

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### 28 schools to participate in Special Needs Scholarship Program

*Applications for the first year of the program open July 1 for 2016-17 school year*

MADISON — The Department of Public Instruction has posted a list of the 28 schools that have registered to participate in the [Special Needs Scholarship Program](#) for the 2016-17 school year, the first year of the program.

Parents and guardians may begin applying for scholarships on July 1.

Created as part of 2015 Act 55 (the 2015-17 biennial budget), the Special Needs Scholarship Program allows a child with a disability who meets eligibility requirements to receive a scholarship to attend a participating private school chosen by the child's parents or guardians. To be eligible for a scholarship, the child must have previously been rejected from attending a public school in a nonresident district under the state's open enrollment program and have an individualized education program (IEP) or services plan in effect. Parents and guardians may apply to the program beginning July 1 and throughout the course of the school year.

Each school that registered to participate in the program provided the DPI with a Special Education Profile that describes the methods of instruction and qualifications of those who will provide special education and related services to Special Needs Scholarship Program students. Those profiles are available online on the [Special Needs Scholarship Program website](#).

Participating private schools receive \$12,000 per full-time equivalent student. The list of participating schools may change based on schools' compliance with Aug. 1 program requirements.

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**NOTES:** More information and the list of schools participating in the Special Needs Scholarship Program for the 2016-17 school year is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/special-needs-scholarship>. The application will be available on that site starting July 1. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016\\_72.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_72.pdf).