

A yellow school bus is parked on a paved street. In the background, there are several railroad tracks and some industrial equipment. Bare tree branches are visible in the foreground and to the right. A red banner is in the top left corner.

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# **WITHOUT A CHOICE**

**Wisconsin's High-performing  
School Deserts**



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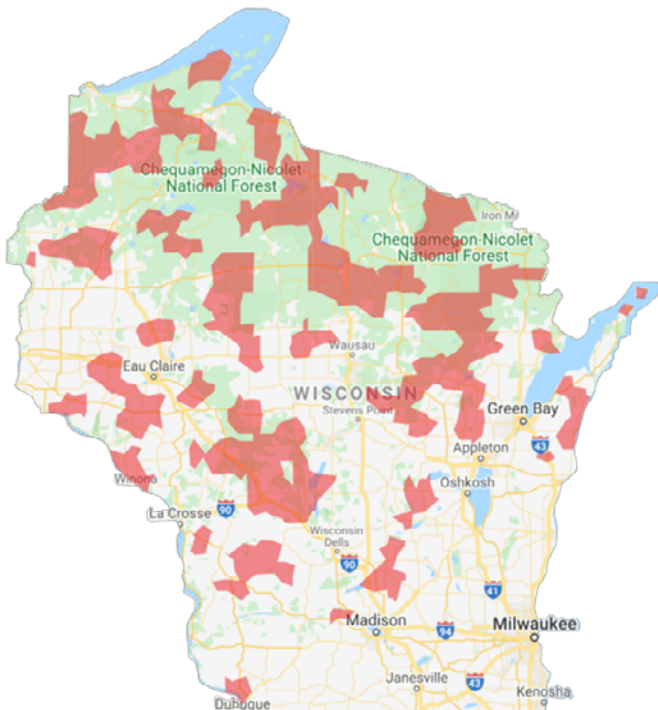
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## Executive Summary

Educational quality varies extensively across the state of Wisconsin. While some students have ready access to high-performing public, private, and charter schools, many areas of the state are high-performing school deserts—where families have few high-performing school options to help push their child forward. In this study, WILL utilizes statistical analysis and our new school mapping tool to locate the areas of Wisconsin where these deserts exist. We identify areas with no high-performing schools by looking at WILL's performance rankings, which place schools on a level playing field with respect to demographics. Using this metric, we find that Wisconsin still has a long way to go in ensuring that all its children have access to a rigorous education.

### High-performing School Deserts in Wisconsin



### Key Findings

- Wisconsin has 134 ZIP codes with up to 40,112 school-age children with no high-performing school options within 10 miles.** 134 ZIP codes across 49 counties have no high-performing school options—public, charter, or private—within 10 miles. High performing school deserts represent regions of the state lacking educational equity and opportunity.
- High-performing school deserts are most common in rural areas.** While urban schools are often the focus of education policy makers, this report sheds light on the many rural regions of Wisconsin without high-performing school options. Shawano County (11) and Langlade County (7) lead the way with the most ZIP codes without easy access to high-performing schools. Another eight Wisconsin counties have four or more ZIP codes without high-performing school options.
- Rural Wisconsin needs more choice and public charter schools.** The vast majority of the high-performing school deserts have no private schools participating in the state's school choice programs or public charter schools. Without options, students in high-performing school deserts are left waiting for their school districts to improve themselves.

## Policy Implications

While it is unrealistic that every community will have multiple school options for students, Wisconsin must continue to work to expand access to high-quality educational options. This includes removing limitations on enrollment in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) that prevent schools from opening to primarily serve choice-funded students. It should also include policies to encourage more public school districts and government entities to authorize and create public charter schools since charter schools tend to be quality options for Wisconsin students. For rural areas of the state, policies that increase the ability of students to access courses online, including the Part-Time Open Enrollment Program, should be expanded to provide more learning opportunities for students. Policymakers must consider how to address challenges for rural schools, such as access to successful teachers and school leaders and how to improve the quality of existing traditional public schools.

## Introduction

Wisconsin enjoys significantly more educational options than many other states. From traditional public schools to open enrollment to private school choice, many families in the state have a wealth of choices when it comes to finding the best school for their child. Yet for far too many students in the state, particularly in Wisconsin's rural communities, access to good schools remains a challenge.

This study takes advantage of a unique new dataset and interactive website that allows for schools and their performance ratings to be identified by ZIP code. Through this dataset, we identify “high-performing school deserts”—ZIP codes with no high-performing options within 10 miles. We will also identify areas that lack schools participating in Wisconsin's parental choice programs, and examine whether getting more schools involved could help alleviate this problem.

### Identifying “High” Performing Schools

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction annually provides a report card for every school in the state. By rating schools on a 5-star scale, the state report card can work as a useful metric for families attempting to identify high-performing schools. One important factor in evaluating the efficacy of report card scores is in their ability to adjust for the characteristics of students in the school. Unfortunately, decades of evidence in education research suggests that students from low-income families and minority backgrounds often struggle in school to a greater extent than their white, or middle/upper-income peers.

