

# WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

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

In October 2020, there were 280 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 12,111 students or 11,740.0 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. The program is estimated to cost \$99,200,000 in 2020-21.

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 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 1,228 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. As of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September (September 18, 2020), there were 27 students on private school waiting lists and 145 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>	<b>3rd Friday in September 2020</b>	
	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	700	361.3
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,286	1,253.7
1st Grade	1,338	1,338.0
2nd Grade	1,217	1,217.0
3rd Grade	1,115	1,115.0
4th Grade	859	859.0
5th Grade	849	849.0
6th Grade	701	701.0
7th Grade	700	700.0
8th Grade	632	632.0
9th Grade	845	845.0
10th Grade	737	737.0
11th Grade	672	672.0
12th Grade	460	460.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,111</b>	<b>11,740.0</b>

\* These are unaudited numbers 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 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	8,592	77.04%	8,576.4	78.95%
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Non-Choice**	1,438	1.59%	1,426.5	1.63%
Wisconsin Public School	952	13.12%	948.2	13.46%
No School	842	6.77%	503.9	4.44%
Homeschooled	231	0.90%	229.5	0.93%
Out of State	56	0.58%	55.5	0.59%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,111</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,740.0</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

\*\* Of the 1,438 students (1,426.5 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2019-20 as non-Choice students, 333 (321.5 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 203 students applied to first grade and 349 students applied to ninth grade for the 2020-21 school year, and the remaining 553 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	6	22
Reedsville	30	33
Watertown Unified	9	197
West Allis-West Milwaukee	100	421
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>145</b>	

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

\*\*There are also 27 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 27 students are not included in Table 3.