

SCHOOLS that CHOICE BUILT

Milwaukee's school choice programs (vouchers, charter, and partnership schools) have encouraged a major private investment in several of the city's high poverty areas.

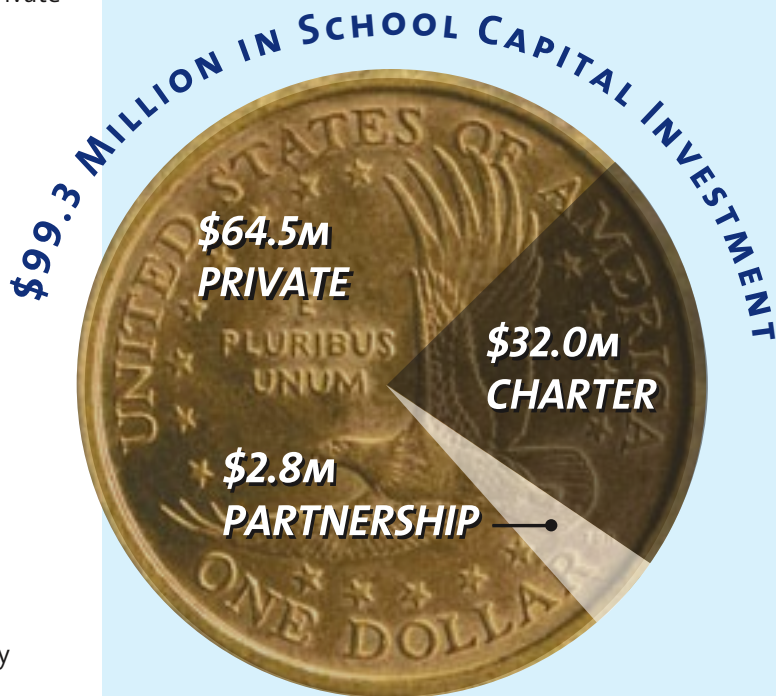
Tens of millions of dollars in private capital—some spent in partnership with public funds—have been used to build new schools and expand existing ones. The projects help stabilize and renew such neighborhoods as Metcalf Park, Parklawn and Walker's Point.

This privately supported effort also helps offset higher taxes that would be needed if voucher, charter, and partnership students instead attended the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). For example, last year MPS said that \$70 million in new capital spending would be needed if the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) ended. The same MPS analysis also forecast an operating deficit of up to \$40 million if vouchers ended.

A map on page four of this brochure locates \$76 million in school construction projects that are finished or underway and \$23 million in future projects.

This combined investment of nearly \$100 million is financed largely by private grants and loans. The vast majority of projects follow legislative and court decisions in the 1990s that authorized independent charter schools and let religious schools join the MPCP.

Fortunately, the Wisconsin Legislature in recent sessions rejected proposals to slash MPCP funding that would have emptied desks in many newly built schools and halted other projects.



Private Schools:
Nonsectarian & religious schools in the MPCP

Charter Schools:
Independent schools chartered by MPS, the City of Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Partnership Schools:
Privately run schools with MPS contracts

Additional Survey Data:

- Of 133 schools surveyed (106 MPCP, 15 independent charter, & 12 partnership schools), 104 responded.
- Sixty-five schools, enrolling 16,748 students, made capital investments.
- Investments totaled \$99,308,254, ranging from \$1,000 to \$8,200,000.
- The average investment was \$1,527,819, with the median investment at \$350,000.
- Twenty-one projects cost more than \$1 million, accounting for 90% of all investment.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Investment Stories – pages 2, 3
Capital Investment Map – page 4

Information for this report comes from a survey conducted in late 2002 by the American Education Reform Council. AERC is a nonprofit organization located in Milwaukee that seeks to ensure an honest debate about school choice by providing accurate information on the impact of school choice on families, communities, and schools.

