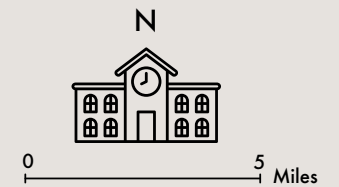


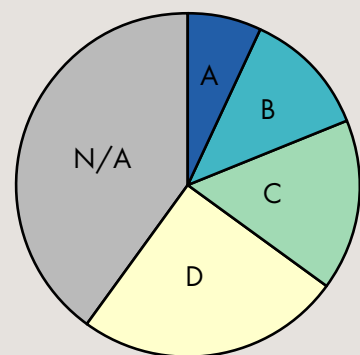
# A Legacy of Inequality

Redlining's Lasting Impact on School Quality Across Milwaukee County

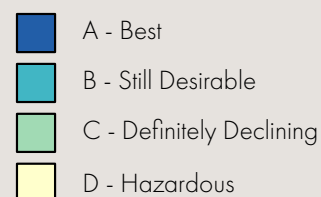


In 1938, federal maps marked Milwaukee's black and immigrant neighborhoods as "hazardous", drawing red lines around them to signal where banks should deny loans and investment. This practice, known as **redlining**, isolated communities both economically and educationally. Years after these practices were outlawed, many of these same areas still lack access to high-quality education.

% of Schools Today in Formerly Redlined Zones



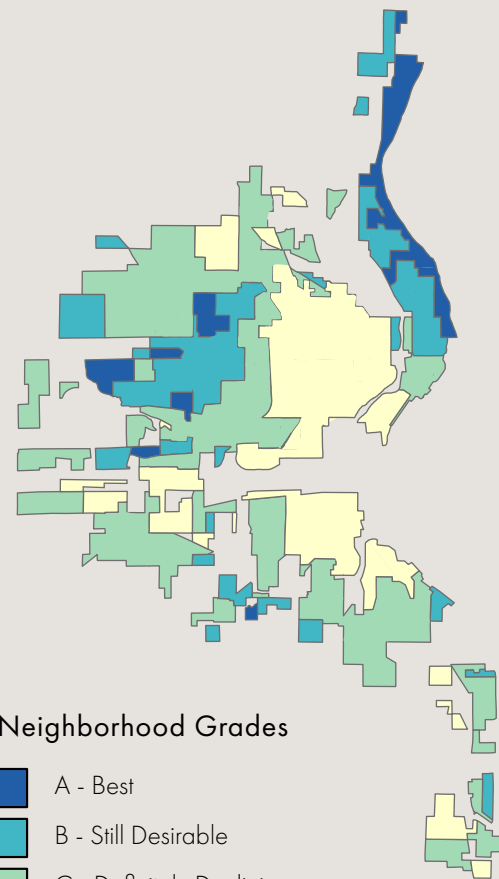
HOLC Neighborhood Grades



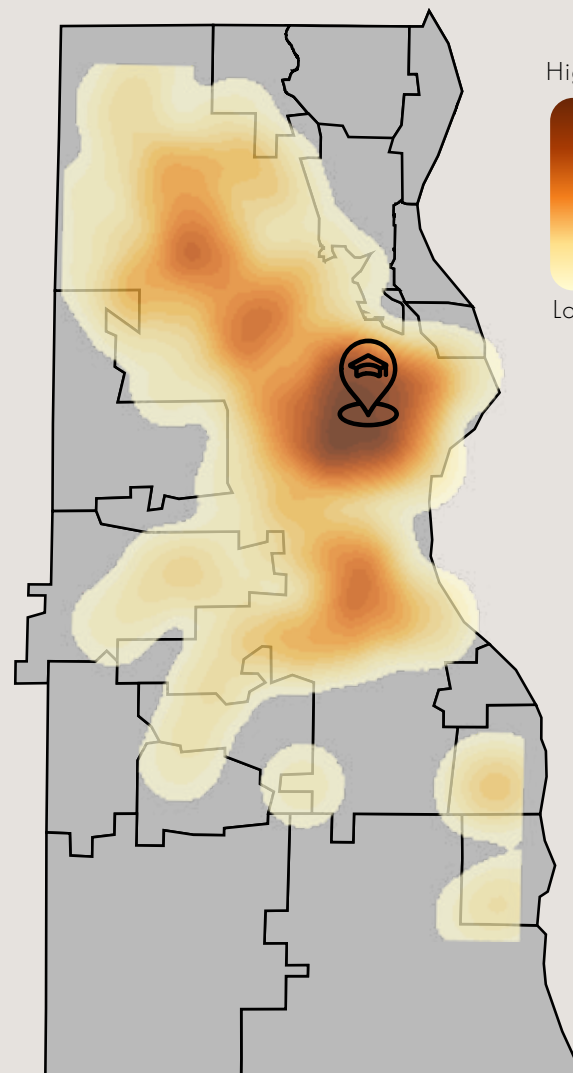
Nearly half of all Milwaukee County schools are located in areas that were graded "C" or "D" in the 1938 **redlining** map. These neighborhoods were labeled as "declining" or "hazardous," leading to decades of disinvestment that continue to impact educational access today. However, just 20% of schools are found in "A" or "B" zones, the areas historically deemed worthy of investment. The remaining 40% lie outside the mapped zones, often in suburbs that developed later.



