

# WI Parental Choice Registration Information

{For the 2021-22 school year}

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) is a program of the state of Wisconsin to provide vouchers to eligible students for tuition and related educational fees in parochial and non-public schools. St. Matthew's Lutheran School will once again participate in WPCP in the 2021-22 school year.

Student eligibility for WPCP is determined by student residence, family income, and prior year attendance.

## Student residence

Potential WPCP students must reside in a Wisconsin school district, outside of the city of Milwaukee or the Racine Unified School District.

## Family income

To meet the income requirements for WPCP, a student's family must have an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) at or below 220% of the federal poverty level. An additional \$7,000 is allowed for married couples as illustrated in the table below. The 2021-2022 AGI limits (income cannot exceed these figures) are as follows:

Family Size	Maximum Single Parent Yearly Household Income	Maximum Married Parent Yearly Household Income
2	\$37,928	--
3	\$47,784	\$54,784
4	\$57,640	\$64,640
5	\$67,496	\$74,496
6	\$77,352	\$84,352

For each additional family member, add \$9,856.

\* Income is the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on the 1040 tax form for 2020.

\* Family size includes adults and dependent children residing in that household. For example, a family size of three could be two parents and one dependent child or one parent and two dependent children.

## Prior year attendance

The application period begins February 1 and ends April 15. Any student (current or new) entering 4K, 5K, or Grade 1 is eligible. In addition, students in grades 2-8 who attended a public school or homeschool for the 2020-2021 school year are eligible to apply for WPCP.

For 2021-2022, state law allows 6% of the pupils from a school district to participate in WPCP. The DPI notifies parents if the student is accepted. This notification usually happens in mid-June.

## Application Steps for Parental Choice at St. Matthew's

1. Fill out the online application. The online application needs to be completed through the [WPCP Website](#). The application window is open from February 1, 2021 through April 15, 2021. The online registration will not be activated until that time.
  1. Note: An e-mail address is required to register. Communications on the status of applications and the steps necessary to complete them will be emailed to the parent or legal guardian.
  2. Once an application is electronically submitted, the parents or guardian will be able to correct it online until the final day of the application period. Be sure to record the email address and password you used. Missing or incorrect information will cause problems processing applications and may cause a student to be ineligible.
2. Provide Proof of Residency. St. Matthew's must be given a copy of ONE of the following documents (which must also be current, meaning within the last three months):
  1. Current water, gas, electric, cable, satellite, or landline phone bill. (Cell phone and Internet bills are NOT acceptable.)
  2. Property tax bill or current (signed and dated) lease agreement.
  3. Current wage statement (can be a year-end W2).
  4. Recent government correspondence. Current benefits statements from [access.wisconsin.gov](http://access.wisconsin.gov).
3. Families applying to the WPCP for the first time need to provide income documentation. There are two acceptable methods for checking program eligibility. These programs are as follows:
  1. Department of Revenue (DOR) Method: This method will ask you to provide your social security number(s) or tax identification number(s). The DOR will determine whether the student is income eligible for WPCP.
    1. The DOR is St. Matthew's preferred method for determining program eligibility. The DOR Method is preferable since parents will immediately know if the family is income eligible for WPCP.
  2. Department of Instruction (DPI) Method for Income Determination: This method asks parents to answer a series of income questions in the online parent application. Generally, documentation would need to be submitted directly to the school if parents use this method. Acceptable documentation for the DPI Method includes:
    1. A copy of the first two pages of your 1040 Federal Income Tax Return for 2020. It needs to be signed and dated by the taxpayers **OR** If your taxes are not completed, you may submit copies of all 2020 income documentation (employer W2s, 1099s, etc.) **OR** If you do not file income tax, you must provide copies of all other income documentation for 2020 (social security statements, unemployment compensation statements, child support statements, etc.).

Please note that the timing of the application does not give the applicant family an advantage. Those who register near the end of the enrollment period have the same opportunity as those who register early. However, an early application is still recommended to be sure the state and St. Matthew's receive the correct information.

*Please contact Principal Tom Plitzuweit ([tplitzuweit@smls.org](mailto:tplitzuweit@smls.org) or 262-912-6364) with questions about the program.*

**PARENTS OF 8TH GRADERS - PLEASE NOTE:** Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills and Luther Preparatory School in Watertown are also part of the WPCP. Students can enter WPCP when they enroll in grade 9 at Lakeside or Luther Prep.