

# WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

## WPCP Facts and Figures for 2021-22 As of October 2022

In January 2022, there were 301 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 14,179 students or 13,754.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.\* The 2021-22 WPCP state aid payment for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$8,336 and \$8,982 for a student enrolled full-time in grade nine through twelve.

Act 55 (Wisconsin 2015-17 Biennial Budget) changed the manner in which the WPCP is funded. Students that participated in the program prior to the 2015-16 school year will continue to be fully funded from state general purpose revenue. Pupils who begin attending a private school under the WPCP in the 2015-16 school year and thereafter are referred to as "incoming pupils." All choice pupils participating in the WPCP must identify their resident public school district (the public school district where they reside on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September). State law requires Wisconsin public school districts to have their state general aid reduced by an amount equal to the amount paid by the state to participating private schools attributable to the incoming pupils residing in the district.

If a resident public school district does not receive general aid payments sufficient to cover the incoming choice pupil aid reduction, the balance would be reduced from other state aids received by the district. Incoming pupils in the WPCP are included in their resident public school district's membership for state general aid purposes in the following year. Districts may not levy to backfill the aid reduction. However, they receive a non-recurring revenue limit exemption equal to their general state aid reduction. For the 2021-22 school year, no more than 6% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 16,038 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in May for districts with more applications than the 6% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 1,380 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. As of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September (September 17, 2021), there were 93 students on private school waiting lists and 133 students on the WPCP waiting list due to the 6% public school district limit. The department is required to fill a seat from a district's waiting list if a choice student leaves a school and the choice enrollment falls below the 6% limit.

Table 1 shows the WPCP enrollment by grade level. The number of students listed in the table is reported by headcount and FTE. For example, a four-year-old kindergarten student may be counted as 0.5 or 0.6 FTE.

**TABLE 1**  
**WPCP 2021-22 Enrollment by Grade Level\***

	3rd Friday in September 2021		2nd Friday in January 2022	
<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	841	434.6	829	428.4
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,372	1,347.3	1,352	1,327.8
1st Grade	1,517	1,517.0	1,490	1,490.0
2nd Grade	1,463	1,463.0	1,443	1,443.0
3rd Grade	1,318	1,318.0	1,295	1,295.0
4th Grade	1,237	1,237.0	1,221	1,221.0
5th Grade	994	994.0	980	980.0
6th Grade	984	984.0	964	964.0
7th Grade	815	815.0	795	795.0
8th Grade	759	759.0	745	745.0
9th Grade	954	954.0	941	941.0
10th Grade	820	820.0	795	795.0
11th Grade	707	707.0	692	692.0
12th Grade	651	651.0	637	637.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,432</b>	<b>14,000.9</b>	<b>14,179</b>	<b>13,754.2</b>

\* These numbers are as of October 2022 and are subject to change.

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Table 2 provides the total number of students in the WPCP by where (and if) they were enrolled in school in 2020-21.

**TABLE 2**  
**2021-22 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments\***

2020-21 Parent Reported Enrollment	3rd Friday in September 2021			
	Headcount	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Choice	10,636	73.70%	10,621.8	75.87%
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Non-Choice**	1,095	7.59%	1,083.1	7.74%
Wisconsin Public School	1,069	7.41%	1,065.7	7.61%
No School	1,040	7.21%	639.8	4.57%
Homeschooled	553	3.83%	551.5	3.94%
Out of State	39	0.27%	39.0	0.28%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,432</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,000.9</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* These numbers are as of October 2022 and are subject to change.

\*\* Of the 1,095 students (1,083.1 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2020-21 as non-Choice students, 279 (267.1 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 210 students applied to first grade and 325 students applied to ninth grade for the 2021-22 school year, and the remaining 281 students applied to other grades either under the law for combined governing board agreements or were on a Choice program prior year waiting list or the WPCP district cap waiting list in 2015-16 or later.

Table 3 provides the total number of students on the WPCP waiting list for the 2021-22 school year due to the 6% public school district limit.\*

**TABLE 3**  
**2021-22 WPCP Waiting List and School District 6% Limit\*\***

School District	Number Students on WPCP Waiting List	School District 6% Limit
Coleman	7	40
Reedsville	25	37
Saint Francis	3	46
Watertown Unified	35	217
West Allis-West Milwaukee	63	462
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>133</b>	

\* These numbers are as of October 2022 and are subject to change.

\*\* There are also 93 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 93 students are not included in Table 3.