

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Racine voucher program enrollment counts

MADISON — The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has announced enrollment information related to private school voucher students in the Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP).

On the third Friday in September of the 2015-16 school year, there were 2,127 students receiving a voucher to attend a private school, which translates to 2,055.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. In most cases, one student counts as one FTE, but depending on the services offered, a 4-year-old kindergarten (K4) student attending a partial day program is counted as 0.5 FTE or 0.6 FTE.

Racine Parental Choice Program Headcount History		
Year	Schools or	
	School Systems	Headcount
2011-12	8	228
2012-13	11	508
2013-14	13	1,240
2014-15	15	1,733
2015-16	19	2,127

While 19 private schools or school systems are participating in the program in the 2015-16 school year, only 17 of those schools have enrolled students using a voucher through the RPCP. Enrollment numbers reported are from the student count conducted on the third

Friday in September at each school. Student eligibility will be reviewed by independent auditors per state law and submitted to the DPI in December, so enrollment numbers are subject to change.

Of the 646 new students enrolled in the RPCP for the 2015-16 school year, 66.7 percent (387.8 FTE) attended a public school last year. New student eligibility is based on two factors: family income and prior year attendance. For the 2015-16 school year, the family income of a student new to the Racine voucher program must be at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$72,696 for a family of four or \$79,696 for a student whose parents or legal guardians are married). Additionally, a pupil must have been enrolled in the Racine Unified School District the previous year, not have been enrolled in any school, have been a participating RPCP student in the prior year, or be enrolling in kindergarten, first grade, or ninth grade in a participating choice school in the current year.

For the 2015-16 school year, each eligible private school participating in the RPCP will receive a voucher payment of \$7,214 per FTE student in grades K4 through eight or \$7,860 per FTE student in grades nine through 12. The RPCP is estimated to cost \$15.1 million in 2015-16.

(more)

Act 55 (Wisconsin 2015-17 Biennial Budget) changed the manner in which the RPCP is funded. Students who 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 RPCP in the 2015-16 school year and thereafter are funded with a reduction

to Racine Unified School District’s (RUSD) state general aid, estimated at \$4.2 million for the 2015-16 school year. Incoming pupils in the RPCP are included in RUSD’s membership for state general aid purposes, but the district may not levy to backfill the

Racine Parental Choice Program				
New Students in 2015-16				
Prior Year (2014-15) Enrollment				
	Headcount	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School	76	11.8	70.1	12.1
Wisconsin Public School	396	61.3	387.8	66.7
Not in School	161	24.9	110.5	19.0
Homeschooled	12	1.9	12.0	2.1
Out-of-state	1	0.2	1.0	0.2
TOTALS	646	100	581.4	100

aid reduction. The district will receive a non-recurring revenue limit exemption, which the school board may include when setting the 2016 tax level. The exemption is computed by multiplying the number of FTE resident choice pupils participating in the RPCP by the district’s current year per pupil revenue limit. For 2016, the district’s estimated revenue limit authority is an additional \$5.6 million.

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NOTES: Private schools participating in the RPCP may have additional application periods for the 2015-16 school year (October, November, December-January) and therefore, all enrollment information is subject to change.

A list of RPCP schools with their headcount and FTE student enrollment follows. More information about the Racine Parental Choice Program can be found at http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/choice_facts_statistics.

This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_104.pdf.

Racine Parental Choice Program

Third Friday in September Enrollment

2015-16 School Year Student Headcount and FTE

(FTE stands for full-time equivalent. For example, a 4 year-old kindergarten student may be counted as 0.5 FTE or 0.6 FTE)

Choice Grades**	School Name	Choice Students		All Students		% Choice Headcount
		Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	
*	K4-12 Academy of Excellence	0	0	719	693.4	0%
*	12 CERT School	4	4	4	4	100%
	K5-8 Concordia Lutheran School	104	104	169	163.5	62%
	K4-7 Evergreen Elementary School	260	239.5	262	241.5	99%
	1 Friedens Lutheran School	1	1	143	136.5	1%
*	K5-3 HOPE Christian School: VIA	77	77	77	77	100%
	K5-8 John Paul II Academy	132	132	219	219	60%
	9-12 Lutheran High School Association of Racine	122	122	225	225	54%
	K4-8 Our Lady of Grace Academy	170	162.8	206	198.4	83%
	K4-8 Renaissance School	318	306.8	323	311.8	98%
	6-12 Saint Catherine's High School	330	330	538	538	61%
	K4-6, 8 Saint John's Lutheran School	104	86.5	187	166.5	56%
	K5-8 Saint Joseph School	91	91	162	162	56%
	K4-8 Saint Matthew Elementary School	16	14.5	146	136	11%
	9-12 Shoreland Lutheran High School	92	92	312	312	29%
	K5-8 Trinity Lutheran School - Caledonia	51	51	161	161	32%
	K4-8 Trinity Lutheran School - Racine	123	116	207	198	59%
	K4-8 Wisconsin Lutheran School	132	125.5	188	180	70%
*	1 Zion Lutheran Grade School	0	0	89	78	0%
		2,127	2,055.6	4,337	4,201.6	49%

*New to the program in 2015-16.

**As reported by school on Notice of Intent to Participate.

These are unaudited numbers as of October 2015 and are subject to change.