

News Release

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Eight new districts with 4K continue growth trend

96.6 percent of districts offering elementary education provide 4-year-old kindergarten

MADISON — Wisconsin experienced continued growth in the number of school districts that provide 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) programs with 96.6 percent of public school districts that provide elementary education also offering services to 4-year-olds and their families.

“There is no question that quality 4K programs support our young children, their parents, and our communities,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Early education through 4K is an essential piece in our efforts to close achievement gaps. Kids who have a strong start in 4K will be more likely to graduate ready for college and careers.”

New 4K Districts
Evansville Community
Luxemburg-Casco
Mequon-Thiensville
Mukwonago
Neenah Joint
Union Grove J1
Waterford Graded J1
Winneconne Community

For the 2015-16 school year, 399 public school districts are offering 4K to 48,111 students, an increase of eight districts from the prior school year. Most of this year’s new programs use a community approach to 4K, which brings together community leaders representing business, schools, child care, Head Start, parents, recreation, and parent education to develop programs that meet local needs. The

community approach to 4K started in the La Crosse School District in 2000 and has fueled much of the expansion of 4K throughout the state. Benefits of the community approach to 4K include the common effort to meet the emotional, educational, societal, and physical well-being of children in the community; fewer transitions for young children; and better information sharing among 4K teachers, early childhood staff members, and public schools. Wisconsin is considered a national leader in implementing 4K through the community approach.

15 Years of 4K Growth		
School Year	Number of Districts	Number of Students
2001-02	166	14,483
2002-03	180	16,051
2003-04	189	16,957
2004-05	208	18,652
2005-06	235	20,959
2006-07	257	24,078
2007-08	283	27,759
2008-09	319	33,976
2009-10	333	38,075
2010-11	350	41,176
2011-12	368	46,022
2012-13	375	46,914
2013-14	386	48,590
2014-15	391	47,844
2015-16	399	48,111

Characteristics of quality 4K programs include highly trained teachers who have expertise in early childhood education, small class sizes,

and a program that provides rich learning experiences and time for child-directed exploration. Public 4K programs

(more)

follow the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, which are aligned with the academic standards students will encounter as they progress through school.

“I am pleased with 4K growth in Wisconsin,” Evers said. He noted that the state’s collaborative model — working with partners in the Department of Children and Families, early childhood groups, Head Start, and the business community — is being embraced in the new federal education law. “The Every Student Succeeds Act includes Preschool Development Grants that will support the development and expansion of high-quality early learning opportunities in the states,” he said.

In addition to 4K in public schools and various community approach settings, many 4-year-olds attend state-supported 4K through independent charter and private voucher schools. All 20 of the state’s independent charter schools in Racine and Milwaukee that provide elementary education offer 4K, enrolling 963 students. For the 2015-16 school year, 1,939 students are enrolled in 4K at 92 private schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. The Racine Parental Choice Program has 135 students enrolled in seven private schools. In the statewide Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, 29 private schools enrolled 69 students in 4K programs for the current school year.

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NOTES: A list of the 399 public school districts enrolling 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) students for the 2015-16 school year is attached. This news release and a map of 4K throughout Wisconsin are available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_123.pdf or <http://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2015/eight-new-districts-4k-continue-growth-trend>. More information about 4K is available at http://ec.dpi.wi.gov/ec_ec4yrpag. A website on the benefits and impacts of the 4K Community Approach is available at <http://4kca.dpi.wi.gov/>.

Districts Offering 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

2015-16 School Year

A-B

Abbotsford
Adams-Friendship Area
Albany
Algoma
Alma
Alma Center
Almond-Bancroft
Altoona
Amery
Antigo
Appleton Area
Arcadia
Argyle
Ashwaubenon
Athens
Auburndale
Augusta
Baldwin-Woodville Area
Bangor
Baraboo
Barneveld
Barron Area
Beaver Dam
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine
Belleville
Belmont Community
Beloit
Beloit Turner
Benton
Berlin Area
Birchwood
Black Hawk
Black River Falls
Blair-Taylor
Bloomer
Bonduel
Boscobel Area
Bowler
Boyceville Community
Brillion
Bristol #1
Brodhead
Brown Deer
Bruce
Burlington Area
Butternut

C

Cadott Community
Cambria-Friesland
Cambridge

Cameron
Campbellsport
Cashton
Cassville
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area
Chequamegon
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area
Chilton
Chippewa Falls Area
Clayton
Clear Lake
Clinton Community
Clintonville
Cochrane-Fountain City
Colby
Coleman
Colfax
Columbus
Cornell
Crandon
Crivitz
Cuba City
Cudahy
Cumberland

D-F

D C Everest Area
Darlington Community
De Forest Area
De Pere
De Soto Area
Deerfield Community
Delavan-Darien
Denmark
Dodgeland
Dodgeville
Dover #1
Drummond Area
Durand
East Troy Community
Eau Claire Area
Edgar
Edgerton
Elcho
Eleva-Strum
Elk Mound Area
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah
Elkhorn Area
Ellsworth Community
Elmwood

Erin
* Evansville Community

Fall Creek
Fall River
Fennimore Community
Flambeau
Florence
Fond du Lac
Fontana J8
Fort Atkinson
Fox Point J2
Frederic
Freedom Area
Friess Lake

