

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****CORRECTED****

DPI releases fall student count and revenue limit information

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction today released information on fall student counts and school district revenue limits for the 2021-2022 school year.

Wisconsin school districts reported similar enrollments for fall 2021 as they did for fall 2020, reflecting the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The data published is unaudited and is based off enrollment counts performed on Sept. 17, 2021, the third Friday of September, and reported to the DPI.

The student count data includes unduplicated¹ headcounts and membership full-time equivalent (FTE). Headcount is the number of students enrolled for instruction in a given school or district on the count date. Membership is a full-time equivalent value used for school finance purposes, where students in preschool special education, 4K, and part-time kindergarten are counted as less than 1.0 FTE. Membership for school districts reflects residency, not enrollment; a student in the open enrollment program is included in the headcount for the district they attend, but the membership for the district where they reside. District membership also includes an addition of summer school FTE.² A full data file by school district is available on the DPI's website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/2017-2021-fall-pupil-count-data>.

Wisconsin's total school district headcount for the third Friday of September 2021 was 814,101, a decline of 0.5 percent from September 2020. 4K and preschool special education headcounts rebounded with a 7.0 percent increase from last year, and kindergarten headcount increased slightly by 0.7 percent³. First through 12th grades – where Wisconsin's mandatory school attendance laws apply – were down 1.1 percent.

¹ Some students enrolled in independent charter schools or parental choice programs are added to their resident school districts' memberships for finance purposes. District headcount and membership data does not include these students; they are in the charter/choice counts where they attend.

² Summer school is funded differently for school districts than in other types of publicly funded schools.

³ Preschool special education applies only for public (district and independent charter) schools and is 0.8 percent of the total headcount.

(more)

Total school district membership for fall 2021, which includes summer and September FTE, was 811,068, an increase of 0.3 percent from fall 2020. Summer FTE more than doubled.

Independent charter schools reported a total third Friday of September 2021 headcount of 10,691, an increase of 15.6 percent from September 2020. The previous increase, from 2019 to 2020, was 1.5 percent. The 4K/PK headcount was up by 18.3 percent and kindergarten by 15.8 percent, while first through 12th grades increased by 15.4 percent.

The state's four private school parental choice programs⁴ reported a combined third Friday of September 2021 headcount of 48,919. This was an increase of 6.6 percent over 2020. 4K headcount in the private school parental choice programs increased by 10.7 percent, kindergarten increased by 5.1 percent, and grades 1-12 were up by 6.5 percent.

A more complete picture of fall 2021 student enrollment will be available in January, as homeschool families and statewide private school enrollments have later reporting deadlines.

School district membership data are used to determine revenue limits, which, in combination with the general school aids certified today, determine school boards' maximum property tax levies. As part of the 2021-2023 biennial budget, Wisconsin school districts received no per-member increase in revenue limits for both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, and the per-member minimum for low-revenue districts remained \$10,000. Students attending other school districts through open enrollment, independent charter schools, or private schools in parental choice programs can affect their resident school districts' revenue limits and/or general state aids, but the specific details vary by student and program.⁵

Revenue limits are based upon a three-year "rolling" average of September membership, plus 40 percent of summer FTE, where last year's average (2018-19 through 2020-21) is compared to this year's (2019-20 through 2021-22). Revenue limit membership also includes students attending certain independent charter schools and the Wisconsin National Guard's Challenge Academy at Fort McCoy.

**** NOTE:** *The link to the data file and numbers in this release have now been updated. The original data file displayed the incorrect Third Friday of September school district headcounts for 2020 and 2021. The counts shown in this release included adjustments for Open Enrollment, part-time attendance, and other inter-district programs, which is a later stage in the pupil count process. The corrected data file includes the initial headcount data, as is shown for 2017, 2018, and 2019. The fall and revenue limit FTE data are correct.*

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⁴ The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP), Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP), and Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP).

⁵ Details by program are available in the 2021-22 Choice Funding Options table at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sfs/pdf/FY22-ChoiceOptionsFundingTable.pdf>.

NOTE: A full data file by school district is available on the DPI's website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/2017-2021-fall-pupil-count-data>. A document showing historical change over years follows this news release. This news release is available electronically at <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2021/fall-student-count-wisconsin-revenue-limits>.

