CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE

ISRAL DEBRUIN
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & COMMUNICATION

INTRODUCTION: AGENDA

- Introduction (1 min)
- Education in Milwaukee (9 min)
- City Forward Collective (4 min)
- Data + Coding + Education (6 min)
- Questions (5 min)

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

INTRODUCTION: WHO

- Native Wisconsinite – grew up in Appleton
- Milwaukeean since 2005
  - BA from UWM in Journalism and Mass Communication
  - M.Ed from Marquette in Education Policy and Leadership
- Reporter > Teacher > City Forward Collective

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

Part I.

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PAST

- Through mid-century, schools were **neighborhood-based** and racially **segregated**

- Desegregation involved **busing** and **magnet schools**

- Continued **disenfranchisement of black families** gave rise to the **private school voucher program**

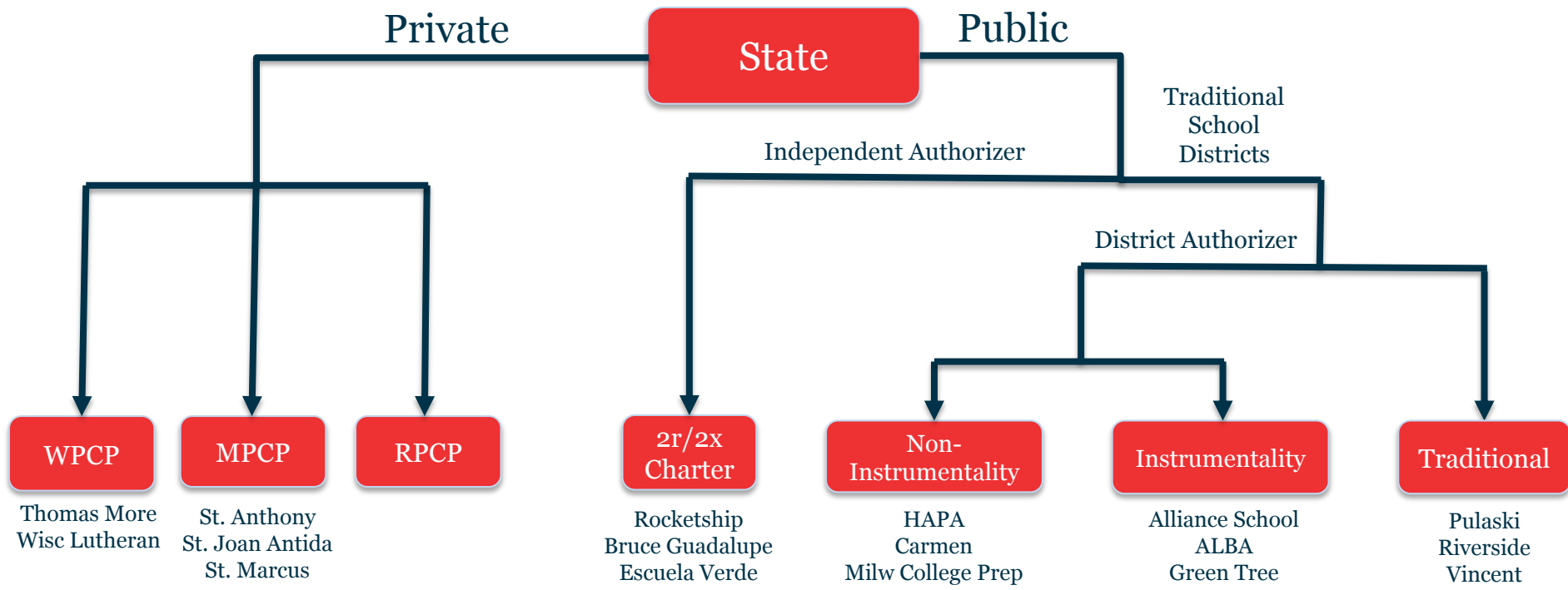- Independent public **charter schools** were introduced as a **lab school** concept