Wisconsin's report card accounts for demographics, but not in a very nuanced manner. The share of the report card score

that is determined by student growth rather than proficiency changes based on the share of students in the school who are low-income. In recognition of the fact that such students tend to need some help “catching up,” more of the report card score is determined by growth as the share of low-income students increases. This becomes problematic at the highest end of the spectrum. For schools with more than 65% of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, only about 8% of the report card achievement score comes from actual proficiency compared to about 72% from growth.<sup>1</sup>

WILL's performance scores are based on the premise that achieving high levels of proficiency still matters, but that demographics should not be ignored. Our model uses a number of demographic factors—student race, family income, grade level and English Language Learner status—to measure a school's relationship to Forward Exam proficiency averaged across math and reading in a statistical regression. The results of this analysis are found in Table 1 on the next page and are the basis for the dataset and the WILL Performance Rankings found on the interactive website.

Note that controls for grade level were included in this analysis but were excluded from the table for ease of reading. As can be seen, many of these variables have a significant relationship to proficiency. The coefficients in Table 1 can be interpreted as the relationship between math and ELA proficiency that results from moving from a school where none of the students have the particular demographic factor in question to one in which all students have it. For instance, proficiency in a hypothetical school that is 100% African American is, on average, 18.5% lower than in a school where none of the students are

**Table 1. Demographics and Forward Exam Proficiency**

| <b>Variables</b>        | <b>Math &amp; ELA Proficiency</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>African American</i> | -0.185***<br>(0.0123)             |
| <i>Hispanic</i>         | -0.0280<br>(0.0195)               |
| <i>English Learner</i>  | -0.0761***<br>(0.0327)            |
| <i>Low Income</i>       | -0.447***<br>(0.0327)             |
| <i>Constant</i>         | 0.675***<br>(0.00542)             |
| <i>Observations</i>     | 2,123                             |
| <i>R-squared</i>        | 0.677                             |

**Standard errors in parentheses** \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

African American. This is consistent with other evidence that Wisconsin has among the worst racial achievement gaps in the nation.<sup>2</sup>

By far the largest factor in proficiency appears to be economic status. A school with 100% of students from economically disadvantaged families would be expected to have about 44% lower proficiency than a school where none of the students belonged to this group. The only demographic control in our model that was not found to have a significant relationship to proficiency was the percentage of Hispanic students in the school. Much of the negative relationship here is absorbed by the English Learner variable.

Because the state provides demographic information for each school on these variables, the results from this regression can be used to generate a predicted proficiency score for each school. This predicted proficiency is then compared to the school's *actual* proficiency. Schools that have a positive difference are said to have a positive value added—which means they are doing better with student proficiency than the model would predict. Schools that have a negative value added are doing worse with students than would be predicted. We divided schools into three groups based on value added. The highest 1/3 of schools are adjudged “high performing,” the middle third “medium” performing, and the lower 1/3 “low” performing. So how many Wisconsinites have access to schools at the top?

## Methodology

We answer this question by looking at the number of high-performing options within 10 miles of 899 ZIP codes in the state. We use the same method to count the number of private schools and public charter schools. The five counties in the Milwaukee Metropolitan area (Milwaukee, Racine, Washington, Ozaukee and Waukesha) are excluded from the analysis due to the extremely large number of schools of every quality within a short distance.

Distance remains an important factor in the educational decisions that many parents make. A 2015 study<sup>3</sup> of school choice in New Orleans revealed that decreasing distance from home by .75 miles on average made parents willing to accept a school rated one level lower on Louisiana's A-F scale. Particularly in high-crime areas, minimizing the risk to children on their walk or bus ride is preeminent in parents' minds. As such, the 10-mile range of search around each ZIP code may represent a conservative estimate of access to school quality for many families.



## Results: High-Performing Schools

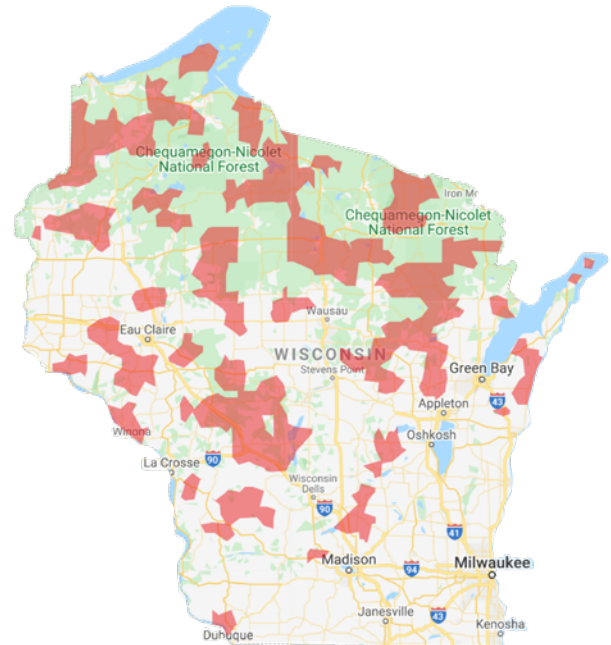
Of the 899 ZIP codes under study here, **134 had no high-performing schools within 10 miles** (Appendix A lists all of these ZIP codes), deeming them high-performing school deserts. This represents 14.91% of ZIP codes in the state without ready access to good schools. A further 68 ZIP codes only had 1 high-performing option, meaning that at some grade level (high school/middle school/elementary) a high-performing option is likely absent.