This report was produced and designed by Abigail Winger and Phil Norton. For more information, contact Susan Mitchell, AERC President, at 414-319-9160, or visit our website: www.SchoolChoiceInfo.org.

SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROFILES

Central City Cyberschool • 4301 N. 44th Street

The three-year old **Central City Cyberschool** serves 346 African-American elementary students from the nearby Parklawn neighborhood, one of Milwaukee's oldest public housing developments. The school, chartered by the City of Milwaukee through a 1997 act of the Legislature, operates in a \$7.3 million facility financed privately in partnership with Johnson Controls Corporation and through City Housing Authority and federal assistance. The 48,000 square foot school was designed and built to support a wireless laptop computer-based curriculum.

\$7.3 million project



Darrell Lynn Hines College Preparatory Academy of Excellence • 7151 N. 86th Street

The four-year old **D. L. Hines Academy** on Milwaukee's far northwest side originally participated in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP). The privately financed, \$2.8 million school operates under City charter status effective in the 2002-03 school year. It provides an International Baccalaureate curriculum in grades K-5 and will be expanding to grades K-8.

\$2.8 million project



Notre Dame Middle School • 1420 W. Scott Street

Located on Milwaukee's south side in the Walker's Point neighborhood, **Notre Dame Middle School** serves 86 Latina girls, 64 of whom qualify for MPCP vouchers. The school has raised \$1.4 million in private funds as part of a \$2.6 million renovation and expansion. Completed work includes replacing old windows and a boiler and updating classrooms. Construction is expected to begin in May 2003 on a two-story brick addition that will provide a new gym, science lab, art classroom and four additional classrooms.

\$2.6 million project

NOVA (the Northwest Opportunities Vocational Academy) • 3718 W. Lancaster Avenue

The Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) contracts with **NOVA**, an MPS partnership school, to teach approximately 100 at-risk middle and high school students on Milwaukee's near northwest side. The school's landlord, the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, purchased a vacant factory and converted a portion for space used by **NOVA**. The private, non-profit Transcenter for Youth provides **NOVA**'s educational program. The \$1.1 million project was financed through a combination of local and federal government loans and grants, private foundation donations, and private bank loans.

\$1.1 million project

Prince of Peace/Principe de Paz School

1114 S. 25th Street and 1646 S. 22nd Street

This south side Catholic school serves 367 students, 296 of whom participate in the MPCP. Through a unique partnership with MPS that will save taxes, **Prince of Peace** will undertake an \$8 million project that includes a new grade 1-8 school and, at a separate location, an early childhood center that will serve MPS and **Prince of Peace** students. MPS will contribute \$800,000 and eliminate the need to spend a larger sum on its own building. Both buildings will be occupied by August, 2004.

\$8.0 million project





St. Marcus Lutheran School • 2215 N. Palmer Street

St. Marcus School has served families in the north side Brewer's Hill neighborhood since 1872. Spurred by expansion in the MPCP, St. Marcus Lutheran Church is raising \$5 million in private funds to build a new school that will open for the 2003-04 school year. The 56,000 square foot, three-story, red-brick school will have a capacity for 250 students, compared to 110 in the former, now-demolished school. Located in temporary quarters during construction, St. Marcus enrolls 220 students, 180 of whom receive MPCP vouchers. Private financing for the new school includes a \$1.5 million loan from Partners Advancing Values in Education (PAVE).

\$5.0 million project

Salam School • 4707 S. 13th Street

A participant of the MPCP since 1998 and in operation serving Milwaukee's Muslim population since 1992, Salam School enrolls 325 students. In order to accommodate a growing student population, the school spent \$1.5 million to add seven new classrooms, a gymnasium, and an activity room in addition to other school renovations. The bulk of the construction was paid for by private donation (80%), with the rest covered by loans. Support was provided by the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, among other donors.

