WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

WPCP Facts and Figures for 2025-26
As of October 2025

In October 2025, there were 357 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 23,417 students or 22,924.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.* The 2025-26 WPCP state aid payment for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is $10,877 and $13,371 for a student enrolled full-time in grade nine through twelve. The program is estimated to cost $262,000,000 in 2025-26.

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 2025-26 school year, no more than 10% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 25,471 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in May for districts with more applications than the 10% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 1,791 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. As of the 3rd Friday in September (September 19, 2025), there were 128 students on private school waiting lists and 135 students on the WPCP waiting list due to the 10% 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 10% 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 is counted as 0.6 FTE.

Table 1
WPCP 2025-26 Enrollment by Grade Level*

	3rd Friday in September 2025	
Grade Level	**Headcount**	**FTE**
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,186	711.6
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,840	1,821.8
1st Grade	1,997	1,997.0
2nd Grade	2,017	2,017.0
3rd Grade	2,041	2,041.0
4th Grade	2,026	2,026.0
5th Grade	2,002	2,002.0
6th Grade	2,005	2,005.0
7th Grade	1,735	1,735.0
8th Grade	1,618	1,618.0
9th Grade	1,479	1,479.0
10th Grade	1,335	1,335.0
11th Grade	1,139	1,139.0
12th Grade	997	997.0
Totals	**23,417**	**22,924.4**

* These are unaudited numbers as of October 2025 and are subject to change.

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

Table 2 provides the total number of students in the WPCP by where (and if) they were enrolled in school in 2024-25.

TABLE 2
2025-26 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments*

	3rd Friday in September 2025			
2024-25 Parent Reported Enrollment	**Headcount**	**% of Headcount**	**FTE**	**% of FTE**
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Choice	19,047	81.34%	19,028.7	83.01%
Wisconsin Private School - Prior Year Non-Choice**	1,129	4.82%	1,115.6	4.87%
Wisconsin Public School	948	4.05%	946.2	4.13%
No School	1,359	5.80%	901.1	3.93%
Homeschooled	844	3.60%	842.8	3.68%
Out of State	90	0.38%	90.0	0.39%
Totals	**23,417**	**100%**	**22,924.4**	**100%**

* These are unaudited numbers as of October 2025 and are subject to change.
** Of the 1,129 students (1,115.6 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2024-25 as non-Choice students, 340 (326.6 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 191 students applied to first grade and 317 students applied to ninth grade for the 2025-26 school year, and the remaining 281 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 2025-26 school year due to the 10% public school district limit.*

TABLE 3
2025-26 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments*

School District	**Number Students on WPCP Waiting List**	**School District 10% Limit**
Manitowoc	45	466
Watertown Unified	43	334
West Allis-West Milwaukee	47	739
Total Students	**135**	

* These are unaudited numbers as of October 2025 and are subject to change.
**There are also 128 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 128 students are not included in Table 3.