The figures below depict each of the ZIP codes in the state with no high-performing school options, as well as some regional highlights of areas with a number of deserts. Figure 1 depicts the state overall. While there are exceptions, the map broadly paints a picture of a struggle for rural parts of the state. Appendix B lists the legislative districts where these ZIP codes are located.

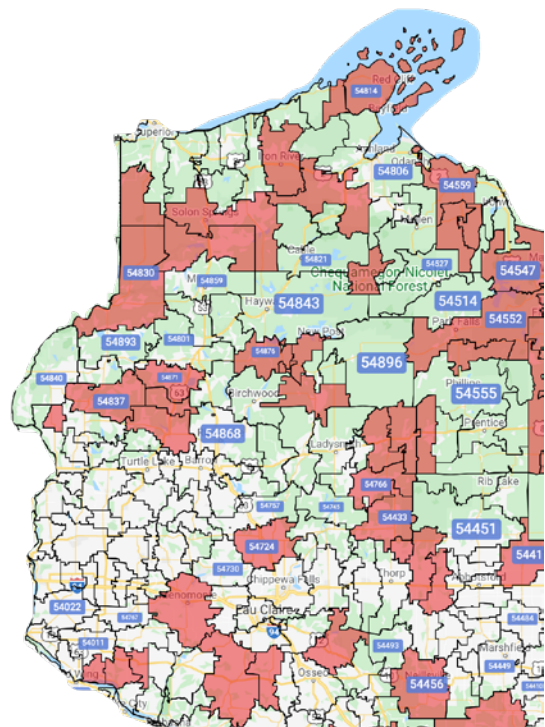
Why don't we see urban areas showing up in this map? While Wisconsin's urban areas tend to have similarly bad performance as rural areas overall, there are often some high-performing options mixed in—these being the suburban schools that upper middle class and wealthy parents tend to strategically move to attend.

Figure 2 on the right depicts northwestern Wisconsin. Of note is that, while the city of Eau Claire itself does not have any deserts, a significant number of ZIP codes in the vicinity do. A number of University of Wisconsin campuses are also located in or near deserts. For example, University of Wisconsin-Stout is located in the ZIP code identified as a high-performing school desert.

**Figure 1. High-Performing School Deserts by ZIP Code, Wisconsin**



**Figure 2. High-performing School Deserts Northwestern Wisconsin**





## Results: Private Schools

Of the 134 ZIP codes with no high-performing schools, 28 currently have schools participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). Unfortunately, in the case of many of these schools, data is lacking on their performance due to a limited number of students being enrolled in the school. If a school has fewer than 20 students participating in the WPCP no test scores are generated for that school due to concerns about student privacy. Because the ZIP codes lacking high-performing options tend to be small and rural, the number of students participating in choice programs in schools in these regions also tends to be small.

That said, evidence continues to build that the WPCP, and private school choice programs in general, produce better results at a lower cost to taxpayers. Table 2 below depicts the relationship between a school's performance

score and whether the school is a participant in the WPCP. Note that all of the controls from Table 1 were also included in the model. We see a positive relationship here. WPCP schools earn about 2.7% higher scores on the Forward Exam once a school's demographic factors are taken into account.

Of course, as noted above, this is not a complete sample of WPCP schools due to low enrollment in many schools, but the available evidence points towards such schools offering a viable alternative.

Wisconsin has at least 411 private schools in the state and 52 percent participate in a school choice program. This means that there is room for growth in the school choice program as well as room for new private schools in 106 ZIP codes. So how can policymakers increase the growth and access to these schools?

**Table 2. WPCP & WILL Performance Score**

| Variables                             | Performance Score      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Parental Choice Program School</i> | 0.0274**<br>(0.0123)   |
| <i>Constant</i>                       | 0.0262***<br>(0.00681) |
| <i>Observations</i>                   | 1,836                  |
| <i>R-squared</i>                      | 0.090                  |

Standard errors in parentheses \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

## Results: Public Charter Schools

Public charter schools provide many Wisconsin students with access to traditional public school alternatives while still attending a public school. Charter schools are authorized by a variety of entities in Wisconsin, including the local public school district and the University of Wisconsin campuses. Despite having at least seven different government entities that can authorize charter schools throughout the state, only 22% of school districts in the state have a charter school option for families.

