

**Public Policy Forum October 2011 Research Brief – Regional Report
Greendale School District Summary
December 21, 2011**

The Wisconsin Public Policy Forum recently issued its 2010-2011 report on the achievement of 50 school districts in Southeastern Wisconsin. Results for Greendale School District are highlighted in the report and considered strong. In fact, Greendale Schools continue to be consistently ranked in the top school districts in Southeastern Wisconsin, especially Milwaukee County. Student Assessments show a continued trend of strong student learning and Greendale Schools racial achievement gap is one of the smallest in the region. Perhaps most importantly, a review of test data by student groups as they advance from one grade to the next shows that Greendale youth are consistently showing growth where most districts have some grades where student achievement and growth declined rather than continues forward.

Predictors of college success are ACT scores and Advanced Placement exam results. Greendale's Composite ACT Score is 24.0 and is ranked high in the Milwaukee County area. Greendale's AP exams passed as a percentage of students taking these exams is nearly 30% and is ranked high out of 50 districts. Students passing an AP exam means they have taken and passed a college level course. Other Greendale students are receiving college credit for academic and career pathway courses in partnership with UW – Milwaukee, Alverno and MATC.

Analysis of the reading and mathematics proficiency rates on the state's Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination shows that Greendale had among the highest percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in Southeastern Wisconsin out of 50 districts.

4th grade reading ranked 4th in Southeastern Wisconsin with 96% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

4th grade mathematics ranked 4th in Southeastern Wisconsin with 94% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

8th grade reading ranked 1st in Southeastern Wisconsin with 99% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

8th grade mathematics ranked 1st in Southeastern Wisconsin with 97% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

10th grade reading ranked 5th in Southeastern Wisconsin with 88% of students scoring proficient or advanced

10th grade mathematics ranked 7th in Southeastern Wisconsin with 89% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

Greendale's graduation rates are high. This year, Greendale's graduation rate is 98% - and ranked again in the top five school districts. Over 90% of GHS's graduates go on to higher education. Scholarships exceed 2.6 million dollars each year.

Greendale Schools are diverse. 18% of the students are students of color, the 24th most diverse district in the 50-district region. Districts in Milwaukee County are increasingly diverse and Greendale is part of that trend.

Greendale ranked 35th out of 50 in total enrollment. The five-year change shows a continuing upward trend in resident enrollment. Resident enrollment continues to grow, with a correlated drop in non-resident students as the average age of all residents' drops. Increasing resident enrollment is a sign of a school district parents want their children to live and go to school.

Total operations expenditures is the amount of money that each school district budgets to spend from its general and special projects funds. The per pupil number is calculated by dividing each district's total operating expenditures by each district's students. Greendale ranked 8th behind Nicolet, Shorewood, Wauwatosa, Whitnall, Whitefish Bay, Brown Deer, and Elmbrook Schools. All but Northern Ozaukee are school districts that Greendale compares itself to for student achievement and improvement.

Property tax revenue is the funding received from property taxes in the general fund that each district budgeted for the year. Greendale ranked 29th out 50 districts continuing the trend of funding dependent on the property tax. The following districts received more funding from property taxes: Shorewood, Whitefish Bay, Mequon Thiensville, Franklin, Kettle Moraine, Oconomowoc, Grafton, Elmbrook, Menomonee Falls, Pewaukee, New Berlin, and Nicolet, which ranks first. Greendale Schools routinely benchmarks student and financial performance to these school districts.

Data from this report came from the Public Policy Forum Southeastern Wisconsin School District Rankings.