CITY FORWARD
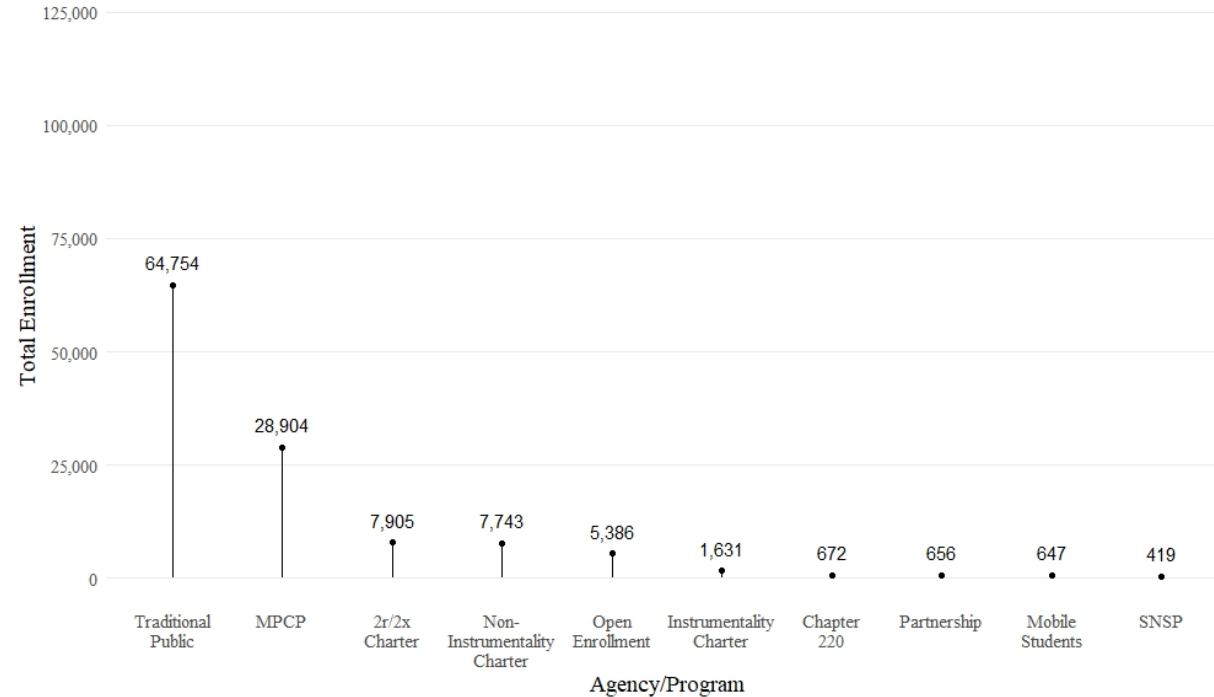COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

- Post-neighborhood

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

2018-19 Total Enrollment: 118,717

Bar chart values (Total Enrollment by Agency/Program):
- Traditional Public: 64,754
- MPCP: 28,904
- 2r/2x Charter: 7,905
- Non-Instrumentality Charter: 7,743
- Open Enrollment: 5,386
- Instrumentality Charter: 1,631
- Chapter 220: 672
- Partnership: 656
- Mobile Students: 647
- SNSP: 419

Mobile Students number represents MPS District FAY students that are not FAY at any single school.

Pie chart:
- District-Operated: 57.0%
- MPCP/SNSP: 24.7%
- Independent Charter: 13.2%
- Open Enrollment/Chapter 220: 5.1%

