



*Daughters of the Father
Christian Academy*

Milwaukee School Chooser 2013-2014

A K-12 Guide to Finding a Great School for Your Child

Step 1: Think about needs

Your student's needs

As you begin thinking about choosing a school, first consider carefully what your child needs from his or her school. There are many important things to think about:

Instruction and curriculum: What teaching style will best help your child succeed? Does your child perform better in a traditional classroom in which the teacher directs all activities? Or does your child need more freedom to explore and pursue his or her own interests? Is it important for your child to study religion, or a foreign language? Does your child need a college prep curriculum or training for a particular job? How important are test scores?

School and class size: Will your child do better in a small school where she/he will get more one-on-one attention or a large school that offers more special services, programs, and activities? Keep in mind that the total number of students in a school does not tell the whole story. You may find a large school that also offers small classes. You may also find that classes at a small school are larger than you expected.

Special programs and services: Does your child have special needs? Look for a school that can provide these support services:

- * Special education
- * Honors/gifted and talented programs
- * Classes for English Language Learners (ELL)
- * Counseling
- * Accommodations for a physical disability
- * Speech services

Social and extra-curricular issues: What is your ideal makeup for a school for your child? Should it be co-ed or single sex? What type of racial/ethnic/socio-economic mix is important to you? What activities (e.g., chess club, yearbook) does your child want to participate in? Do you want a school that provides community service opportunities?

Educating the whole child: Is it important for your child to be taught more than just core academic subjects (English/language arts, math, science, social studies)? Does the school offer arts and music programs, physical education classes, or sports that students can play? The arts provide opportunities for students to express themselves creatively, and learning to play a musical instrument instills discipline. A student who participates in regular physical education is more likely to remain motivated to stay healthy and physically active throughout adulthood.

If the school you are considering does not provide arts or physical education, find out what after-school activities are available.



Bruce Guadalupe
Community School



Your family's needs

The choice of your child's school will affect your whole family. You will need to balance your child's needs with those of your family.

Transportation: Will you be driving your child or will she/he be getting to school independently? Is it important that the school be near a bus stop? Do you want the school to be near your home or your job? Does your child need special services? (*Note: Some district schools provide transportation only for special needs students.)

Before- and/or after-school care: Some schools provide both before- and after-care, some offer one or the other, and others do not offer them at all. The schools that do provide these programs sometimes do so for free, and others charge a fee. You will want to get information on what programs may be available, the potential cost, and the hours of operation.

Meal programs: All Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) offer free breakfast for all students and free or reduced price lunch for eligible students. Many independent charter schools do the same. Meal programs at private schools may vary, with some including the cost of meals in the tuition. You will want to call schools individually to get more details.

Free and reduced price lunch: Your annual income must fall below the levels in this table to qualify for free or reduced price lunch. These are the levels for 2011-2012, which are updated annually:

Number in family	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each additional
Reduced price lunch	27,991	35,317	42,643	49,969	57,295	64,621	71,947	7,376
Free lunch	19,669	24,817	29,965	35,113	40,261	45,409	50,557	5,148



Tuition and financial aid: If you are interested in a private school, tuition costs can vary along with what is included in those costs. Most Milwaukee schools participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) and also offer financial aid or accept other financial assistance.

Parent involvement: Understanding how a school involves parents is something you should keep in mind when you are considering where to send your child. Contact the school to learn what the parent involvement policy is (most schools should have a written plan) and also use www.greatschools.org to connect with other parents to get their thoughts.

Sit down with your child and have a family conversation about the things you both want in a school and ask yourselves how important those things are (very, somewhat, not at all)? Use the [Milwaukee School Chooser](#) needs worksheet found on p. 18 to help you write it all down and keep track.

Step 2: Understand the choices

Public, private, charter schools: What are they?

To decide which school is best for your child, learn about the types of schools available in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) traditional schools

- * Free to those who attend. Funded through tax dollars.
- * To apply, parents must list their top three school choices in MPS and are usually granted their first choice.
- * Some high schools require an application, entrance exam or audition, and these usually enroll in October/November for the following year.
- * Must meet state academic standards, participate in state standardized testing and follow the No Child Left Behind Law.

MPS Charter Schools

- * Free to those who attend. Funded through tax dollars.
- * As with traditional MPS schools, parents must include a desired MPS charter school in their top three choices.
- * Will accept any Milwaukee student, if there is space. If there isn't enough space, students are put on a waiting list.
- * Charter schools have more flexibility in developing their academic programs, hiring teachers and managing their budgets than traditional public schools.
- * Must meet state academic standards, participate in state standardized testing and follow the No Child Left Behind Law.

