

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

WPCP Facts and Figures for 2022-23 As of October 2023

In January 2023, there were 314 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 16,804 students or 16,307.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.* The 2022-23 WPCP state aid payment for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$8,399 and \$9,045 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 3rd 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 2022-23 school year, no more than 7% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 18,690 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in May for districts with more applications than the 7% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 1,452 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. There were 154 students on private school waiting lists and 47 students on the WPCP waiting list due to the 7% 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 7% 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 2022-23 Enrollment by Grade Level*

	3rd Friday in September 2022		2nd Friday in January 2023	
<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,018	532.1	1,001	523.6
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,584	1,564.4	1,553	1,533.9
1st Grade	1,625	1,625.0	1,606	1,606.0
2nd Grade	1,673	1,673.0	1,650	1,650.0
3rd Grade	1,619	1,619.0	1,593	1,593.0
4th Grade	1,437	1,437.0	1,427	1,427.0
5th Grade	1,423	1,423.0	1,402	1,402.0
6th Grade	1,118	1,118.0	1,110	1,110.0
7th Grade	1,078	1,078.0	1,060	1,060.0
8th Grade	905	905.0	891	891.0
9th Grade	1,065	1,065.0	1,057	1,057.0
10th Grade	982	982.0	973	973.0
11th Grade	816	816.0	797	797.0
12th Grade	694	694.0	684	684.0
Totals	17,037	16,531.5	16,804	16,307.5

*These numbers are as of October 2023 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 2021-22.

TABLE 2
2022-23 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments*

2021-22 Parent Reported Enrollment	3rd Friday in September 2022			
	Headcount	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Choice	12,712	74.61%	12,687.7	76.75%
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Non-Choice**	1,072	6.29%	1,062.9	6.43%
Wisconsin Public School	1,173	6.89%	1,172.5	7.09%
No School	1,186	6.96%	715.9	4.33%
Homeschooled	840	4.93%	838.5	5.07%
Out of State	54	0.32%	54.0	0.33%
Totals	17,037	100%	16,531.5	100%

* These numbers are as of October 2023 and are subject to change.

** Of the 1,072 students (1,062.9 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2021-22 as non-Choice students, 311 (301.9 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 183 students applied to first grade and 328 students applied to ninth grade for the 2022-23 school year, and the remaining 250 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 2022-23 school year due to the 7% public school district limit.*

TABLE 3
2022-23 WPCP Waiting List and School District 7% Limit**

School District	Number Students on WPCP Waiting List	School District 7% Limit
Coleman	5	48
Reedsville	9	45
Watertown Unified	19	249
West Allis-West Milwaukee	14	538
Total Students	47	

* These numbers are as of October 2023 and are subject to change.

**There are also 154 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 154 students are not included in Table 3.