



November 30, 2018

Office Governor-elect Tony Evers
Transition Office - Risser Justice Center
17 W. Main Street
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Milwaukee Charter School Advocates 2018-19 Agenda

Dear Governor-elect Evers,

The Milwaukee Charter School Advocates' mission is to provide strategies and resources to expand and replicate high-performing charter schools. In this coming legislative session, we hope to work with elected leaders to close the funding gap between public charter schools in Milwaukee and their traditional district counterparts. We believe it is fundamentally wrong for the State to maintain an education funding system that values some children's public school education less than others' simply because of the type of school they attend.

Public charter school enrollment in Milwaukee schools authorized by MPS, UWM and the City of Milwaukee, has been on the rise since 1993 and public charter schools now educate nearly one in six of all children educated in the City. On average, these public charter schools far outperform traditional public schools in Milwaukee academically.

At the same time, according to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools annual report, Wisconsin ranks No. 38 out of 45 states in terms of "equitable funding" for charter schools. The University of Arkansas's Department of Education Reform, gives Wisconsin an "F" citing a funding gap of \$4,568, or 36% less than what traditional public school students receive in the City of Milwaukee.

Our goal of closing the funding gap is aimed at expanding student access to high-performing schools. Under the current State funding levels, that expansion is simply not possible and, in fact, the number of seats available in these schools may decrease over time. We ask the leaders of Wisconsin to make a commitment to Milwaukee charter schools to close the funding gap so that charter schools receive 90% (\$9,515) of their local school district's revenue limit (MPS \$10,572) for K-8 schools, and bifurcate funding of high school charter students to receive \$10,160.

Sincerely,

Milwaukee Charter School Advocates Board of Directors

Danae Davis
Milwaukee Succeeds

Ricardo Diaz
United Community Center

Howard Fuller
Milwaukee Collegiate Academy

Robb Rauh
Milwaukee College Prep

Tim Sheehy
MMAC

Dan Grego
TransCenter for Youth, Inc.

Brittany Kinser
Rocketship Public Schools

Chris Herxiong
Hmong American Peace Academy