

Public Policy Forum September 2009 Research Brief – Regional Report Greendale School District Summary

The Wisconsin Public Policy Forum recently issued a report on the achievement of 50 school districts in Southeastern Wisconsin for the 2008-09 school year. Results for Greendale School District are highlighted in the report and are considered strong.

In fact, the Greendale School District continues to be one of only several school districts in Milwaukee County that consistently ranks in the top ten school districts across Southeastern Wisconsin. State exam results show a continued trend of improvement over the last five years. Perhaps most importantly, a review of assessment data by student group 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 is declining rather than progressing forward.

Predictors of college success are ACT scores and Advanced Placement exam results. Greendale's Composite ACT Score is 24 and is ranked high in the Milwaukee County area. Greendale's AP exams passed as a percentage of students taking these exams is 27% and is ranked 10th out of 50 districts.

Analysis of the reading and mathematics proficiency rates on the 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. Greendale Schools with Shorewood and Whitefish Bay are top achieving school districts in Milwaukee County and ranked in the top ten performing school districts in the region.

4th grade reading ranked 5th in Southeastern Wisconsin with 95% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

4th grade mathematics ranked 5th in Southeastern Wisconsin with 96% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

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

8th grade mathematics ranked 1st in Southeastern Wisconsin with 96% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

10th grade reading ranked 14th in Southeastern Wisconsin with 87% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

10th grade mathematics ranked 13th in Southeastern Wisconsin with 96% of students scoring proficient or advanced.

Greendale's graduation rate is high at over 98% and Greendale is ranked in the top five school districts. Over 90% of GHS graduates go on to higher education. Scholarships exceed \$1.5 million each year.

Greendale Schools are diverse. 14% of the students are students of color, the 25th most diverse district in the 50-district region. Districts in Milwaukee County are increasingly diverse and Greendale is part of that trend.

Greendale ranked 36th out of 50 in total enrollment. The four-year change shows a continuing upward trend in resident enrollment. Resident enrollment continues to grow as the average age of our residents drops. Greendale is one of the only districts to show residential enrollment growth without new residential construction.

Total operations expenditure 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 the number of district students. Greendale ranked 7th behind Nicolet, Shorewood, Brown Deer, and Elmbrook Schools – all 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 23rd out of 50 districts continuing the trend of funding dependent on property taxes. 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.

This analysis of Southeastern Wisconsin's school districts primarily draws from data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The data represents the most current information about the region's public schools. Similar to previous reports, however, some data was taken from the previous academic year (2007-08) because of late release dates.

Sponsors of the research include: Cardinal Stritch University, Multiple Listing Service, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Southeastern Wisconsin Schools Alliance, Stifel Nicolaus, and Waukesha County Technical College.