CITY FORWARD COLLECTIVE

Ch 220
-63%

Open Enrollment
+19%

Voucher
+43%

Ind Charter (Non-MPS)
+51%

Ind Charter (MPS)
+206%

MPS Partnership
-55%

MPS Traditional
-15%
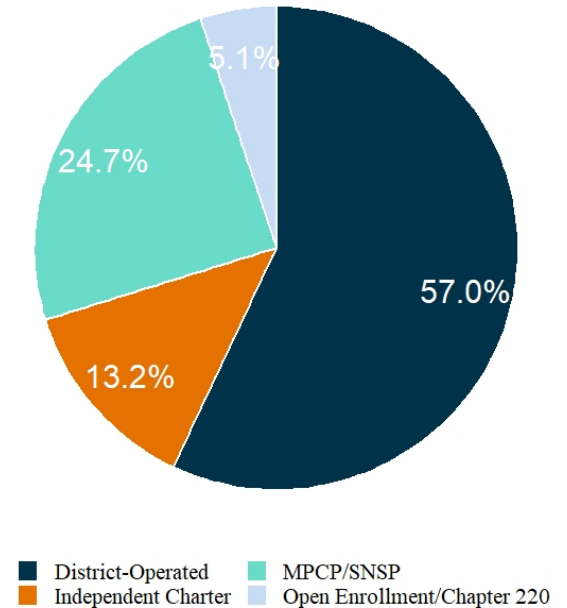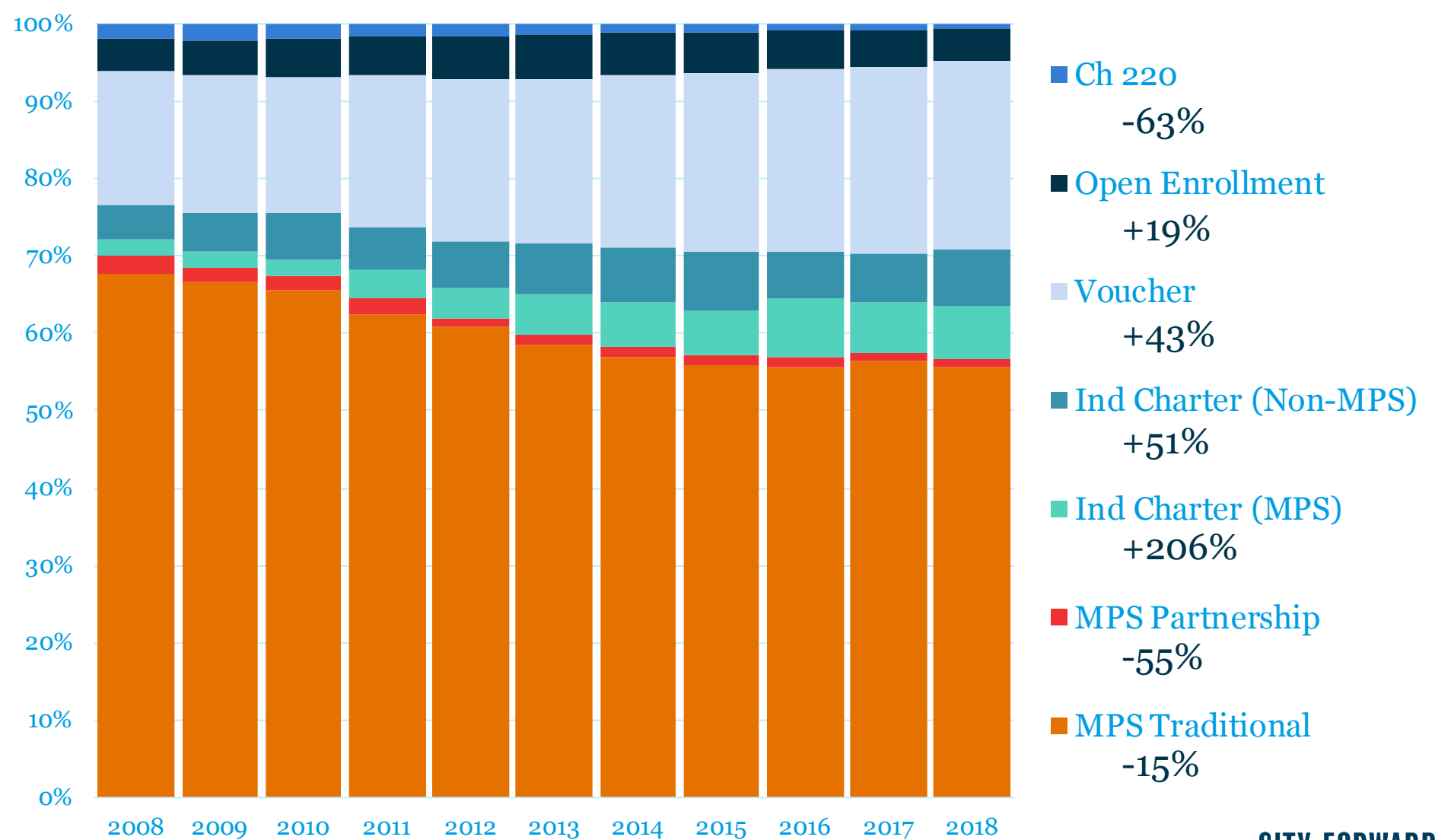
Source: Alan Borsuk of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

