



Racine School Voucher System

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SURE: Student Undergraduate Research



CELEBRATION of SCHOLARS

Abstract

This project was aimed to examine the Racine School Voucher System and see why this program was expanded from its original implementation in Milwaukee by looking at research and interviewing local politicians.

What is a Voucher?

“A Voucher, or school voucher, is a certificate by the government which parents apply towards a private school, rather than at a state school that the child would normally go to.”

The Program Before Racine

- The Voucher Program first began in Milwaukee which produced less than promising results.
- Then the program was proposed to expand to Green Bay, Beloit, and Racine.
- Green Bay and Beloit denied the program, but it was passed in Racine.
- Since our research started, the Voucher Program has become state-wide.

Racine School Voucher System

- This system was implemented this year.
- The student would be eligible to be in the program if their family was at or below 300% of the federal poverty level.
- Schools decide if they want to participate in the program or not.

St. John Fisher Academy

- One of the first schools opened for Voucher Students in Racine
 - Opened September 2011
 - Closed 2012
 - Educated mostly low-income voucher students
 - Mismanagement, Funding Shortages
 - Half of students left, but still received all voucher tax-payer money
- St. John Fisher Academy proved that the Voucher System still had some problems to work out especially on managing these schools.

Special Education

As of this summer there is no program in place to accommodate children with special needs into this program.

The below program was proposed but did not pass.

Special Needs Scholarship Program:

- Allows a special needs child to attend the school of their choice.
- The scholarship is paid directly to the school the child attends.
- The scholarship amount will be determined by the Department of Public Instruction, after a review of the student's IEP.
- Up to \$13,500

Acknowledgements & References

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