Third Friday Headcounts									
	Third Friday 2017	2017 to 2018 Change	Third Friday 2018	2018 to 2019 Change	Third Friday 2019	2019 to 2020 Change	Third Friday 2020	2020 to 2021 Change	Third Friday 2021
Public Schools									
School Districts									
4K/PK ¹	53,342	+0.2%	53,423	+0.4%	53,646	-15.9%	45,133	+7.0%	48,299
Kindergarten	56,272	-0.1%	56,206	-0.5%	55,948	-5.0%	53,148	+0.7%	53,498
Grades 1-12	742,566	-0.6%	738,313	-0.5%	734,560	-2.0%	720,131	-1.1%	712,304
Total	852,180	-0.5%	847,942	-0.4%	844,154	-3.0%	818,412	-0.5%	814,101
Independent Charter Schools									
4K/PK ¹	709	+15.8%	821	+4.1%	852	-17.3%	705	+18.3%	834
Kindergarten	786	+7.0%	841	+2.9%	864	-0.2%	862	+15.8%	998
Grades 1-12	6,654	+8.2%	7,200	+2.7%	7,392	+3.9%	7,678	+15.4%	8,859
Total	8,149	+8.7%	8,862	+2.8%	9,108	+1.5%	9,245	+15.6%	10,691
Total, Public Schools									
4K/PK ¹	54,051	+0.4%	54,244	+0.5%	54,498	-15.9%	45,838	+7.2%	49,133
Kindergarten	57,058	-0.0%	57,047	-0.4%	56,812	-4.9%	54,010	+0.9%	54,496
Grades 1-12	749,220	-0.5%	745,513	-0.5%	741,952	-1.9%	727,809	-0.9%	721,163
Total	860,329	-0.4%	856,804	-0.4%	853,262	-3.0%	827,657	-0.3%	824,792
Private Schools – Students in Parental Choice Programs Only									
Milwaukee Parental Choice Program									
4K	1,958	+1.6%	1,989	-3.0%	1,929	-5.0%	1,833	+4.3%	1,911
Kindergarten	2,246	-5.4%	2,125	+2.7%	2,182	-3.6%	2,104	+6.1%	2,233
Grades 1-12	24,476	+1.3%	24,790	+0.2%	24,840	-1.0%	24,598	+0.1%	24,626
Total	28,680	+0.8%	28,904	+0.2%	28,951	-1.4%	28,535	+0.8%	28,770
Racine Parental Choice Program									
4K	189	-4.8%	180	+13.9%	205	-26.3%	151	+41.7%	214
Kindergarten	289	+11.1%	321	-9.3%	291	+13.4%	330	-10.6%	295
Grades 1-12	2,525	+12.2%	2,833	+11.3%	3,153	+6.6%	3,362	+2.1%	3,431
Total	3,003	+11.0%	3,334	+9.4%	3,649	+5.3%	3,843	+2.5%	3,940
Wisconsin Parental Choice Program									
4K	245	+96.7%	482	+32.2%	637	+9.4%	697	+21.1%	844
Kindergarten	533	+58.9%	847	+30.9%	1,109	+15.3%	1,279	+7.3%	1,373
Grades 1-12	3,756	+54.2%	5,790	+37.9%	7,986	+26.6%	10,113	+21.0%	12,235
Total	4,534	+57.0%	7,119	+36.7%	9,732	+24.2%	12,089	+19.5%	14,452
Special Needs Scholarship Program									
4K	4	+750.0%	34	+52.9%	52	-26.9%	38	+10.5%	42
Kindergarten	15	+233.3%	50	+58.0%	79	+63.3%	129	+7.0%	138
Grades 1-12	227	+163.4%	598	+55.0%	927	+34.3%	1,245	+26.7%	1,577
Total	246	+177.2%	682	+55.1%	1,058	+33.5%	1,412	+24.4%	1,757
Total, Private Schools – Students in Parental Choice Programs Only									
4K	2,396	+12.1%	2,685	+5.1%	2,823	-3.7%	2,719	+10.7%	3,011
Kindergarten	3,083	+8.4%	3,343	+9.5%	3,661	+4.9%	3,842	+5.1%	4,039
Grades 1-12	30,984	+9.8%	34,011	+8.5%	36,906	+6.5%	39,318	+6.5%	41,869
Total	36,463	+9.8%	40,039	+8.4%	43,390	+5.7%	45,879	+6.6%	48,919

¹ Public school counts combine 4K with PK (Pre-Kindergarten), which includes children 3 to 5 years old receiving special education and related services who are not enrolled in 4K or kindergarten.

Fall Membership FTEs									
	Third Friday 2017	2017 to 2018 Change	Third Friday 2018	2018 to 2019 Change	Third Friday 2019	2019 to 2020 Change	Third Friday 2020	2020 to 2021 Change	Third Friday 2021
Public Schools									
School Districts									
Third Friday	830,236	- 0.5%	826,212	- 0.5%	822,044	- 2.7%	800,135	- 0.8%	793,633
Summer ²	19,692	+ 1.5%	19,992	- 0.4%	19,905	- 57.3%	8,506	+ 105.0%	17,435
Total	849,928	- 0.4%	846,204	- 0.5%	841,949	- 4.0%	808,641	+ 0.3%	811,068
Independent Charter Schools									
Third Friday	7,861	+ 8.4%	8,522	+ 2.7%	8,756	+ 2.3%	8,960	+ 15.4%	10,337
Private Schools - Students in Parental Choice Programs Only									
Milwaukee Parental Choice Program									
Third Friday	27,837	+ 0.8%	28,047	+ 0.3%	28,124	- 1.3%	27,751	+ 0.8%	27,959
Racine Parental Choice Program									
Third Friday	2,913	+ 11.6%	3,251	+ 9.4%	3,557	+ 6.1%	3,773	+ 1.9%	3,843
Wisconsin Parental Choice Program									
Third Friday	4,399	+ 56.0%	6,864	+ 36.8%	9,391	+ 24.8%	11,719	+ 19.6%	14,021
Special Needs Scholarship Program									
Third Friday	244	+ 172.7%	666	+ 55.1%	1,033	+ 35.0%	1,394	+ 24.5%	1,736

² Summer FTE is shown for school districts only because it is factored directly into aid and revenue limit memberships. The funding mechanisms for independent charter schools and private schools participating in parental choice programs to offer summer programming are different.

Third Friday counts from 2017 through 2020 display final audited data and may differ from count data released on October 15, 2020. Third Friday counts from 2021 are unaudited and subject to change.