- Post-neighborhood

- Persistent segregation

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

- Post-neighborhood
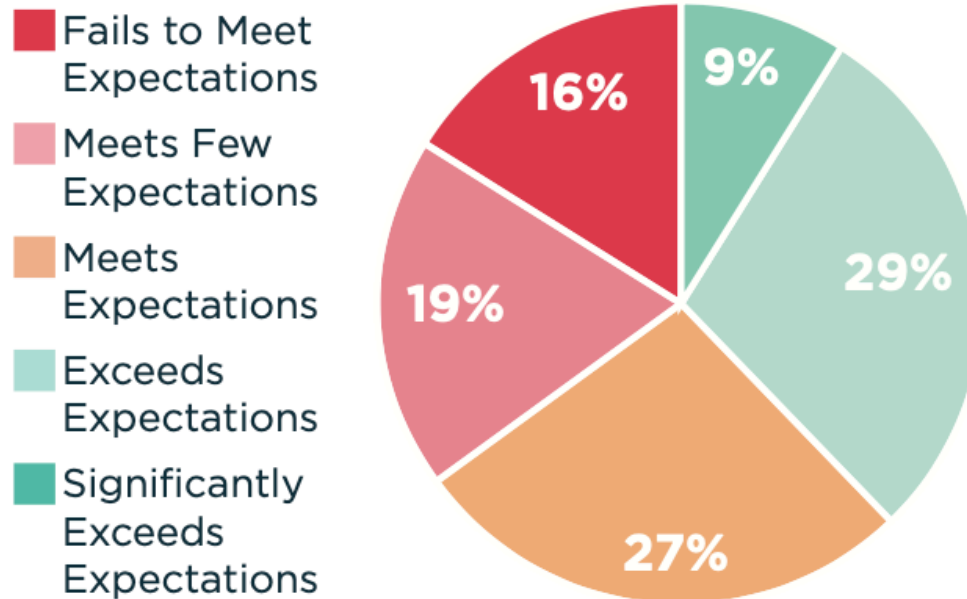
- Persistent segregation

- Bright spots

CITY FORWARD
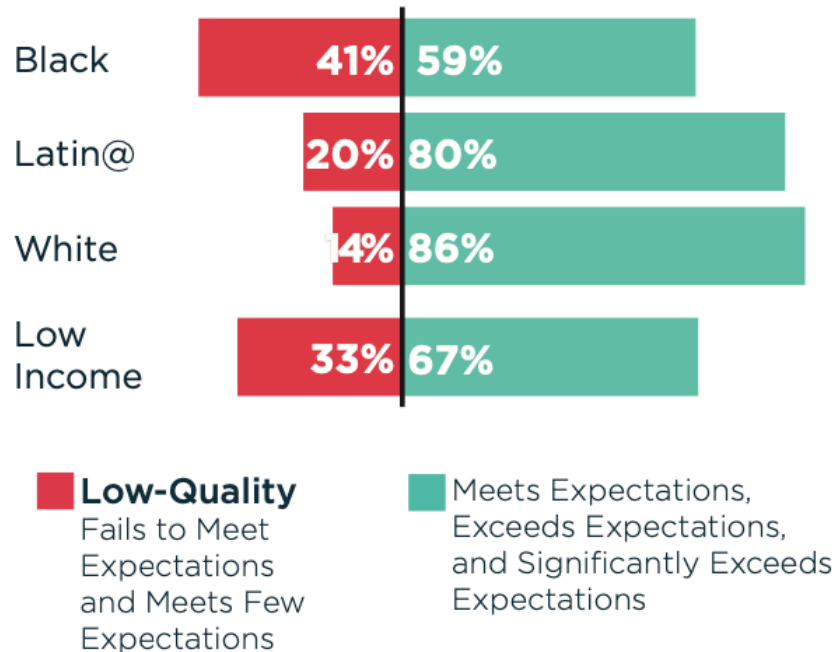COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

