

# WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

## WPCP Facts and Figures for 2018-19

In January 2019, there were 213 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 7,016 students or 6,763.1 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.\* The 2018-19 WPCP state aid payment for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$7,754 and \$8,400 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 2018-19 school year, no more than 3% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 8,034 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in June for districts with more applications than the 3% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 838 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. There were 62 students on private school waiting lists and 15 students on the WPCP waiting list due to the 3% 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 3% 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 2018-19 Enrollment by Grade Level\***

| <b>Grade Level</b>      | <b>3rd Friday in<br/>September 2018</b> |                | <b>2nd Friday in<br/>January 2019</b> |                |
|-------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
|                         | <b>Headcount</b>                        | <b>FTE</b>     | <b>Headcount</b>                      | <b>FTE</b>     |
| 4 Year-Old Kindergarten | 482                                     | 246.5          | 477                                   | 244.0          |
| 5 Year-Old Kindergarten | 847                                     | 827.3          | 840                                   | 820.1          |
| 1st Grade               | 850                                     | 850.0          | 840                                   | 840.0          |
| 2nd Grade               | 612                                     | 612.0          | 606                                   | 606.0          |
| 3rd Grade               | 500                                     | 500.0          | 495                                   | 495.0          |
| 4th Grade               | 454                                     | 454.0          | 444                                   | 444.0          |
| 5th Grade               | 405                                     | 405.0          | 400                                   | 400.0          |
| 6th Grade               | 432                                     | 432.0          | 428                                   | 428.0          |
| 7th Grade               | 387                                     | 387.0          | 376                                   | 376.0          |
| 8th Grade               | 330                                     | 330.0          | 324                                   | 324.0          |
| 9th Grade               | 696                                     | 696.0          | 683                                   | 683.0          |
| 10th Grade              | 500                                     | 500.0          | 492                                   | 492.0          |
| 11th Grade              | 366                                     | 366.0          | 358                                   | 358.0          |
| 12th Grade              | 258                                     | 258.0          | 253                                   | 253.0          |
| <b>Totals</b>           | <b>7,119</b>                            | <b>6,863.8</b> | <b>7,016</b>                          | <b>6,763.1</b> |

\* These numbers are as of October 2019 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 **2017-18**.

**TABLE 2  
2018-19 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments\***

| <b>2017-18 Enrollment</b> | <b>3rd Friday in September 2018</b> |                       |                |                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                           | <b>Headcount**</b>                  | <b>% of Headcount</b> | <b>FTE</b>     | <b>% of FTE</b> |
| Wisconsin Private School  | 5,457                               | 76.65%                | 5,355.6        | 78.03%          |
| Wisconsin Public School   | 1,011                               | 14.20%                | 999.2          | 14.56%          |
| No School                 | 396                                 | 5.56%                 | 256.5          | 3.74%           |
| Homeschooled              | 202                                 | 2.84%                 | 200.0          | 2.91%           |
| Out of State              | 53                                  | 0.74%                 | 52.5           | 0.76%           |
| <b>Totals</b>             | <b>7,119</b>                        | <b>100%</b>           | <b>6,863.8</b> | <b>100%</b>     |

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\*\* Of the 5,457 students enrolled in private school in 2017-18, 4,084 (4,079.0 FTE) participated in the WPCP. Of the remaining 1,373 students (1,276.6 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2017-18, 474 (377.6 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 236 students applied to first grade and 381 students applied to ninth grade for the 2018-19 school year, and the remaining 282 students applied to other grades under the new law for combined governing board agreements.

Table 3 provides the total number of students on the WPCP waiting list for the 2018-19 school year due to the 3% public school district limit.\*

**TABLE 3  
2018-19 WPCP Waiting List and School District 3% Limit\*\***

| <b>School District</b> | <b>Number Students on WPCP Waiting List</b> | <b>School District 3% Limit</b> |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Bonduel                | 1   | 25                              |
| Watertown Unified      | 14  | 118                             |
| <b>Total Students</b>  | 15  |                                 |

\* These numbers are as of October 2019 and are subject to change.

\*\*There are also 62 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 62 students are not included in Table 3.