

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

WPCP Facts and Figures for 2020-21 As of October 2021

In January 2021, there were 279 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 11,934 students or 11,568.1 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.* The 2020-21 WPCP state aid payment for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$8,300 and \$8,946 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 2020-21 school year, no more than 5% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 13,511 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in May for districts with more applications than the 5% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 1,285 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. There were 26 students on private school waiting lists and 111 students on the WPCP waiting list due to the 5% 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 5% 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 2020-21 Enrollment by Grade Level*

<u>Grade Level</u>	3rd Friday in September 2020		2nd Friday in January 2021	
	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	697	359.7	690	355.9
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,279	1,246.7	1,264	1,232.2
1st Grade	1,334	1,334.0	1,319	1,319.0
2nd Grade	1,215	1,215.0	1,200	1,200.0
3rd Grade	1,112	1,112.0	1,094	1,094.0
4th Grade	859	859.0	851	851.0
5th Grade	849	849.0	832	832.0
6th Grade	701	701.0	693	693.0
7th Grade	699	699.0	688	688.0
8th Grade	633	633.0	627	627.0
9th Grade	842	842.0	831	831.0
10th Grade	738	738.0	727	727.0
11th Grade	670	670.0	664	664.0
12th Grade	461	461.0	454	454.0
Totals	12,089	11,719.4	11,934	11,568.1

* These numbers are as of October 2021 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 2019-20.

**TABLE 2
2020-21 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments***

2019-20 Parent Reported Enrollment	3rd Friday in September 2020			
	Headcount	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Choice	8,582	70.99%	8,566.4	73.10%
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Non-Choice**	1,436	11.88%	1,424.5	12.16%
Wisconsin Public School	946	7.83%	941.7	8.04%
No School	839	6.94%	502.8	4.29%
Homeschooled	230	1.90%	228.5	1.95%
Out of State	56	0.46%	55.5	0.47%
Totals	12,089	100%	11,719.4	100%

* These numbers are as of October 2021 and are subject to change.

** Of the 1,436 students (1,424.5 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2019-20 as non-Choice students, 327 (315.5 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 207 students applied to first grade and 347 students applied to ninth grade for the 2020-21 school year, and the remaining 555 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 2020-21 school year due to the 5% public school district limit.*

**TABLE 3
2020-21 WPCP Waiting List and School District 5% Limit****

School District	Number Students on WPCP Waiting List	School District 5% Limit
Athens	5	22
Reedsville	30	33
West Allis-West Milwaukee	76	421
Total Students	111	

* These numbers are as of October 2021 and are subject to change.

** There are also 26 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 26 students are not included in Table 3.