- Post-neighborhood

- Persistent segregation

- Bright spots

- Persistent gaps

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE
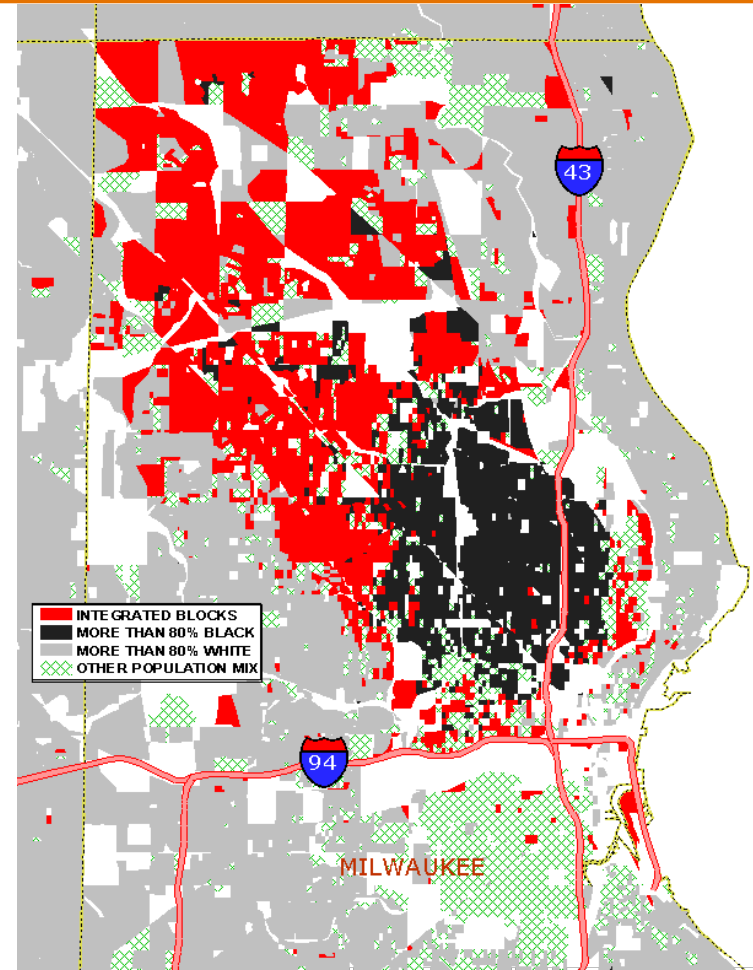
EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

FEW QUALITY SCHOOLS:

One in three Milwaukee students attends a school that doesn't even 'Meet Expectations'

Legend:
- Fails to Meet Expectations
- Meets Few Expectations
- Meets Expectations
- Exceeds Expectations
- Significantly Exceeds Expectations

Pie chart values:
- 16%
- 9%
- 29%
- 27%
- 19%

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

ACHIEVEMENT GAPS: Black students and those from low-income households are most likely to attend low-quality schools

	Low-Quality	Meets Expectations
Black	41%	59%
Latin@	20%	80%
White	14%	86%
Low Income	33%	67%

Low-Quality Fails to Meet Expectations and Meets Few Expectations

Meets Expectations, Exceeds Expectations, and Significantly Exceeds Expectations

CITY FORWARD COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

- Major achievement gaps

- Graduation rate gaps

- ZIP codes = destiny

- Poverty and Unemployment

- Crime

- 'Worst state for black children'

- 'Highest black male incarceration rates'