Public charter schools, particularly those authorized by an entity that is separate from a school district (independent charters), tend to be high-performing. Most of the independent public charter schools are in Milwaukee and our research shows that these schools significantly outperform Milwaukee Public Schools.<sup>4</sup>

Out of the 134 ZIP codes with no high-performing schools, only seven even had a public charter school option. There is room for significant growth for charter schools throughout the state, especially outside of the greater Milwaukee area. With a variety of different authorizers available, the challenge for policymakers is how to incentivize these authorizers to expand charters.

## Policy Implications

Increasing access to high-performing schools means removing barriers for schools that wish to enter the marketplace in these underserved areas. There are a variety of barriers that policymakers should address to help provide every Wisconsin child with access to a high-performing school.

### **Expand the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program**

Some of these barriers are gradually being alleviated with no legislative change. The enrollment cap on the WPCP currently dictates that no more than 5% of students in a particular school district can participate in the choice program. Particularly for rural districts that may have fewer than 500 students, this makes the prospect of starting a school focused on serving WPCP students implausible. The good news is that enrollment caps increase by 1% each year, until they come off after reaching 10%. But policymakers should not deny students currently suffering in low-performing schools the opportunity to access better options. Eliminating WPCP enrollment caps entirely would help increase opportunities for students today.

### **Incentivize more public charter schools for authorizers statewide**

Public charter schools give families access to more high-performing schools. However, Wisconsin charter school laws are consistently rated as some of the worst in the country<sup>5</sup> and until better policies are put into place, growing charter schools will be difficult. For example, the legislature should authorize government entities that want to authorize charter schools, instead of giving the authority to uninterested entities.

### **Address access to facilities including vacant schools**

Another opportunity exists in making it easier for private and public charter schools to acquire vacant school buildings in rural areas. A common challenge for new schools to open is access to facilities. Last year in the small town of Mattoon,<sup>6</sup> a private school wanted to open in a building that had been vacated three years prior when the Antigo School District consolidated. Despite offering to sell the building to the city for \$1 dollar in the past, the district pushed back when it learned that a private school wanted to purchase the building. WILL sued on behalf of the organization wanting to open the private school and litigation is ongoing. But policies that incentivize or require the sale of vacant buildings or encourage districts to co-locate with other sectors of schools would make it easier for public charter and private schools to access facilities.

### **Expand educational options so students can customize their education to their needs**

Of the 134 ZIP codes without ready access to high-performing public schools, 119 also lack private schools participating in choice programs. Currently, only about 52% of the 792 private schools in the state participate in school choice, and many of those face enrollment caps under the WPCP. Eliminating enrollment caps could help additional schools participate in choice.

While alleviating some of the barriers to the WPCP and public charter schools may help attenuate this problem to some extent, one should also recognize that other alternatives may be needed for rural regions. Existing state programs can be expanded to further serve rural regions, including options that permit public



high-school students to take online courses at other districts (part-time open enrollment). A legislative proposal<sup>7</sup> would expand the part-time open enrollment program so private schools can participate and require more promotion of this program to Wisconsin families.

Additional policy considerations include addressing how to improve the quality of local public schools and creating resource opportunities for parents in these areas to access supplemental educational resources through Education Savings Accounts.

### **Long-term policy implications – Where does Wisconsin go from here?**

Wisconsin's rural communities are facing immense challenges like declining population, consolidation discussions, and struggles to recruit teachers. Without addressing these systematic challenges, far too many Wisconsin students will continue to be deprived of educational options. Wisconsin policymakers could start with looking at alternative pathways to teaching careers in order to help eliminate barriers for individuals to transition to teaching.<sup>8</sup>

## **Conclusion**

A significant number of Wisconsin ZIP codes do not have access to any high-performing schools within 10 miles. While many of these high-performing schools are found in the urban and suburban areas of the state, we would argue that there is likely sufficient demand for educational alternatives in rural areas as well, especially if policymakers begin to address the barriers and challenges to school choice facing these communities.

## Endnotes

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7. Wisconsin State Legislature. "Assembly Bill 849" Accessed 7/15/2020 <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/proposals/AB849>
8. National Council on Teacher Quality, assessing Wisconsin teacher policies finds that Wisconsin fails to meet goals on teacher shortages and surpluses, program entry, providing provisional licenses, or compensating for prior work experience. <https://www.nctq.org/yearbook/home#tab2>

