

Overview of Private School Choice Programs in Wisconsin

Wisconsin has three programs that allow eligible students to attend a participating private school in grades four-year-old kindergarten (K4) to 12:

- Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)
- Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP)
- Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

The private school, on behalf of the student's parent or guardian, receives a state aid payment for each eligible student. A list of participating private schools can be found at: dpi.wi.gov/choice.



Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)



Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP)



Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

Student Eligibility

Each year, all students must apply at dpi.wi.gov/choice. Student eligibility, established by state law, varies for each program, based on a combination of student residency, income, and age. Generally, for the RPCP and WPCP, students must also be applying to certain grades or have met a prior year requirement.

RESIDENCY

All students must meet a residency requirement and provide documentation each year directly to the school(s):

- MPCP: Students must reside in the city of Milwaukee
- RPCP: Students must reside in the Racine Unified School District
- WPCP: Students must reside in Wisconsin but outside the city of Milwaukee and the Racine Unified School District

AGE

Students ages 4 - 20 on or before September 1 are eligible to apply for the Choice program. A student must be at least the following age on or before September 1: 4 years old for K4, 5 years old for K5 and 6 years old for grade 1.

APPLICATION GRADE OR PRIOR YEAR ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT (RPCP AND WPCP ONLY)

Students applying to the RPCP or WPCP must (1) be applying to grades K4, K5, 1, or 9, **OR** (2) meet one of the following requirements for the 2020-21 school year: (a) attended a public school in Wisconsin; (b)

attended school in another state; (c) were not enrolled in school (including homeschool for the entire 2020-21 school year); (d) participated in the MPCP, RPCP or WPCP; (e) are on a MPCP, RPCP or WPCP waiting list, **OR** (3) are applying to the WPCP and are on any prior year WPCP waiting list in 2015-16 or later due to a school district enrollment cap.

INCOME LIMITS

Continuing students applying to any Choice program and students on a Choice waiting list in the prior year applying to the same Choice program are not required to provide income documentation.

New Choice students must provide income documentation showing the family income does not exceed the following income limits:

Private School Choice Programs Eligibility Income Limits

Family Size	MPCP and RPCP Yearly Income*	WPCP Yearly Income*
1	\$38,280	\$28,072
2	\$51,720	\$37,928
3	\$65,160	\$47,784
4	\$78,600	\$57,640
5	\$92,040	\$67,496
6	\$105,480	\$77,352
For each additional member add:	\$13,440	\$9,856

*If the student's parents/legal guardians are married, their income is reduced by \$7,000 when determining income eligibility for the program (i.e. married family income minus \$7,000 is the amount married families compare to the table).

(continued on next page)

Other Choice Program Information

PAYMENT OF ALLOWABLE FEES

Choice schools cannot charge a Choice student fees for registration or application to the Choice program, books, teacher salaries, buildings, maintenance, equipment, or computers. A Choice school may charge a Choice student reasonable fees for certain personal use items.

TUITION PAYMENT – GRADES 9-12

A private school may, in addition to the state aid payment it receives, charge a Choice student tuition in an amount determined by the school if the student is in grade 9-12 and the student's family income exceeds the following limits:

Tuition Income Limits

Family Size	Yearly Income*
1	\$28,072
2	\$37,928
3	\$47,784
4	\$57,640
5	\$67,496
6	\$77,352
For each additional member add:	\$9,856

**If the student's parents/legal guardians are married, their income is reduced by \$7,000 when determining income eligibility for the program (i.e. married family income minus \$7,000 is the amount married families compare to the table).*

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

A Choice school may not discriminate against a student with special needs during the admissions process or elsewhere. However, as a private school, a Choice school is only required to offer services to assist students with special needs that it can provide with minor adjustments. Parents should contact the public school district in which the private school is located for more information on services provided to students with special needs enrolled in the public schools and the services, if any, that the school district provides to those enrolled in private schools.

Frequently Asked Questions*

Q.1 Can the Choice school require fundraising and school service of the Choice parent?

A.1 A school may not impose any penalties on a parent or student in the Choice program for failure to engage in fundraising (which would include any required service to the school).

Q.2 Is a student in the Choice program, required to participate in religious activities or instruction?

A.2 No. If a Choice student's parent submits to the student's teacher or the school's principal a written request that the student be excused from any religious activity, the teacher and school must honor that request.

Q.3 Are there statutory procedures regarding student suspensions and expulsions that a private Choice school is required to follow?

A.3 Yes. State law requires private Choice schools to have procedures in place regarding student suspensions and expulsions. Parents should ask the Choice school to provide a copy of the procedures the school has in place for imposition or appeal of suspensions or expulsions.

**The "Frequently Asked Questions" resource at dpi.wi.gov/choice has answers to several questions for parents to learn about the Choice program.*

For More Information:

For more information, parents are encouraged to contact the Choice school(s) they are interested in directly. 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.

