

Summary of 2019 Wisconsin Act 55 as it Relates to the Private School Choice Programs

[2019 Wisconsin Act 55](#) was signed into law by Governor Evers on November 22, 2019. Act 55 makes changes to the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), the Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP), the Wisconsin or statewide Parental Choice Program (WPCP), collectively the Choice programs.

Changes in the law take effect immediately and affect three program areas.

1. WPCP Application Period – date changes
2. WPCP Student Movers – date change
3. Accreditation – entity change

WPCP Application Period

The open application period for the WPCP begins on the 1st weekday in February and ends on the 3rd Thursday in April. The previous dates were February 1 and April 20.

Schools that participate in the WPCP are required to verify all WPCP applications by the 1st weekday in May, previously May 1.

WPCP Student Movers

Students that participate in the WPCP may have their eligible applications transferred to another school that participates in the WPCP if the pupil's residence changes after the 3rd Thursday in April (previously April 21) and on or before the 3rd Friday in August, as long as the student moves to an eligible WPCP residence, the WPCP school has space available, and the student resides in a school district that has not exceeded its participation limit .

Accreditation

Eligible accrediting entities changed from AdvancED to Cognia, Inc.

The governing body of a school participating in the Choice programs shall provide a notice, previously a letter, prepared by an accrediting entity that confirms the school is accredited as of the date of the notice.

Please contact the DPI at privateschoolchoice@dpi.wi.gov or 1-888-245-2732 ext. 3 if you have questions.