- 'Most segregated city in the country'
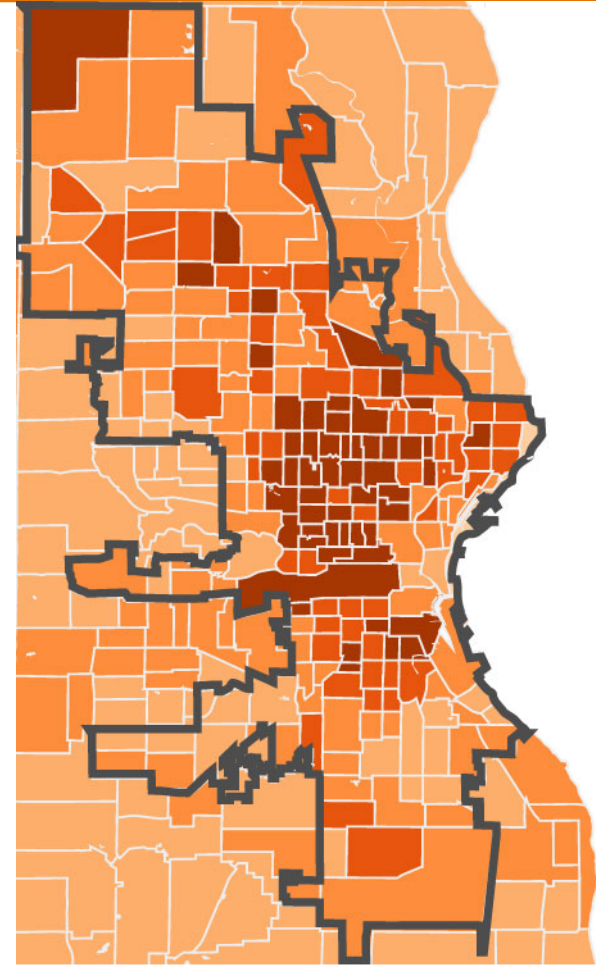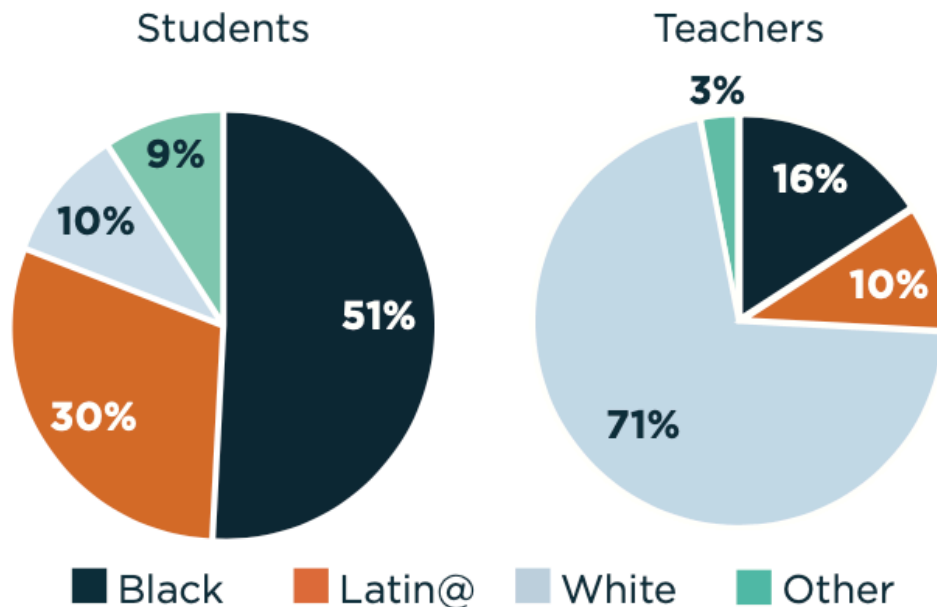
EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

- Post-neighborhood

- Persistent segregation

- Bright spots

- Persistent gaps

- Inequities in resources and access

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

FEW TEACHERS OF COLOR:
Children benefit when teachers share their racial identities, yet this is rarely the case