Independent Charter Schools

- * Free to those who attend. Funded through tax dollars.
- * Independent charter schools in Milwaukee are authorized by the City of Milwaukee or the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, not by MPS.
- * Interested students must apply directly with the school.
- * Will accept any Milwaukee student, if there is space. If there is not enough space for all who apply, students are chosen through a random lottery.
- * Charter schools have more flexibility in developing their academic programs, hiring teachers and managing their budgets than traditional public schools.
- * Must meet state academic standards, participate in state standardized testing and follow the No Child Left Behind Law.

Virtual Charter Schools

- * Are most appropriate for self-disciplined, independent learners.
- * Virtual schools don't have an actual school building or campus where students attend but they do have a virtual "campus" on the Web.
- * Students enroll, log on from home and follow the curriculum that the online school provides.
- * To see a list of these schools, go to the Wisconsin Department of Education's Web site, and the page entitled Virtual Schools in Wisconsin: <http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/viwis.html> or email milwaukee@greatschools.org.

Private Schools

- * Charge tuition. Funded through tuition, fundraising, donations and grants. Tuition in Milwaukee private schools ranges from approximately \$2,000 to \$8,000 or more per year. (Most private schools in Milwaukee

participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, which makes them free to eligible low-income families. See “Vouchers through the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program” below.)

- * Students who want to attend must apply. Private schools decide who may attend.
- * Private schools have the freedom to develop specialized programs, curriculum, etc.
- * Must meet minimum state private school academic requirements.
- * Many are religious; some are not.

How to make private schools work for you

Think you don't have enough money to send your child to a private school? Think again. Don't rule out private schools just because of the tuition. There may be resources to help you pay for it. The two main categories of help are vouchers and scholarships.

Vouchers through the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

- * Vouchers pay for all of the recipient's cost at private schools participating in the MPCP.
- * To qualify, students must live in the city of Milwaukee and have a household income at or below 300% of the poverty level.
- * To attend a private school using the MPCP, parents fill out an application directly with the private school of their choice.
- * MPCP schools cannot reject MPCP students for prior academic performance, behavior history or special needs status.
- * If a grade level is over-enrolled, the school must accept students based on a random lottery.

- * MPCP students are not required to participate in religious activities at MPCP schools.
- * MPCP schools must be accredited by one of several approved agencies or be on track to be accredited within three years.
- * Accreditation agencies have a variety of teacher qualification requirements, curriculum requirements, testing requirements and organizational structure requirements.
- * All MPCP students must take the state WKCE test.
- * MPCP schools are subject to a variety of state-imposed fiscal requirements. (See p.15 for financial eligibility chart.)

School scholarships

- * Some private schools offer their own scholarships for students with financial needs.
- * Contact the school directly to ask about scholarships or financial aid.



Atonement Lutheran School

Step 3: Visit your top choices

Our Web site contains more than we could ever include in this printed guide, but no single piece of information tells the whole story. Visiting is the only way you can tell whether you and your child will feel safe and comfortable at the school. You will also be able to see whether the teachers are enthusiastic and the students are engaged in learning.

Now that you have narrowed your choices, it is time to visit the schools:

Schedule your visit. Pick three or four dates and times that work best for you and then call the school. Explain that you are considering applying or enrolling your child and would like to visit. Find out if you will be able to meet the principal and observe classes while you are there. Have your calendar handy so you can write down the date and time of your visit. School phone numbers are provided on the school profiles beginning on p. 25.

Think about what you want to see at the school. Before you go, use the *Milwaukee School Chooser* visit worksheet on p. 20 to help write down the questions you want to make sure you ask during your visit. (You can also print extra copies at www.greatschools.org/milwaukee.)

Your observations of the school can start the moment you get there. Make sure you take the *Milwaukee School Chooser* visit worksheet and a pen so you can record your observations and the answers to the questions you prepared in advance.

Arrive early. Plan to get to the school 10 minutes before your scheduled visit and check in at the main office when you arrive. That will give you a chance to check out the neighborhood and watch how the front office works (Do they greet you? Are they polite? Are phones answered promptly?). You also may receive a visitor's pass to wear during your visit.

Ask and observe. This is your chance to get the information you need to make the best choice for you and your child. You have prepared your questions in advance and you are ready, so do not be afraid to ask them or others if they come up. And don't worry if you forget to ask something important; you can always call later.



