

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

WPCP Facts and Figures for 2023-24 As of October 2023

In October 2023, there were 330 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 19,205 students or 18,711.1 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.* The 2023-24 WPCP state aid payment for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$9,893 and \$12,387 for a student enrolled full-time in grade nine through twelve. The program is estimated to cost \$195,400,000 in 2023-24.

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 2023-24 school year, no more than 8% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 20,907 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in May for districts with more applications than the 8% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 1,450 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. As of the 3rd Friday in September (September 15, 2023), there were 124 students on private school waiting lists and 128 students on the WPCP waiting list due to the 8% 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 8% 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 2023-24 Enrollment by Grade Level*

<u>Grade Level</u>	3rd Friday in September 2023	
	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,015	536.5
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,660	1,644.6
1st Grade	1,817	1,817.0
2nd Grade	1,755	1,755.0
3rd Grade	1,785	1,785.0
4th Grade	1,741	1,741.0
5th Grade	1,535	1,535.0
6th Grade	1,524	1,524.0
7th Grade	1,215	1,215.0
8th Grade	1,111	1,111.0
9th Grade	1,188	1,188.0
10th Grade	1,083	1,083.0
11th Grade	990	990.0
12th Grade	786	786.0
Totals	19,205	18,711.1

* These are unaudited numbers 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 2022-23.

TABLE 2
2023-24 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments*

2022-23 Parent Reported Enrollment	3rd Friday in September 2023			
	Headcount	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Choice	15,075	78.50%	15,053.7	80.45%
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Non-Choice**	930	4.84%	922.3	4.93%
Wisconsin Public School	1,161	6.05%	1,159.4	6.20%
No School	1,181	6.15%	719.6	3.85%
Homeschooled	804	4.19%	802.1	4.29%
Out of State	54	0.28%	54.0	0.29%
Totals	19,205	100%	18,711.1	100%

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

** Of the 930 students (922.3 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2022-23 as non-Choice students, 270 (262.3 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 190 students applied to first grade and 316 students applied to ninth grade for the 2023-24 school year, and the remaining 154 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 2023-24 school year due to the 8% public school district limit.*

TABLE 3
2023-24 WPCP Waiting List and School District 8% Limit**

School District	Number Students on WPCP Waiting List	School District 8% Limit
Reedsville	5	51
Watertown Unified	38	274
West Allis-West Milwaukee	85	615
Total Students	128	

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

**There are also 124 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 124 students are not included in Table 3.