## Appendix A: ZIP Codes without access to high-performing schools

| ZIP Code | City        | County     | ZIP Code | City              | County      |
|----------|-------------|------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|
| 53199    | Silver Lake | Kenosha    | 54538    | Lac Du Flambeau   | Vilas       |
| 53560    | Mazomanie   | Dane       | 54542    | Long Lake         | Florence    |
| 53820    | Potosi      | Grant      | 54547    | Mercer            | Iron        |
| 53924    | Cazenovia   | Richland   | 54552    | Park Falls        | Price       |
| 53926    | Dalton      | Green Lake | 54559    | Saxon             | Iron        |
| 53950    | New Lisbon  | Juneau     | 54561    | Star Lake         | Vilas       |
| 53954    | Pardeeville | Columbia   | 54564    | Tripoli           | Oneida      |
| 53955    | Poynette    | Columbia   | 54565    | Upson             | Iron        |
| 53960    | Rio         | Columbia   | 54613    | Arkdale           | Adams       |
| 53969    | Wyocena     | Columbia   | 54615    | Black River Falls | Jackson     |
| 54006    | Cushing     | Polk       | 54618    | Camp Douglas      | Juneau      |
| 54102    | Amberg      | Marinette  | 54621    | Chaseburg         | Vernon      |
| 54104    | Athelstane  | Marinette  | 54622    | Cochrane          | Buffalo     |
| 54106    | Black Creek | Outagamie  | 54623    | Coon Valley       | Vernon      |
| 54107    | Bonduel     | Shawano    | 54625    | Dodge             | Trempealeau |
| 54128    | Gresham     | Shawano    | 54629    | Fountain City     | Buffalo     |
| 54135    | Keshena     | Menominee  | 54634    | Hillsboro         | Vernon      |
| 54138    | Lakewood    | Oconto     | 54639    | La Farge          | Vernon      |
| 54149    | Mountain    | Oconto     | 54641    | Mather            | Juneau      |

| ZIP Code | City              | County    | ZIP Code | City           | County      |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|-------------|
| 54150    | Neopit            | Menominee | 54643    | Millston       | Jackson     |
| 54152    | Nichols           | Outagamie | 54646    | Necedah        | Juneau      |
| 54157    | Peshtigo          | Marinette | 54649    | Oakdale        | Monroe      |
| 54166    | Shawano           | Shawano   | 54655    | Soldiers Grove | Crawford    |
| 54170    | Shiocton          | Outagamie | 54659    | Taylor         | Jackson     |
| 54175    | Townsend          | Oconto    | 54660    | Tomah          | Monroe      |
| 54182    | Zachow            | Shawano   | 54662    | Tunnel City    | Monroe      |
| 54201    | Algoma            | Kewaunee  | 54664    | Viola          | Richland    |
| 54204    | Brussels          | Door      | 54666    | Warrens        | Monroe      |
| 54210    | Ellison Bay       | Door      | 54722    | Augusta        | Eau Claire  |
| 54213    | Forestville       | Door      | 54723    | Bay City       | Pierce      |
| 54216    | Kewaunee          | Kewaunee  | 54724    | Bloomer        | Chippewa    |
| 54227    | Maribel           | Manitowoc | 54738    | Eleva          | Trempealeau |
| 54240    | Tisch Mills       | Manitowoc | 54750    | Maiden Rock    | Pierce      |
| 54246    | Washington Island | Door      | 54751    | Menomonie      | Dunn        |
| 54411    | Athens            | Marathon  | 54760    | Pigeon Falls   | Trempealeau |
| 54413    | Babcock           | Wood      | 54761    | Plum City      | Pierce      |
| 54416    | Bowler            | Shawano   | 54764    | Rock Falls     | Dunn        |
| 54418    | Bryant            | Langlade  | 54766    | Sheldon        | Rusk        |
| 54428    | Elcho             | Langlade  | 54813    | Barronett      | Barron      |
| 54430    | Elton             | Langlade  | 54814    | Bayfield       | Bayfield    |

| ZIP Code | City             | County   | ZIP Code | City          | County     |
|----------|------------------|----------|----------|---------------|------------|
| 54433    | Gilman           | Taylor   | 54816    | Benoit        | Bayfield   |
| 54434    | Jump River       | Taylor   | 54827    | Cornucopia    | Bayfield   |
| 54435    | Gleason          | Lincoln  | 54828    | Couderay      | Sawyer     |
| 54439    | Hannibal         | Taylor   | 54829    | Cumberland    | Barron     |
| 54442    | Irma             | Lincoln  | 54830    | Danbury       | Burnett    |
| 54447    | Lublin           | Taylor   | 54835    | Exeland       | Sawyer     |
| 54450    | Mattoon          | Shawano  | 54836    | Foxboro       | Douglas    |
| 54456    | Neillsville      | Clark    | 54837    | Frederic      | Polk       |
| 54460    | Owen             | Clark    | 54838    | Gordon        | Douglas    |
| 54462    | Pearson          | Langlade | 54845    | Hertel        | Burnett    |
| 54463    | Pelican Lake     | Oneida   | 54847    | Iron River    | Bayfield   |
| 54465    | Pickerel         | Langlade | 54850    | La Pointe     | Ashland    |
| 54466    | Pittsville       | Wood     | 54856    | Mason         | Bayfield   |
| 54473    | Rosholt          | Portage  | 54861    | Odanah        | Ashland    |
| 54485    | Summit Lake      | Langlade | 54873    | Solon Springs | Douglas    |
| 54486    | Tigerton         | Shawano  | 54876    | Stone Lake    | Sawyer     |
| 54487    | Tomahawk         | Lincoln  | 54923    | Berlin        | Green Lake |
| 54491    | White Lake       | Langlade | 54926    | Big Falls     | Waupaca    |
| 54498    | Withee           | Clark    | 54928    | Caroline      | Shawano    |
| 54511    | Argonne          | Forest   | 54945    | Iola          | Waupaca    |
| 54512    | Boulder Junction | Vilas    | 54948    | Leopolis      | Shawano    |