Visiting classrooms is an important part of the school visit and may tell you the most about whether the school is a good place for your child. Visit as many classes as you can, but when you are in classrooms do not disturb the students' learning.

Keep your eyes open and think about all the things you see: the schoolyard, the classrooms, and the area around the school. Record your observations on the *Milwaukee School Chooser* visit worksheet you brought with you.

Have a great visit!

Step 4: Make your decision

Now that you have visited your top choices, you should have a good idea which schools are a good fit for your child. Start by looking over the notes you took during your school visits. Use your impressions from those visits and the information you gathered to follow these next steps. They will help you find the right school(s).

Eliminate schools where you felt unwelcome or unsafe. Cross off any school on your list that does not seem like a comfortable place for you and your child. During your visit, were students roaming the halls instead of being in class? Was bad language used by students with no correction by an adult? Did it feel like the students ran the building or that adults did not consider student opinions?

Compare information about your choices to your worksheets about your child's needs and your family's needs. Look over the notes you filled in on the Milwaukee School Chooser needs worksheet on p. 18 (or printed from www.greatschools.org/milwaukee) to see how the information you collected matches what you thought would best meet the needs of your child and family.

Look at your school visit notes and rank the schools on your list. Rank the schools based on how much you liked what you saw during your visits. Keep in mind things you noticed: cleanliness, students' behavior, enthusiasm of teachers, whether students seemed engaged, and the overall feeling you got from the school.

Review these school profiles again. Use the *Milwaukee School Chooser* and the profiles on www.greatschools.org/milwaukee to remind yourself of specific features about each school, and then rank the schools again based on academic performance using the attainment and value-added test scores provided if available. If no scores are available, you can contact each individual school for test score information.

Keep in mind that students who attend high-performing schools are more likely to be prepared for college, the workplace, and life.



Make your decision. Once you have considered all these factors, your first choice may be obvious. If one of the schools ranks high in all categories, you have found your school! If the rankings are mixed, you may have to decide which qualities are most important to you.

Apply to more than one school. Your first choice may not be available, so you will want to apply to at least two other schools that meet most of your needs. This way, you work to ensure that your child has the opportunity to go to a school that you like.

Step 5: Apply and enroll on time

MPS—School enrollment

(Student Services - (414) 475-8448)

The timeline for early enrollment for specialty programs is from **October 1 – November 21, 2012**.

Enrollment for most MPS schools is **February 4 – February 25, 2013**. This period is often called “Three-choice” enrollment.

Students are then assigned their school choices by MPS Student Services. MPS schools will then continue ongoing enrollment on a first-come, first-served basis until they fill their seats.

Enrollment procedures

To enroll your child in an MPS school, the three-choice form is used during the three-choice enrollment period and is available at all MPS schools and in MPS Central Office (5225 W Vliet Street).

The enrollment form allows you to select three MPS schools. Your first choice should be the one you think would be best for your child. The second and third choices should be schools you would like your child to attend if your first choice is not available. You have the right to choose any school in the district (some have restrictions on enrollment) but will not be provided transportation in all cases. After the three-choice period ends, a different MPS enrollment form will be provided to you at schools or MPS Central Office.

There are several things you will need the first time you register your child with MPS. These include:

1. The student's certified birth certificate
2. The student's immunization records
3. Proof of address (current utility bill)
4. Proof of identification of the parent (driver's license)

If the student is returning to MPS, only proof of address is needed.

Note that there are many differences among available high schools:

- * All high schools except Rufus King and Milwaukee High School of the Arts reserve 55% of seats for students in their attendance area.
- * All high schools offer different programs. Students in a program take classes designed to teach specific skills. Many specialize in career training.
- * Middle School attendance affects high school acceptance. Students with a 90% or higher attendance first semester of their eighth grade year are given preference.
- * High schools marked with an ** on their profile have entrance requirements. These may include things like GPA requirements, auditions and extracurricular participation. Please attend the school's open house or call the school of interest for details regarding entrance requirements. These schools often hold an early enrollment testing period in October/November, and many fill all their seats during that time, so don't wait!

Chapter 220 enrollment

(Transportation services (414) 475-8298 or (414) 475-8273)

Chapter 220, the Voluntary Student Transfer Program, aims to racially integrate schools. African American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American students may attend any of 23 suburban districts that participate in the program depending upon the transportation region they live in and if seats are available in the suburban district they wish to attend. White students may attend a school in the MPS district. The Chapter 220 enrollment period runs from **February 4 – February 25, 2013**. Chapter 220 applications can be obtained at MPS Central Services, 5225 W. Vliet St., Room 133. Suburban residents must apply at their district office. For information on the suburban districts transportation regions, call (414) 475-8298 or (414) 475-8273.

