

Private School Choice Programs in Wisconsin Application Guidelines for Parents

Step 1: Online Application

Each year, parents must complete the online parent application at dpi.wi.gov/choice. An email address is required.

Open application periods vary by Choice program and school. Schools decide which of the periods they will accept student applications. Parents may apply to one or more schools for their student(s) during the available open application period(s).

Please note that starting in the 2026-27 school year, the WPCP will have more than one application period with the application dates being different than in prior years.

Step 2: Supporting Documentation

Parents will receive a confirmation email after submitting an application with information about the supporting documentation parents must provide to the school(s) to complete the application process.

Parents must provide supporting documentation **directly to each school they apply to during the open application period** as explained in the application and confirmation email, or the application is ineligible:

- **Residency Documentation:** All parents must provide residency documentation.
- **Income Documentation:** Parents of students that participated in any Choice program in the prior year and students on a Choice waiting list in the prior year applying to the same Choice program are not required to provide income documentation.

Parents of new students must show income eligibility by either:

(1) providing their social security number or taxpayer identification numbers and having the Department of Revenue determine whether the student is income eligible

–OR–

(2) using the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Income Determination method by answering a series of income questions in the online parent application. Generally, documentation must be submitted directly to the school(s) if the parent selects the DPI Income Determination method.

(continued on next page)

Open Application Periods



Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

February 2 – February 20

March 1 – March 20

April 1 – April 20

May 1 – May 20

June 1 – June 22

July 1 – July 20

August 1 – August 20

September 1 – September 14

October 1 – October 20*

November 1 – November 20*

December 1 – January 5*

**2nd semester participation only*



Racine Unified Parental Choice Program (RPCP)



Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

February 2 – February 20

March 1 – March 20

April 1 – April 20

May 1 – May 20

June 1 – June 22

July 1 – July 20

August 1 – August 20

September 1 – September 14

2026-2027

Private School Choice Programs in Wisconsin

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Step 3: Parent Notifications of Acceptance or Nonacceptance to the Choice Program

Schools must notify parents within 60 days of the end of the open application period during which an application is received whether the student(s) were accepted into the Choice program.

If a Choice school receives applications from more eligible students than it has Choice seats available, selection of students will be determined on a random basis with certain preferences allowed under state law.

Helpful Resources

The Application Process Presentation, Online Parent Application Print Screens, Frequently Asked Questions resource, and the Overview of Private School Choice Programs in Wisconsin handout at dpi.wi.gov/choice can help parents complete the application process and learn more about the Choice program and student eligibility.

For More Information:

Parents should contact schools directly with questions about the application process or status of their application. A list of participating private schools and their contact information can be found at: dpi.wi.gov/choice.

Private School Choice Programs
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Toll-free: 888-245-2732, ext. 3
Web site: dpi.wi.gov/choice

This information is based on Wis. Stats. §§118.60 & 119.23 and Wis. Admin. Code PI 35 & PI 48.