| ZIP Code | City              | County  | ZIP Code | City       | County     |
|----------|-------------------|---------|----------|------------|------------|
| 54517    | Clam Lake         | Ashland | 54949    | Manawa     | Waupaca    |
| 54524    | Fifield           | Price   | 54962    | Ogdensburg | Waupaca    |
| 54526    | Glen Flora        | Rusk    | 54967    | Poy Sippi  | Waushara   |
| 54530    | Hawkins           | Rusk    | 54968    | Princeton  | Green Lake |
| 54532    | Heafford Junction | Lincoln | 54970    | Redgranite | Waushara   |
| 54537    | Kennan            | Price   | 54978    | Tilleda    | Shawano    |

## Appendix B: State legislative representatives by ZIP Code

Based on 2019-2020 legislative session

| ZIP   | City        | County     | Senate     | Assembly  |
|-------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 53199 | Silver Lake | Kenosha    | Wanggaard  | Kerkman   |
| 53560 | Mazomanie   | Dane       | Erpenbach  | Considine |
| 53820 | Potosi      | Grant      | Marklein   | Tranel    |
| 53924 | Cazenovia   | Richland   | Marklein   | Kurtz     |
| 53926 | Dalton      | Green Lake | Olsen      | Plumer    |
| 53950 | New Lisbon  | Juneau     | Marklein   | Kurtz     |
| 53954 | Pardeeville | Columbia   | Olsen      | Plumer    |
| 53955 | Poynette    | Columbia   | Olsen      | Plumer    |
| 53960 | Rio         | Columbia   | Olsen      | Plumer    |
| 53969 | Wyocena     | Columbia   | Olsen      | Plumer    |
| 54006 | Cushing     | Polk       | Schachtner | Magnafici |
| 54102 | Amberg      | Marinette  | Vacant     | Mursau    |
| 54104 | Athelstane  | Marinette  | Vacant     | Mursau    |
| 54106 | Black Creek | Outagamie  | Cowles     | Steineke  |
| 54107 | Bonduel     | Shawano    | Cowles     | Tauchen   |
| 54128 | Gresham     | Shawano    | Cowles     | Tauchen   |
| 54135 | Keshena     | Menominee  | Vacant     | Mursau    |
| 54138 | Lakewood    | Oconto     | Vacant     | Mursau    |
| 54149 | Mountain    | Oconto     | Vacant     | Mursau    |

| ZIP   | City              | County    | Senate    | Assembly   |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 54150 | Neopit            | Menominee | Vacant    | Mursau     |
| 54152 | Nichols           | Outagamie | Cowles    | Steineke   |
| 54157 | Peshtigo          | Marinette | Hansen    | Nygren     |
| 54166 | Shawano           | Shawano   | Cowles    | Tauchen    |
| 54170 | Shiocton          | Outagamie | Cowles    | Tauchen    |
| 54174 | Suring            | Oconto    | Vacant    | Mursau     |
| 54175 | Townsend          | Oconto    | Vacant    | Mursau     |
| 54182 | Zachow            | Shawano   | Cowles    | Tauchen    |
| 54201 | Algoma            | Kewaunee  | Jacque    | Kitchens   |
| 54204 | Brussels          | Door      | Jacque    | Kitchens   |
| 54210 | Ellison Bay       | Door      | Jacque    | Kitchens   |
| 54213 | Forestville       | Door      | Jacque    | Kitchens   |
| 54216 | Kewaunee          | Kewaunee  | Jacque    | Kitchens   |
| 54227 | Maribel           | Manitowoc | Jacque    | Sortwell   |
| 54240 | Tisch Mills       | Manitowoc | Jacque    | Kitchens   |
| 54246 | Washington Island | Door      | Jacque    | Kitchens   |
| 54411 | Athens            | Marathon  | Petrowski | Edming     |
| 54413 | Babcock           | Wood      | Testin    | VanderMeer |
| 54416 | Bowler            | Shawano   | Cowles    | Tauchen    |
| 54418 | Bryant            | Langlade  | Vacant    | Felzkowski |
| 54428 | Elcho             | Langlade  | Vacant    | Felzkowski |