Students

Teachers

Black · Latin@ · White · Other

Milwaukee Area District Revenue Limits Per Student
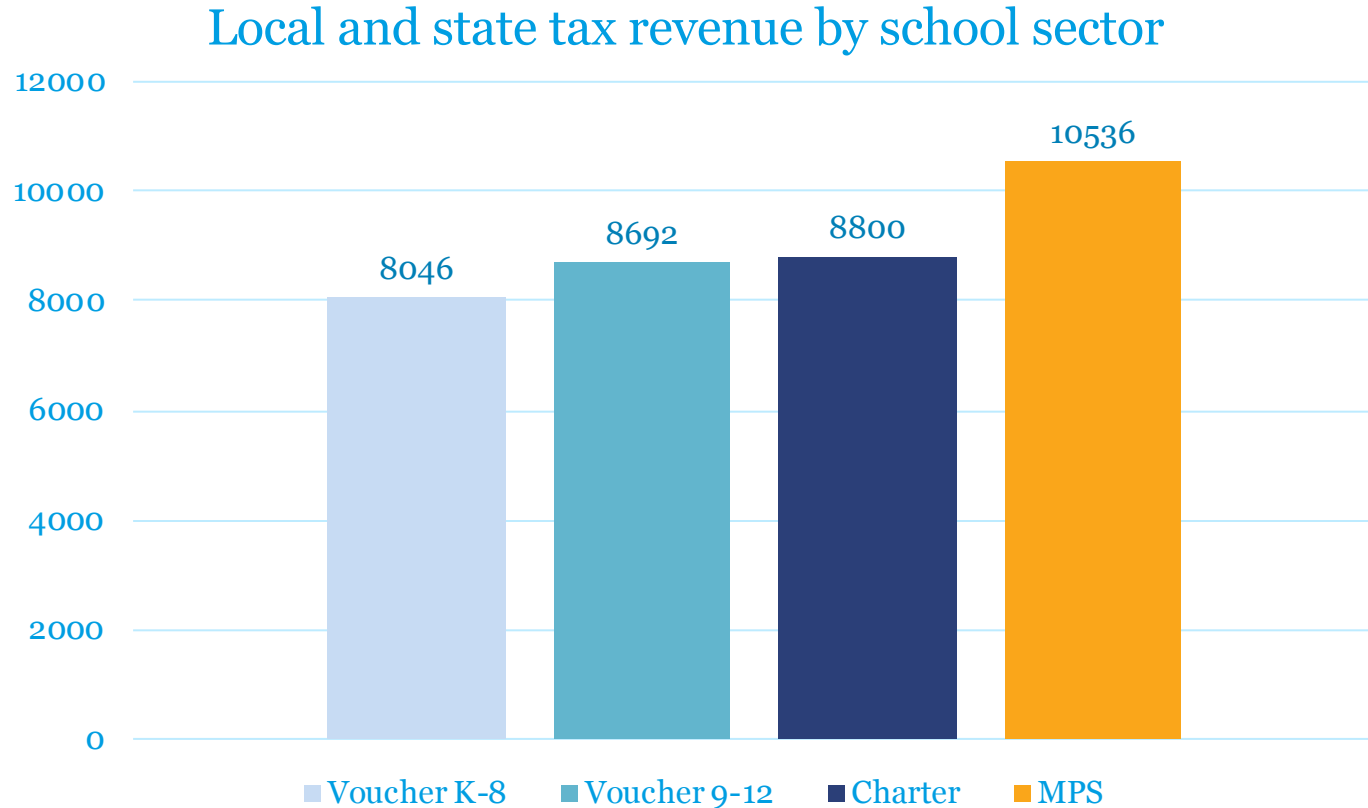
District	Amount
Nicolet UHS	$18,523
Maple Dale-Indian Hill	$16,377
Fox Point J2	$15,181
Glendale-River Hills	$13,811
Brown Deer	$11,986
New Berlin	$11,799
Racine	$11,688
Elmbrook	$11,678
Shorewood	$11,657
Greendale	$11,298
Whitefish Bay	$11,289
Saint Francis	$11,264
Menomonee Falls	$11,162
Whitnall	$10,907
Kenosha	$10,900
Mequon-Thiensville	$10,769
West Allis	$10,634
Milwaukee	$10,536
State Totals	$10,404
Wauwatosa	$10,382
Greenfield	$10,378
Germantown	$10,362
Waukesha	$10,262
South Milwaukee	$9,990
Oak Creek-Franklin	$9,503

CITY FORWARD COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE PRESENT

- Post-neighborhood

- Persistent segregation

- Bright spots

- Persistent gaps

- Inequities in resources and access

- Complex environment

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE: THE FUTURE

- Enrollment trends indicate MPS enrollment will fall below 50% within the next five years
  - Two realities are here to stay:
    - 'post neighborhood'
    - multi-sector
- Dramatic improvement is imperative
  - Moral
  - Economic

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

Part II.