\$1.5 million project



United Community Center Middle School • 920 S. 9th Street

The United Community Center (UCC) raised \$5.5 million in private grants to build a new middle school with distinctive Mexican-style architecture in the Walker's Point neighborhood. The three-story school, which opened in April 2002, houses 15 classrooms, a computer lab, a gym, a library, and an auditorium. UCC operates its middle school and the Bruce Guadalupe Elementary School under an MPS charter. Bruce Guadalupe previously flourished under the MPCP. The two UCC schools serve 622 Latino youth, mainly from nearby South Side neighborhoods. The UCC Middle School has capacity to enroll 300 students.

\$5.5 million project

Urban Day School • 1441 N. 24th Street and 3782 N. 12th Street

Since 1967, Urban Day School has been educating students in Milwaukee's near west side. It has also participated in the MPCP since the program's inception in 1990. Currently serving 597 students at two sites, Urban Day School has spent more than \$3 million renovating the site it purchased in 1997 and added five classes and a media center in 2002. Grants covered \$2.75 million of the renovation and construction, while the rest was funded by a split between loans and private donations.

\$3.1 million project

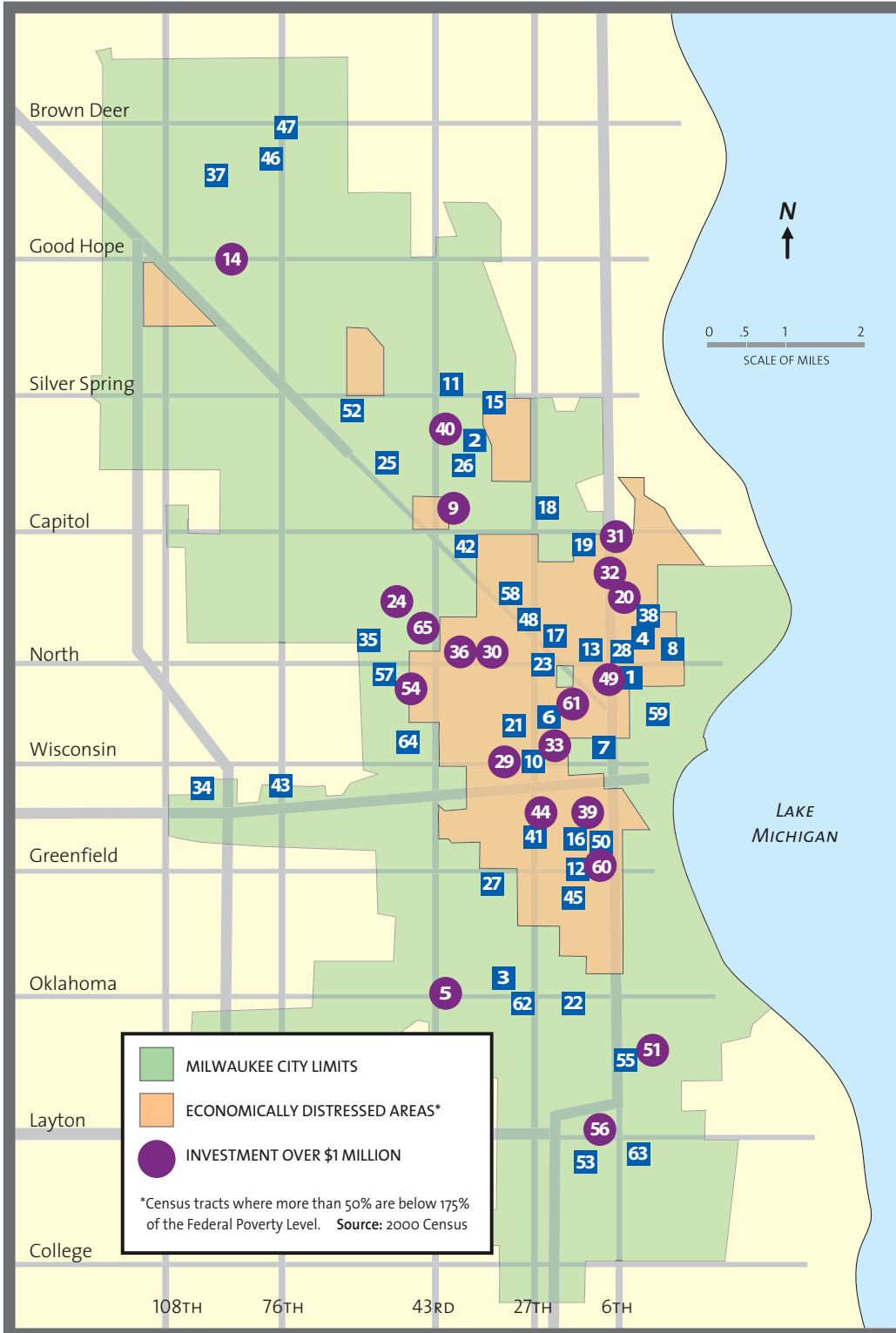


Yeshiva Elementary School • 5115 W. Keefe Avenue

Serving Orthodox Jewish students in the Sherman Park neighborhood, Yeshiva Elementary School currently enrolls 190 students, 106 of whom receive MPCP vouchers. A \$2.8 million, privately financed expansion completed in 2001 increased enrollment capacity to 300 from 160. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* architectural critic Whitney Gould praised the project's design for "sensitively fitt[ing] into a residential neighborhood.... With its generous windows and rhythmic angularity, the addition is jazzy in a gentle, street-friendly way."

\$2.8 million project

\$99 MILLION INVESTMENT in MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS at CHOICE, CHARTER, and PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS



