

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

WPCP Facts and Figures for 2019-20

In January 2020, there were 254 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 9,576 students or 9,239.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.* The 2019-20 WPCP state aid payment for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$8,046 and \$8,692 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 2019-20 school year, no more than 4% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 10,976 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in May for districts with more applications than the 4% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 1,106 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. There were 18 students on private school waiting lists and 120 students on the WPCP waiting list due to the 4% 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 4% 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 2019-20 Enrollment by Grade Level***

Grade Level	3rd Friday in September 2019		2nd Friday in January 2020	
	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	637	327.3	627	322.2
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,109	1,077.6	1,093	1,061.1
1st Grade	1,126	1,126.0	1,107	1,107.0
2nd Grade	990	990.0	974	974.0
3rd Grade	745	745.0	737	737.0
4th Grade	691	691.0	683	683.0
5th Grade	579	579.0	566	566.0
6th Grade	593	593.0	580	580.0
7th Grade	547	547.0	539	539.0
8th Grade	461	461.0	453	453.0
9th Grade	737	737.0	730	730.0
10th Grade	685	685.0	672	672.0
11th Grade	482	482.0	471	471.0
12th Grade	350	350.0	344	344.0
Totals	9,732	9,390.9	9,576	9,239.3

* These numbers are as of October 2020 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 2018-19.

**TABLE 2
2019-20 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments***

2018-19 Parent Reported Enrollment	3rd Friday in September 2019			
	Headcount	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Choice	6,320	64.94%	6,305.1	67.14%
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Non-Choice**	1,368	14.06%	1,355.1	14.43%
Wisconsin Public School	1,033	10.61%	1,029.1	10.96%
No School	757	7.78%	448.6	4.78%
Homeschooled	205	2.11%	204.0	2.17%
Out of State	49	0.50%	49.0	0.52%
Totals	9,732	100%	9,390.9	100%

* These numbers are as of October 2020 and are subject to change.

** Of the 1,368 students (1,355.1 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2018-19 as non-Choice students, 313 (300.1 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 218 students applied to first grade and 367 students applied to ninth grade for the 2019-20 school year, and the remaining 470 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 2019-20 school year due to the 4% public school district limit.*

**TABLE 3
2019-20 WPCP Waiting List and School District 4% Limit****

School District	Number Students on WPCP Waiting List	School District 4% Limit
Athens	2	17
Reedsville	18	26
Watertown Unified	34	154
West Allis-West Milwaukee	66	330
Total Students	120	

* These numbers are as of October 2020 and are subject to change.

**There are also 18 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 18 students are not included in Table 3.