CITY FORWARD COLLECTIVE

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to **secure the future of Milwaukee** and its institutions, economy, and quality of life by **ending educational inequity** and ensuring every single child has the **opportunity to attend a high-quality school**.
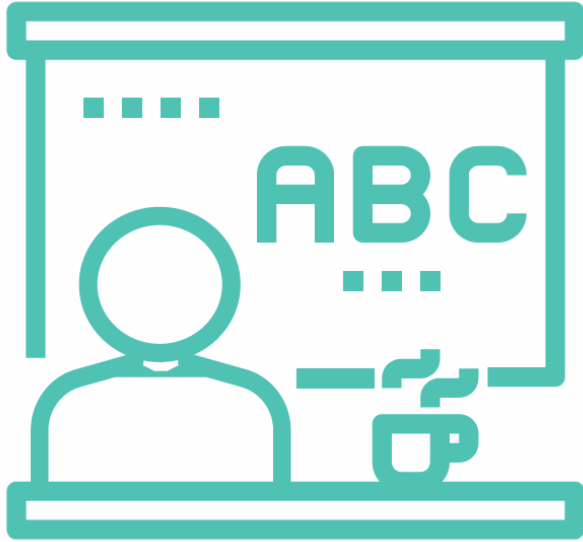
OUR SOLUTION

Dramatically **increase the number of high-quality school seats** available to Milwaukee families.

To do this, we work directly with Milwaukee families, communities, and school teams to build **skills**, **knowledge**, and **power** to foster more high-quality schools for the children who need the most in order to close the achievement gap and advance equity.

Effective & Representative Talent

- Ensure strong pipelines for teachers and leaders

- Greatly increase number of black and brown teachers and leaders

- Build cultural competence

WHAT WE DO

Family & Community Organizing

- Sustained organizing
- Build understanding
- Build and share power
- Ensure parents and communities have a true voice

WHAT WE DO

Community-Informed Policy

- Identify and advocate for policies
  - Eliminate inequities
  - Increase access
  - Remove barriers for high-quality schools

WHAT WE DO

Strategic Investment

- Invest and channel philanthropy
  - Expand and replicate existing schools
  - Incubate new schools, strategies, and initiatives
  - Improve promising schools

Part IV.

DATA + CODING + EDUCATION

DATA + CODING + EDUCATION

Opportunities:

- Improved public data infrastructure
- Improved civic information infrastructure
- Predictive modeling for student interventions
- Predictive modeling for school interventions and/or investments
- Support parents in school selection
- Rationalize and unify school enrollment processes

Part V.

QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS

ISRAL DEBRUIN

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & COMMUNICATIONS

ISRAL.DEBRUIN@CITYFORWARDCOLLECTIVE.ORG

@israldebruin

https://www.linkedin.com/in/isral/

APPENDIX: FURTHER READING

- www.cityforwardcollective.org
- "Educating Milwaukee" by James Nelson
- "Evicted" by Matthew Desmond
- "Justice For All" the selected writings of Lloyd Barbee
- "No Struggle, No Progress" by Howard Fuller

APPENDIX: UNIFIED ENROLLMENT

APPENDIX: WHAT IS 'PUBLIC'?

What attributes must be true of something in order for it to be considered 'public'?

- Funding
    - How much? Can some come from other sources? User fees?

- Control
    - Directly run? Run by contract, grant, etc.?

- Accountability
    - Direct? Indirect?

- Access
    - Open to all? Selective?

CITY FORWARD
COLLECTIVE

APPENDIX: WHAT IS 'PUBLIC'?

Interesting thought studies:

- Public housing

    – Direct-run vs. Section 8

- SNAP (food stamps)

- Healthcare

    – ACA vs. 'Medicare for All' vs. NHS

- Culture

    – MPM vs. MAM vs. Domes vs. Zoo

- Higher Education