G-L

Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau
Geneva J4
Genoa City J2
Gillett
Gilman
Gilmanton
Glendale-River Hills
Glenwood City
Goodman-Armstrong
Grafton
Granton Area
Grantsburg
Green Bay Area
Green Lake
Greendale
Greenfield
Greenwood
Gresham
Hamilton
Hartford J1
Hartland-Lakeside J3
Hayward Community
Herman #22
Highland
Hilbert
Hillsboro
Holmen
Horicon
Hortonville
Howards Grove
Howard-Suamico
Hurley
Hustisford
Independence
Iola-Scandinavia
Iowa-Grant
Ithaca

Janesville
Jefferson
Johnson Creek
Juda
Kaukauna Area
Kenosha
Kettle Moraine
Kewaskum
Kewaunee
Kickapoo Area
Kiel Area
Kimberly Area
Kohler
La Crosse
La Farge
Lac du Flambeau #1
Ladysmith
Lake Country
Lake Geneva J1
Lake Holcombe
Lake Mills Area
Lancaster Community
Laona
Lena
Linn J4
Linn J6
Little Chute Area
Lodi
Lomira
Loyal
Luck
* Luxemburg-Casco

M

Madison Metropolitan
Manawa
Manitowoc
Maple
Maple Dale-Indian Hill
Marathon City
Marinette
Marion
Markesan
Marshall
Marshfield
Mauston
Mayville
McFarland
Medford Area
Mellen
Melrose-Mindoro
Menasha

Menominee Indian
 Menomonee Falls
 Menomonie Area
 * Mequon-Thiensville
 Mercer
 Merrill Area
 Merton Community
 Middleton-Cross Plains
 Milton
 Milwaukee
 Mineral Point
 Minocqua J1
 Mishicot
 Mondovi
 Monona Grove
 Monroe
 Montello
 Monticello
 Mosinee
 Mount Horeb Area
 * Mukwonago
 Muskego-Norway

N-P

Necedah Area
 * Neenah Joint
 Neillsville
 Nekoosa
 Neosho J3
 New Auburn
 New Glarus
 New Holstein
 New Lisbon
 New London
 New Richmond
 Niagara
 North Cape
 North Crawford
 North Fond du Lac
 North Lake
 North Lakeland
 Northern Ozaukee
 Northland Pines
 Northwood
 Norwalk-Ontario-
 Wilton
 Norway J7
 Oak Creek-Franklin
 Oakfield
 Oconomowoc Area
 Oconto
 Oconto Falls
 Omro
 Onalaska

Oostburg
 Oregon
 Osceola
 Oshkosh Area
 Osseo-Fairchild
 Owen-Withee
 Palmyra-Eagle Area
 Pardeeville Area
 Parkview
 Pecatonica Area
 Pepin Area
 Peshigo
 Pewaukee
 Phelps
 Phillips
 Pittsville
 Platteville
 Plum City
 Plymouth
 Port Edwards
 Port Washington-
 Saukville
 Portage Community
 Potosi
 Poynette
 Prairie du Chien Area
 Prairie Farm
 Prentice
 Prescott
 Princeton
 Pulaski Community

R-S

Racine
 Randall J1
 Randolph
 Random Lake
 Raymond #14
 Reedsburg
 Reedsville
 Rhinelander
 Rib Lake
 Rice Lake Area
 Richfield J1
 Richland
 Richmond
 Rio Community
 Ripon Area
 River Falls
 River Ridge
 River Valley
 Riverdale
 Rosendale-Brandon
 Rosholt

Royall
 Saint Croix Central
 Saint Croix Falls
 Saint Francis
 Salem
 Sauk Prairie
 Seneca
 Sevastopol
 Seymour Community
 Sharon J11
 Shawano
 Sheboygan Area
 Sheboygan Falls
 Shell Lake
 Shiocton
 Shorewood
 Shullsburg
 Silver Lake J1
 Siren
 Slinger
 Solon Springs
 Somerset
 South Milwaukee
 South Shore
 Southern Door County
 Southwestern Wisconsin
 Sparta Area
 Spencer
 Spooner Area
 Spring Valley
 Stanley-Boyd Area
 Stevens Point Area
 Stockbridge
 Stone Bank
 Stoughton Area
 Stratford
 Sturgeon Bay
 Sun Prairie Area
 Superior
 Suring

T-U

Thorp
 Three Lakes
 Tigerton
 Tomah Area
 Tomahawk
 Tomorrow River
 Trevor-Wilmot
 Consolidated
 Tri-County Area
 Turtle Lake
 Twin Lakes #4

Two Rivers
 * Union Grove J1
 Unity

V-Y

Valders Area
 Verona
 Viroqua Area
 Wabeno Area
 Walworth J1
 Washburn
 Washington
 Washington-Caldwell
 * Waterford Graded J1
 Waterloo
 Watertown
 Waukesha
 Waunakee Community
 Waupaca
 Waupun
 Wausau
 Wausaukee
 Wautoma Area
 Wauwatosa
 Wauzeka-Steuben
 Webster
 West Allis
 West De Pere
 West Salem
 Westby Area
 Westfield
 Weston
 Weyauwega-Fremont
 Wheatland J1
 White Lake
 Whitefish Bay
 Whitehall
 Whitewater
 Whitnall
 Wild Rose
 Williams Bay
 * Winneconne Community
 Winter
 Wisconsin Dells
 Wisconsin Heights
 Wisconsin Rapids
 Wittenberg-Birnamwood
 Wonewoc-Union Center
 Woodruff J1
 Wrightstown
 Yorkville J2

NOTE: The eight districts marked with an asterisk (*) reported 4K enrollment for the 2015-16 school year and did not have 4K enrollment the previous school year.

