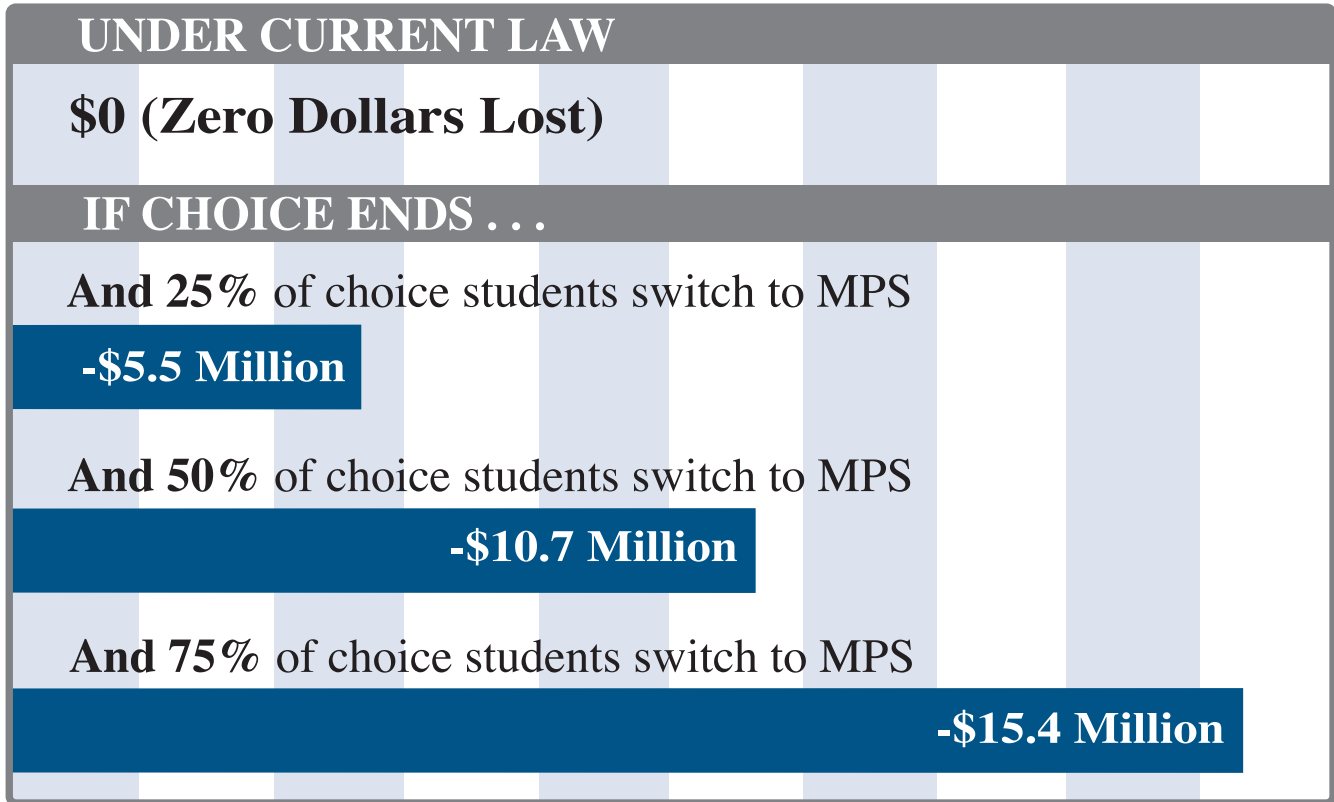
Conduit donors have contributed to Democratic and Republican candidates in this year’s primary and general elections, reported FCE Administrator George Mitchell, of the Mitchell

Company. He said donors identify elected officials and candidates who favor charter schools, educational vouchers, and other programs that expand parent options.

FCE donors particularly support candidates who will oppose further efforts in the State Senate to begin dismantling the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, he said.

Mitchell said the conduit expects to be active in state and local elections over the next several years. 

## MPCP's Impact on School Aid to 425 School Districts Outside Milwaukee



Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau, 9/27/01.

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