

Worried about Voucher School Expansion? Three things you can do!

[Click here](#) for a clear explanation of the facts about voucher school expansion and what its inclusion in Gov. Walker's budget would mean for Wisconsin's rural public schools and local property taxpayers. Sen. Dale Schultz (who opposes voucher school expansion) and Rep. Howard Marklein (a proponent) sparred over this issue at a recent Dodgeville Chamber discussion. You can read about it in this [Dodgeville Chronicle article](#).

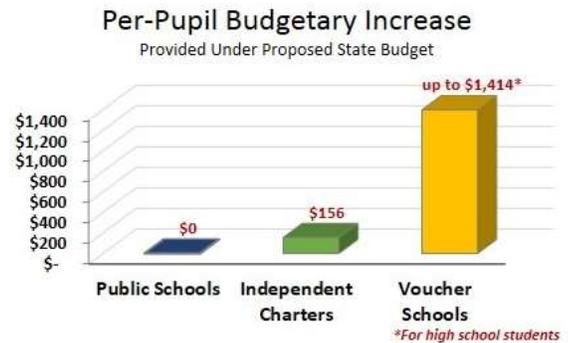
- 1) Call Marklein and Schultz – and let them know how you feel. Go to the [Legislators](#) page for their contact info.
- 2) Talk with your friends and neighbors.
- 3) Write a letter to our local newspapers – Go to the [Letters to the Editor](#) page for their email addresses.

ACTION ALERT - Our Schools

THE PROPOSED STATE BUDGET WOULD WEAKEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Walker education budget proposes:

- A budget increase of \$1414 per pupil for voucher schools, \$126 per pupil for charter schools, and virtually \$0 per pupil for public schools.
- The expansion of voucher schools to any city having problems 'meeting expectations', which would currently include Madison, West Allis, Beloit, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Kenosha, Sheboygan, Superior and Waukesha. Once a school district becomes subject to a voucher program, it remains permanently subject to a voucher program.
- A shift of local control of all charter schools to a state board staffed by political appointees.



For more information, [click here](#).

This from Mike Humke, a local school board member and long-time Grassroots member: The Dodgeville schools currently receive \$1,516 less per student from state funding than do Milwaukee and Racine voucher schools. The same goes for River Valley (\$2,502 less), Pecatonica (\$799 less); Platteville (\$1,334 less) and Richland Center (\$1,008 less). Voucher funding is expected to go up by \$1058 per student (from \$6442 to \$7500) in the next two years while public schools will be allotted \$0. So the disparity between public and voucher schools will grow every year. Since the year 2000, nearly \$750,000 that the Dodgeville Schools District should have received has gone instead to voucher schools in the Milwaukee area.

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT IT? The State Legislature is currently writing legislation that would expand voucher schools. Check with your local school superintendent or school board member to get all the facts. THEN CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR AND REP. to let them know your opinion about the bill. Go to the Grassroots [Legislators](#) page for up-to-date contact info.

For more information you can see a memo sent to State Representative Sondy Pope-Roberts, [click here](#). For more on Gov. Walker's plans, you can read this [JSOnline article](#).