1. Academic Solutions Center for Learning
2. Agape Center of Academic Excellence
3. Atlas Preparatory Academy
4. Aurora Weier Educational Center
5. Blessed Sacrement School
6. Blyden Delany Academy
7. Bridging the Gap Learning Center
8. Catholic East Elementary
9. Central City Cyberschool
10. Ceria M. Travis Academy
11. Christ Memorial Lutheran School
12. Christ St. Peter Evan. Lutheran School
13. Clara Mohammad School
14. Daryl L. Hines Academy
15. Eastbrook Academy
16. El Puente High School
17. Emmaus Lutheran School
18. Garden Homes Lutheran School
19. Gospel Lutheran School
20. Harambee Community School
21. Highland Community School
22. Holy Wisdom Academy
23. Hope Christian School
24. Jared C. Bruce Academy**
25. Khamit Institute
26. Learning Enterprise High School
27. Loyola Academy
28. Mandela School of Math-Science
29. Marquette University High School
30. Marva Collins Prep. School**
31. Messmer High School
32. Messmer Preparatory Elementary School
33. Milwaukee Academy of Science
34. Milwaukee Montessori School
35. Milwaukee Multicultural Academy
36. Milwaukee Urban League Academy
37. Nazareth Lutheran School
38. Noah's Ark Preparatory School
39. Notre Dame Middle School**
40. NOVA
41. Our Lady Queen of Peace School
42. Parklawn Christian School
43. Pius XI High School
44. Prince of Peace/Principe de Paz School**
45. Saint Adalbert School
46. Saint Bernadette School
47. Saint Catherine of Alexandria School
48. Saint Leo Catholic Urban Academy
49. Saint Marcus Lutheran School
50. Saint Martini Lutheran School
51. Saint Paul Catholic School
52. Saint Philip Neri Catholic School
53. Saint Roman Parish School
54. Saint Sebastian School
55. Saint Veronica School
56. Salam School
57. Shalom High School
58. Sherman Park Preschool
59. Tamarack Community School
60. United Community Center Middle School
61. Urban Day School
62. Veritas High School
63. Wisconsin Career Academy
64. YW Global Career Academy
65. Yeshiva Elementary School

**planned project