Open enrollment (414) 475-8353

The open-enrollment period for Milwaukee students seeking placement in suburban schools or suburban students seeking placement in MPS runs from February 1 – February 28, 2013. You begin the process by contacting the school district in which you are interested. For more information, call (414) 475-8353.

Independent Charter School enrollment

Enrollment processes and timelines for Milwaukee's 19 independent charter schools (those authorized by the City of Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) vary by school. In order to enroll, contact the school directly to find out timelines and pick up an application.

For more information about charter schools, you can contact:

Margaret McMurray
Department of Public Instruction, 125 S. Webster Street,
P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
(888) 245-2732, ext.5
margaret.mcmurray@dpi.state.wi.us
www.dpi.wi.gov/sms/csindex.html

Information about charter schools, continued:

Wisconsin Charter Schools Association
P.O. Box 1704, Madison, WI 53701-1704
(608) 661-6946
info@wicharterschools.org
www.wicharterschools.org

Private School enrollment

Enrollment processes and timelines for Milwaukee's private schools vary by school. In order to enroll, contact the school directly to find out timelines and pick up an application. Some private schools may have entrance requirements or require a test for admission (unless they participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), in which case they must accept all students who apply, if there is space). Private schools that participate in the MPCP have enrollment periods between the first and 21st day of each month; individual schools decide which months they are accepting enrollment.

For more information about the MPCP, you can contact:

Tricia Collins
Department of Public Instruction, 125 S. Webster Street,
P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
(888) 245-2732, ext 3
tricia.collins@dpi.state.wi.us
www.dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice.html

MPCP income eligibility for 2012-2013 school year

Household size*	220% of Federal poverty level**	300% of Federal poverty level
1	At or below \$24,939	At or below \$34,008
2	At or below \$33,688	At or below \$45,939
3	At or below \$42,437	At or below \$57,870
4	At or below \$51,186	At or below \$69,801
5	At or below \$59,935	At or below \$81,732
6	At or below \$68,684	At or below \$93,663
	For each additional household member above 6, add \$8,749 to \$68,684.	For each additional household member above 6, add \$11,931 to \$93,663.

* Household size includes any parents, grandparents, children, other relatives and unrelated people who live in your household. Applicants with married parents or legal guardians should reduce their family income by \$7,000.
** High School students above 220% may be required to pay some fees for tuition.

Enrollment calendar

You have a lot of ground to cover. Many private schools set their own enrollment start dates and deadlines, so be ready to call schools directly. Use the calendar below, the school profiles, and the worksheets in the *Milwaukee School Chooser Workbook* starting on p. 17 to get organized and get moving!

2012-2013

October 1 – November 21, 2013: EARLY ENROLLMENT PERIOD

- * Early enrollment period for some MPS high schools and private schools. Contact schools you are most interested in to find out about testing and if you can enroll early.
- * Testing period for some schools that offer early enrollment. Do not wait until the end of the early enrollment period because you may miss all testing opportunities.
- * Schedule school visits for early enrollment schools.

February 4 – February 25, 2013: MPS THREE-CHOICE ENROLLMENT PERIOD; CHAPTER 220 ENROLLMENT PERIOD

- * Fill out forms for Three-choice enrollment for MPS and Chapter 220 enrollment.
- * Call to get registration deadlines for any private or independent charter schools you may be interested in.
- * Schedule school visits.

February 1 – 20, 2013: FIRST ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR MILWAUKEE PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (MPCP);

- * Call to get registration guidelines for any private or charter schools you may be interested in attending.

February 1 – 28, 2013: SUBURBAN OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

- * Schedule school visits.

March – June 2013:

- * Enrollment periods for the MPCP are from the 1st to 20th of each month at participating private schools. Contact the private schools of your choice for more information.
- * Visit, register and apply to schools if you have not already done so.

August 1 – 19, 2013: MPS SUMMER ENROLLMENT PERIOD

- * MPS Summer Enrollment period at MPS Central Office (5225 W. Vliet Street).
- * Some International Baccalaureate schools and private schools begin toward the middle/end of August.

September 4, 2013: First day of school for most schools



Pulaski High School

New Milwaukee GreatSchools rating methodology, 2012

What is the new GreatSchools rating?

