

Green Bay, Wisconsin reports to each property taxpayer the amount they pay for their voucher scheme—Ohio should follow suit.

Green Bay, Wisconsin public officials have figured out a way to report to each taxpayer exactly how much of their property tax bill goes to private school vouchers. That concept is appropriate for Ohio.

Ohio taxpayers provide over a billion dollars per year for private school vouchers and other direct payments to private schools. Private schools provide no information to taxpayers regarding how this money is spent on education or even if it is spent on education. Ohio taxpayers have no idea how much of their individual tax payments are directed to private education.

It is past time for state officials in Ohio to determine and report the amount of funds each taxpayer pays for private school vouchers.

Private school voucher cost to be shown on Green Bay property tax bills

Green Bay's property tax bills will soon show exactly how much of the school district's levy is being spent on private school vouchers.

By [Victoria Frazier](#)

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GREEN BAY, Wis. (WBAY) - A change to Green Bay's property tax bills is giving residents a clearer view of how money is being spent on schools and highlighting a growing financial strain on the district.

Green Bay's property tax bills will soon show exactly how much of the school district's levy is being spent on private school vouchers, nearly \$10 million this year alone.

School board president James Lyerly says the goal is to give taxpayers a better idea of where their money is going.

"Dollars that flow into the public school system are accountable through public accounting. We expose a budget book you can come to our website and see and look at the details of how we spend that dollar in the pursuit of education, and the same cannot be said for the voucher program," says Lyerly.

The Green Bay City Council approved a request from the school board in April for voucher transparency, which added that information on the property tax bills.

According to data from the Green Bay Area Public School District, the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program and Special Needs Scholarship Program will be \$14,097,036, a levy increase of more than \$1 million for the voucher program during this school year alone.

"That difference, the increase of \$1 million based on an increase of only 54 students, is indicative of a total or general increase in dollars that are going to all of the voucher students," says Lyerly.

Officials say the financial pressure remains, and they expect the voucher levy to continue increasing in the future.

"For the last several years, we've had very hard conversations of how to live within a reduced budget due to the decline of enrollment, just general declines in enrollment that are seen across the state and across the nation, so this is a compounding of impact," says Lyerly.

District leaders say they hope the added note will shape future conversations about funding as voucher costs continue to grow.

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