| ZIP   | City         | County   | Senate    | Assembly   |
|-------|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| 54430 | Elton        | Langlade | Vacant    | Mursau     |
| 54433 | Gilman       | Taylor   | Petrowski | Edming     |
| 54434 | Jump River   | Taylor   | Petrowski | Edming     |
| 54435 | Gleason      | Lincoln  | Vacant    | Felzkowski |
| 54439 | Hannibal     | Taylor   | Petrowski | Edming     |
| 54442 | Irma         | Lincoln  | Vacant    | Felzkowski |
| 54447 | Lublin       | Taylor   | Petrowski | Edming     |
| 54450 | Mattoon      | Shawano  | Vacant    | Felzkowski |
| 54456 | Neillsville  | Clark    | Bernier   | Kulp       |
| 54460 | Owen         | Clark    | Bernier   | Kulp       |
| 54462 | Pearson      | Langlade | Vacant    | Mursau     |
| 54463 | Pelican Lake | Oneida   | Vacant    | Felzkowski |
| 54465 | Pickerel     | Langlade | Vacant    | Mursau     |
| 54466 | Pittsville   | Wood     | Bernier   | Kulp       |
| 54473 | Rosholt      | Portage  | Testin    | Shankland  |
| 54485 | Summit Lake  | Langlade | Vacant    | Felzkowski |
| 54486 | Tigerton     | Shawano  | Cowles    | Tauchen    |
| 54487 | Tomahawk     | Lincoln  | Vacant    | Felzkowski |
| 54491 | White Lake   | Langlade | Vacant    | Mursau     |
| 54498 | Withee       | Clark    | Bernier   | James      |
| 54511 | Argonne      | Forest   | Vacant    | Swearingen |

| <b>ZIP</b> | <b>City</b>       | <b>County</b> | <b>Senate</b> | <b>Assembly</b> |
|------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 54512      | Boulder Junction  | Vilas         | Vacant        | Swearingen      |
| 54517      | Clam Lake         | Ashland       | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54524      | Fifield           | Price         | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54525      | Gile              | Iron          | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54526      | Glen Flora        | Rusk          | Petrowski     | Edming          |
| 54530      | Hawkins           | Rusk          | Petrowski     | Edming          |
| 54532      | Heafford Junction | Lincoln       | Vacant        | Felzkowski      |
| 54534      | Hurley            | Iron          | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54536      | Iron Belt         | Iron          | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54537      | Kennan            | Price         | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54538      | Lac Du Flambeau   | Vilas         | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54542      | Long Lake         | Florence      | Vacant        | Swearingen      |
| 54547      | Mercer            | Iron          | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54550      | Montreal          | Iron          | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54552      | Park Falls        | Price         | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54559      | Saxon             | Iron          | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54561      | Star Lake         | Vilas         | Vacant        | Swearingen      |
| 54564      | Tripoli           | Oneida        | Vacant        | Felzkowski      |
| 54565      | Upson             | Iron          | Bewley        | Meyers          |
| 54610      | Alma              | Buffalo       | Smith         | Pronschinske    |
| 54612      | Arcadia           | Trempealeau   | Smith         | Pronschinske    |



| <b>ZIP</b> | <b>City</b>       | <b>County</b> | <b>Senate</b> | <b>Assembly</b> |
|------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 54613      | Arkdale           | Adams         | Testin        | Krug            |
| 54615      | Black River Falls | Jackson       | Smith         | Pronschinske    |
| 54618      | Camp Douglas      | Juneau        | Marklein      | Kurtz           |
| 54621      | Chaseburg         | Vernon        | Vacant        | Oldenburg       |
| 54622      | Cochrane          | Buffalo       | Smith         | Pronschinske    |
| 54623      | Coon Valley       | Vernon        | Vacant        | Oldenburg       |
| 54625      | Dodge             | Trempealeau   | Smith         | Pronschinske    |
| 54629      | Fountain City     | Buffalo       | Smith         | Pronschinske    |
| 54634      | Hillsboro         | Vernon        | Marklein      | Kurtz           |
| 54635      | Hixton            | Jackson       | Smith         | Pronschinske    |
| 54639      | La Farge          | Vernon        | Vacant        | Oldenburg       |
| 54641      | Mather            | Juneau        | Marklein      | Kurtz           |
| 54643      | Millston          | Jackson       | Testin        | VanderMeer      |
| 54646      | Necedah           | Juneau        | Marklein      | Kurtz           |
| 54649      | Oakdale           | Monroe        | Testin        | VanderMeer      |
| 54655      | Soldiers Grove    | Crawford      | Vacant        | Oldenburg       |
| 54659      | Taylor            | Jackson       | Smith         | Pronschinske    |
| 54660      | Tomah             | Monroe        | Testin        | VanderMeer      |
| 54662      | Tunnel City       | Monroe        | Testin        | VanderMeer      |
| 54664      | Viola             | Richland      | Marklein      | Tranel          |
| 54666      | Warrens           | Monroe        | Testin        | VanderMeer      |