The new GreatSchools Rating combines multiple factors with the aim of helping parents identify higher performing schools in a given city. Since 2006, GreatSchools has published a rating for all schools nationally based on standardized test scores. The new rating combines test score performance with student academic growth, college readiness, and school climate, and is being piloted in 2012 for schools in Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and Washington, DC.

This document describes the calculation of the new GreatSchools Rating for Milwaukee schools. It is broken into two parts: the [Academic Rating](#) (comprised of three sub-ratings for test scores, student growth, and college readiness) and the [Climate Rating](#).

Overall rating The Overall GreatSchools Rating is a roll-up of the Academic and Climate Ratings. The actual weights of each sub-rating depend on the amount of data available per school, as shown below.

	Test scores	Student growth	College readiness	Climate
Elementary	45%	45%		10%
Middle School	45%	45%		10%
High School	45%		45%	10%
K-12	30%	30%	30%	10%

Academic rating

The Academic Rating makes up 90% of the overall GreatSchools Rating and is on a 1-10 scale. For elementary and middle schools, the Academic Rating is an average of the [Test Score](#) and [Student Growth](#) sub-ratings. For high schools, it is an average of the [Test Score](#) and [College Readiness](#) sub-ratings. If a school has both elementary or middle and high school grades, it is an average of all three sub-ratings. If a school does not have sufficient data for a Student Growth sub-rating, its

Academic Rating will be based on test scores alone. However, a school must have either a Test Score or College Readiness sub-rating in order to get an Academic Rating.

Sub-rating #1: Test scores

The Test Score sub-rating is based on fall 2011 Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) proficiency rates for students in grades 3 through 8 and 10 in math and reading, and in grades 4, 8 and 10 in language arts, science and social studies. WSAS results for private schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program are also included.

We start by calculating ratings for each grade and subject tested. The test results for all schools for a given grade/subject combination are sorted from low to high and divided into deciles. The bottom 10% of schools get a rating of 1, the next 10% get a 2, on up to 10, which indicates the school's result is in the top 10%. If there are several identical values that overlap from one rating decile to another, they are given the higher rating. A rating is not calculated for any grade/subject combination with fewer than 50 school results.

The Test Score sub-rating for each school is calculated by averaging that school's ratings for each grade and subject tested. For example, a Test Score sub-rating of "1" means that school scored in the bottom 10% statewide for most grades and subjects tested. The Test Score sub-rating is on a 1-10 scale and is categorized as follows: 1-3 = "Below average," 4-7 = "Average," 8-10 = "Above average."

Sub-rating #2: Student growth

The Student Growth sub-rating measures how well schools contribute to students' one-year academic gain, taking into account the students' prior year's test scores and other demographic factors. The Student Growth sub-rating uses value-added results in reading and math from the Fall 2010 to Fall 2011 testing period. Value-added data for Milwaukee public schools were calculated by the Value-Added Research Center (VARC) using a statewide model. VARC categorizes schools into five categories, based on the school-wide value-added (VA) estimate on a 0-6 scale, and the associated confidence interval range. We translate those categories into a 1-10 rating as follows:



Value-added category definition	Growth rating	
Far above predicted VA: Estimate is significantly more than 4	10	Above Average
Above predicted VA: Estimate is significantly above state average (3)	8-9	
Within range of predicted VA: Estimate is not significantly different from state average (3)	4-7	Average
Below predicted VA: Estimate is significantly below the state average (3)	2-3	Below Average
Far below predicted VA: Estimate is significantly less than 2.	1	

Within each value-added category, schools are ranked by their VA estimate and divided into equal groups to receive a corresponding Student Growth sub-rating. For example, schools that are “Above Predicted VA” are ranked by their VA estimate and split into 2 groups, with the higher group receiving a “9” and the lower group receiving an “8.” Schools that are “Within Range of Predicted VA” are ranked and split into 4 equal groups, corresponding to Student Growth sub-ratings of 4, 5, 6, and 7. The Student Growth sub-rating is categorized as follows: 1-3 = “below average,” 4-7 = “average,” 8-10 = “above average.” Student Growth sub-ratings are not published for schools with value-added results for fewer than 10 students.

For more information on the value-added results, please visit <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/growth.html>.

Calculating student growth for Private Schools

In 2012 test score gains in reading and math were calculated for students at private schools participating in the Milwaukee Parent Choice Program. The results are categorized as “Above average,” “Average,” and “Below average” in comparison with all other schools in the state. This is published for all private schools who granted permission to share their data and provided data based on at least 10 students.