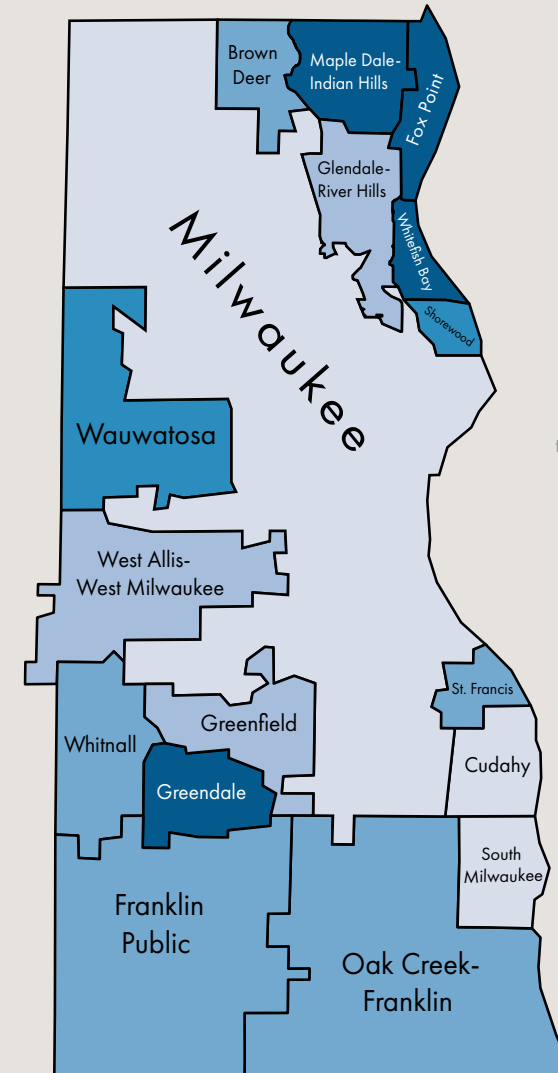
Original 1938  
**Redlining** Boundaries



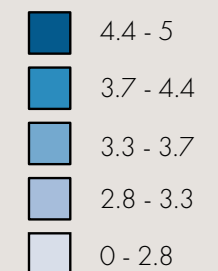
Low Quality\*  
School Density



Average Rating  
by School District

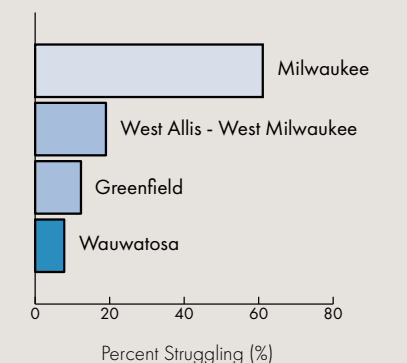


Average Rating  
(out of 5)



\*2023-2024 school ratings are sourced from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, based on performance and growth metrics. Each school receives a score 1 to 5, with scores of 1 and 2 considered "low quality".

% of Struggling Schools  
(rated 1-2\*) by District



The 53206 Zip Code

Milwaukee's 53206 zip code is one of the most historically impacted areas in the city. Once graded "hazardous" in the 1938 **redlining** map, it was systematically **redlined** and denied investment for decades. Today, it has the highest concentration of low-quality schools in the county, with >75% of its schools failing to meet state expectations. The area has one of the nation's lowest median household incomes as well as the highest incarceration rate in the entire country.

Cartographer: JT Vespalec  
May 5, 2025

Projection: USA Contiguous Albers  
Central Meridian: 87.966°W  
Standard Parallels: 42.963°N, 43.071°N  
Sources: Wisconsin DPI, HOLC,  
US Census Bureau, The Noun Project  
Heat map units: schools per square mile