

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Schools named for 2015-16 statewide choice program

MADISON — The names of 35 schools or school systems eligible to participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) for the 2015-16 school year have been announced by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Parents applied to have their children attend private schools that indicated their interest in accepting students through the program during the application period (Feb. 2 to April 20). Applications exceeded the 1,000 student cap on the program. State law mandates that only the 25 schools that received the most eligible applications are able to participate in the random drawing for available voucher slots. Ten schools that participated in the WPCP during the 2014-15 school year did not receive enough eligible applications to be included in the top 25 schools. Therefore, these ten schools, as provided by state law, will receive the same number of voucher slots (151) in 2015-16 as they had in 2014-15.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program		
35 Participating Private Schools or School Systems		
Eligible Student Applications – 2015-16		
Prior Year Attendance	Number	Percent
Continuing WPCP Students	926	31.8
Wisconsin Private School	1,437	49.3
Wisconsin Public School	417	14.3
No School	74	2.5
Homeschooled	53	1.8
Out-of-state	7	0.2
TOTAL	2,914	

The four new eligible private schools on the list for 2015-16 are: Heritage Christian Schools (Brookfield), Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School (Jackson), Central Wisconsin Christian School (Waupun), and Saint James Lutheran School (Shawano). The ten schools from 2014-15 that did not make the top 25 schools are: Green Bay Area Catholic Education – South, Green Bay Area Catholic Education – West, Friedens Lutheran School (Kenosha), Lighthouse Christian School (Madison), Saint John Lutheran School (Plymouth), Saint Paul Lutheran (Bonduel), Saint Paul Lutheran School (Sheboygan), Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School, Sheboygan Christian School, and Trinity Lutheran School (Sheboygan).

(more)

There were 3,540 eligible student applications submitted to attend 90[^] schools, up 4 percent over the prior year (133 applications). The number of applications includes 927 for students already receiving vouchers. The 35 schools that will be included in the random drawing for the voucher slots had 2,914 eligible students apply. Of those, 85.7 percent (2,497) did not attend a Wisconsin public school last year, and 14.3 percent (417) were from public schools. Of the 2,914 eligible students, 49.3 percent (1,437) attended a Wisconsin private school last year and 926 students (31.8 percent) will continue in the WPCP from the 2014-15 year.

Under current state law, the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program is limited to 1,000 full time equivalent (FTE) students for the 2015-16 school year. State law also requires that the schools participating in the voucher program for 2014-15 receive at least the same number of voucher slots for the 2015-16 school year. Therefore, it is expected that all of the available voucher slots for 2015-16 will be assigned to the schools continuing in the program from the 2014-15 school year.

The department will conduct a random selection of eligible student applications by computer and parents will begin receiving notices later this summer. According to state law, new schools must submit documentation of their certificate of occupancy and meet program financial requirements by Aug. 1, 2015.

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NOTES: A list of the schools receiving the most applications for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program and a table showing the change in applications from 2014-15 to 2015-16 follows. The number in parentheses is the number of eligible applications used to calculate the top 25 schools. A complete list of eligible applications received by the 90[^] schools that indicated an interest in participating in the statewide voucher program is available on the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program website, <http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/wpcp-statewide>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_53.pdf.

[^] Initially, 98 schools indicated their intent to participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for the 2015-16 school year. Since that time, eight schools have notified the Department of Public Instruction that they will not be participating in the program. Those schools are: Lake Country Lutheran High School (Hartland), Notre Dame Middle School (Milwaukee), Providence Catholic School (Union Grove), Renaissance School (Racine), Saint Joseph School (Stratford), Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception (Greenville), Saint Patrick School (Mauston), and Saint Peter the Fisherman Catholic School (Two Rivers).

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

Schools Receiving the Most Applications

Appleton

Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School System (121)
Fox Valley Lutheran High School (79)

Beloit and Janesville

Rock County Christian School (58)

Brookfield and New Berlin

*Heritage Christian Schools (71)

Chippewa Falls

McDonnell Area Catholic Schools (43)

Eau Claire and Altoona

Regis Catholic Schools (81)

Fond du Lac

Saint Mary's Springs Academy (52)
Winnebago Lutheran Academy (59)

Green Bay and De Pere

Green Bay Area Catholic Education – East (117)
Notre Dame de la Baie Academy (48)

Jackson (Washington County)

*Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School (62)

Kenosha

Saint Joseph Catholic Academy (72)

La Crosse and Onalaska

Aquinas Catholic Schools (56)

Manitowoc

Roncalli High School (48)
Saint Francis of Assisi School (47)

Marshfield

Columbus Catholic Schools (64)

Menasha and Neenah

Saint Mary Catholic Schools -*Previously Twin City Catholic Educational System* (103)

Oshkosh

Lourdes Academy (64)
Valley Christian School (71)

Shawano

*Saint James Lutheran School (48)

Stevens Point and Plover

Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools (66)

Waupun

*Central Wisconsin Christian School (49)

Wausau and Rothschild

Newman Catholic Schools (66)

Wisconsin Rapids

Assumption Catholic Schools (86)
Immanuel Lutheran School (47)

NOTES: The number in parenthesis is the number of net eligible applications received at each school (used to determine the top 25) and does not indicate the number of students who will attend for 2015-16 using a state voucher. An * indicates a new school for the 2015-16 school year. For 2015-16, state law limits the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program to 1,000 pupils. The Department of Public Instruction will conduct a random drawing of eligible applications to determine the students that may participate in the program.

Schools Continuing in the WPCP for 2015-16

The following schools participated in the WPCP during the 2014-15 school year, but did not make the list of schools with the most eligible applications for the 2015-16 school year, and will not be included in the random drawing for additional voucher slots. State law provides that they will receive the same number of voucher slots as they had during the 2014-15 school year.

Bonduel

Saint Paul Lutheran School (15)

Green Bay

Green Bay Area Catholic Education – South (14)
Green Bay Area Catholic Education – West (10)

Kenosha

Friedens Lutheran School (32)

Madison

Lighthouse Christian School (10)

Plymouth

Saint John Lutheran School (10)

Sheboygan

Saint Paul Lutheran School (10)
Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School (11)
Sheboygan Christian School (29)
Trinity Lutheran School (10)

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

Change in Applicant Numbers from 2014-15 SY to 2015-16 SY

Prior Year Attendance	2014-15 Application Period 68 Registered Schools		2015-16 Application Period 90 Registered Schools		Year-to-Year Change	
	Applicants	Percent	Applicants	Percent	Applicants	Percent
Continuing WPCP Students	483	14.2%	927	26.2%	444	91.9%
Wisconsin Private School	2,072	60.8%	1,902	53.7%	(170)	-8.2%
Wisconsin Public School	633	18.6%	526	14.9%	(107)	-16.9%
No School	145	4.3%	111	3.1%	(34)	-23.4%
Homeschooled	62	1.8%	66	1.9%	4	6.5%
Out-of-State	12	0.4%	8	0.2%	(4)	-33.3%
Total Applicants	3,407		3,540		133	4%
New Applicants	2,924		2,613		(311)	-11%