However, in contrast to the value-added data used for public schools, these results use a “simple growth” model that does not control for student demographic characteristics. This

was done because demographic data for private schools was not fully reported along with 2011-12 WKCE results. As a result, private school student growth results are not included in the GreatSchools Rating, since they are not comparable with value-added results. When student demographic data is fully reported in the future, we will calculate the Student Growth rating for all schools.



Sub-rating #3: College readiness sub-rating

The College Readiness sub-rating measures schools' 12th grade scores on the ACT exam, taking into account that cohort's ACT participation rate. Scores are from 2010-11 and include results for all students enrolled in the fall of their senior year. GreatSchools uses the ACT Index designed by researchers at the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), who found that students who didn't take the ACT would have scored, on average, 3 points lower than those who did. The ACT Index accounts for non-tested students as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ACT Index} = & \\ & (\text{ACT score} \times \text{Participation rate}) \\ & + \\ & [(\text{ACT score}-3.0) \times (1-\text{Participation rate})] \end{aligned}$$

ACT Index scores are not calculated if fewer than five students took the exam. The remaining ACT Index scores are sorted from low to high and divided into deciles. The bottom 10% of schools get a rating of 1, the next 10% get a 2, on up to 10, which indicates the school's result is in the top 10%. If there are several identical values that overlap from one rating decile to another, they are given the higher rating. The result is a College Readiness sub-rating on a 1-10 scale, which is categorized as follows: 1-3 = "Below average," 4-7 = "Average," 8-10 = "Above average."

Climate rating

The Climate Rating makes up 10% of the Overall GreatSchools Rating. It provides insight into five categories (*or domains*) of school climate: safety and cleanliness, respect and relationships, expectations for students, teacher collaboration and support, and family engagement. It is based on teacher survey responses from the Milwaukee Public School Climate Survey from 2011-2012. GreatSchools analyzed survey responses to identify questions from the survey that aligned to each school climate domain. Through a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, including factor analysis, expert interviews, and literature reviews, we identified three to five research-supported measures of school climate from the MPS survey to measure each domain. We then administered a survey with those same questions to private and charter schools.

Scores for each category were calculated by averaging all teacher responses at a school. Scores were then ranked against all other schools in our sample for each category. Scores for each category were then averaged to create an overall climate score. For both the categories and the overall climate score, schools in the bottom 20% were classified as "Below average," and schools in the top 20% were "Above average," corresponding to about one standard deviation below and above the mean. All others are classified "Average."

The Climate Rating (1-10 scale) is based on the category of the overall climate score. Within each category, equal intervals along the climate score distribution are set, corresponding to a climate rating as follows.

Climate score category	Climate rating
Below average	1, 2, and 3
Average	4, 5, 6, and 7
Above average	8, 9, and 10

All teacher responses were included in the analysis; however results are only published for schools with at least eight respondents or a 50 percent response rate. The number of responses is published in conjunction with each school's Climate Rating.





Milwaukee Spanish
Immersion School

Use the GreatSchools Web site for more information

www.greatschools.org provides a wealth of current information in a parent-friendly, easy-to-read format to help you in your school search. On the Web site, you will find:

- * GreatSchools test score ratings for district and independent charter schools
- * School reviews and ratings from parents, students, and teachers
- * A parent community where you can ask questions about local schools or give advice to others
- * Information about teachers and the student population
- * Details about extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, and more from the school principal
- * Helpful articles and newsletters about topics such as homework help or bullying prevention
- * Details about extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, and more from the school principal
- * A special education section for and about families with students who have special needs

Why is choosing the right school important?

When you choose a great school for your child, from preschool to high school, it will have a lasting impact on his or her life. Schools vary widely. They have different degrees of success in teaching their students math, reading, and other subjects; providing a safe environment for learning; preparing students for the world of work and college; and developing well-adjusted, responsible young adults. Some schools do many of these things well, and some schools may have mixed results, while still others face significant challenges.

When it comes to education, one size does not fit all. Different children thrive in different settings, so it is important for you to consider what type of school and school environment will help ensure your child's success. Choosing the right school for your child may seem difficult, but you can do it if you take it one step at a time.

If you want more help or information, please call the GreatSchools Milwaukee Parent Hotline at (414) 748-1211 or email us at milwaukee@greatschools.org.



Streamline your search with the
GreatSchools Milwaukee Web page:
www.greatschools.org/milwaukee