| ZIP   | City         | County      | Senate     | Assembly     |
|-------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 54722 | Augusta      | Eau Claire  | Bernier    | James        |
| 54723 | Bay City     | Pierce      | Smith      | Petryk       |
| 54724 | Bloomer      | Chippewa    | Bernier    | Summerfield  |
| 54738 | Eleva        | Trempealeau | Smith      | Pronschinske |
| 54750 | Maiden Rock  | Pierce      | Smith      | Petryk       |
| 54751 | Menomonie    | Dunn        | Schachtner | Stafsholt    |
| 54756 | Nelson       | Buffalo     | Smith      | Pronschinske |
| 54760 | Pigeon Falls | Trempealeau | Smith      | Pronschinske |
| 54761 | Plum City    | Pierce      | Smith      | Petryk       |
| 54764 | Rock Falls   | Dunn        | Smith      | Petryk       |
| 54766 | Sheldon      | Rusk        | Petrowski  | Edming       |
| 54773 | Whitehall    | Trempealeau | Smith      | Pronschinske |
| 54813 | Barronett    | Barron      | Bewley     | Quinn        |
| 54814 | Bayfield     | Bayfield    | Bewley     | Meyers       |
| 54816 | Benoit       | Bayfield    | Bewley     | Meyers       |
| 54827 | Cornucopia   | Bayfield    | Bewley     | Meyers       |
| 54828 | Couderay     | Sawyer      | Petrowski  | Edming       |
| 54829 | Cumberland   | Barron      | Bewley     | Quinn        |
| 54830 | Danbury      | Burnett     | Bewley     | Milroy       |
| 54835 | Exeland      | Sawyer      | Petrowski  | Edming       |
| 54836 | Foxboro      | Douglas     | Bewley     | Milroy       |

| ZIP   | City          | County     | Senate     | Assembly  |
|-------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 54837 | Frederic      | Polk       | Schachtner | Magnafici |
| 54838 | Gordon        | Douglas    | Bewley     | Milroy    |
| 54845 | Hertel        | Burnett    | Bewley     | Milroy    |
| 54847 | Iron River    | Bayfield   | Bewley     | Meyers    |
| 54850 | La Pointe     | Ashland    | Bewley     | Meyers    |
| 54856 | Mason         | Bayfield   | Bewley     | Meyers    |
| 54861 | Odanah        | Ashland    | Bewley     | Meyers    |
| 54870 | Sarona        | Washburn   | Bewley     | Quinn     |
| 54873 | Solon Springs | Douglas    | Bewley     | Milroy    |
| 54876 | Stone Lake    | Sawyer     | Petrowski  | Edming    |
| 54923 | Berlin        | Green Lake | Olsen      | Ballweg   |
| 54926 | Big Falls     | Waupaca    | Olsen      | Petersen  |
| 54928 | Caroline      | Shawano    | Cowles     | Tauchen   |
| 54945 | Iola          | Waupaca    | Olsen      | Petersen  |
| 54948 | Leopolis      | Shawano    | Cowles     | Tauchen   |
| 54949 | Manawa        | Waupaca    | Olsen      | Petersen  |
| 54962 | Ogdensburg    | Waupaca    | Olsen      | Petersen  |
| 54967 | Poy Sippi     | Waushara   | Olsen      | Petersen  |
| 54968 | Princeton     | Green Lake | Olsen      | Ballweg   |
| 54970 | Redgranite    | Waushara   | Olsen      | Petersen  |
| 54978 | Tilleda       | Shawano    | Cowles     | Tauchen   |

## Appendix C: Counties with 3 or more high-performing school deserts

| County   | Number of High-performing school desert ZIP Codes | School Districts within high-performing school deserts  | Population of students: Ages 5-19 years |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Shawano  | 11  | Bonduel School District<br>Menominee Indian School District<br>Gresham School District<br>Shawano School District<br>Bowler School District<br>Tigerton School District | 4664                                    |
| Langlade | 7   | Elcho School District<br>White Lake School District   | 527                                     |
| Bayfield | 5   | Bayfield School District  | 1586                                    |
| Columbia | 4   | Pardeeville Area School District<br>School District of Poynette<br>Rio Community  | 2907                                    |
| Door     | 4   | Southern Door County School District<br>Washington Island School District   | 721                                     |
| Iron     | 3   | Mercer School District  | 339                                     |
| Juneau   | 4   | New Lisbon School District<br>Tomah School District<br>Necedah School District  | 2158                                    |
| Lincoln  | 4   | Tomahawk School District  | 1983                                    |
| Monroe   | 4   | Tomah Area School District  | 3627                                    |

| County  | Number of High-performing school desert ZIP Codes | School Districts within high-performing school deserts                             | Population of students: Ages 5-19 years |
|---------|---|--|---|
| Oconto  | 3   | N/A  | 592                                     |
| Taylor  | 4   | Gilman School District   | 423                                     |
| Vernon  | 4   | Westby School District<br>School District of Hillsboro<br>La Farge School District | 2483                                    |
| Waupaca | 4   | Iola-Scandinavia School District<br>School District on Manawa                      | 1453                                    |





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