

Private School Choice Programs in Wisconsin Application Guidelines for Parents

Step 1: Online Application

Each year, parents must complete the online parent application at dpi.wi.gov/choice. An email address is required.

Open application periods vary by Choice program. Schools decide in which of the periods they will accept MPCP and RPCP student applications. All schools have the same open application period for WPCP students. Parents may apply to one or more schools for their student(s) during the available open application period(s).

Step 2: Supporting Documentation

Parents will receive a confirmation email after submitting an application with information about the supporting documentation parents must provide to the school(s) to complete the application process.

Parents must provide supporting documentation **directly to each school they apply to during the open application period** as explained in the application and confirmation email, or the application is ineligible:

- **Residency Documentation:** All parents must provide residency documentation.
- **Income Documentation:** Parents of students that participated in any Choice program in the prior year and students on a Choice waiting list in the prior year applying to the same Choice program are not required to provide income documentation.

Parents of new students must show income eligibility by either:

(1) providing their social security numbers or taxpayer identification numbers and having the Department of Revenue determine whether the student is income eligible

–OR–

(2) using the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Income Determination method by answering a series of income questions in the online parent application. Generally, documentation must be submitted directly to the school(s) if the parent selects the DPI Income Determination method.

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Open Application Periods



Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

February 1 – February 20
March 1 – March 20
April 1 – April 20
May 1 – May 22
June 1 – June 20
July 1 – July 20
August 1 – August 21
September 1 – September 14
October 1 – October 20*
November 1 – November 20*
December 1 – January 8*

*2nd semester participation only



Racine Unified Parental Choice Program (RPCP)

February 1 – February 20
March 1 – March 20
April 1 – April 20
May 1 – May 22
June 1 – June 20
July 1 – July 20
August 1 – August 21
September 1 – September 14



Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

February 1 – April 20

2023-2024

Private School Choice Programs in Wisconsin

Application Guidelines for Parents (continued)

Step 3: Parent Notifications of Acceptance or Nonacceptance to the Choice Program

MPCP AND RPCP

Schools must notify MPCP and RPCP parents within 60 days of the end of the open application period during which an application is received whether the student(s) were accepted into the Choice program.

If a Choice school in the MPCP or RPCP receives applications from more eligible students than it has Choice seats available, selection of students will be determined on a random basis with certain preferences allowed under state law.

WPCP ONLY

For the 2023-24 school year, state law mandates that no more than 8% of the pupil membership of a public school district participate in the WPCP. The DPI will conduct a random drawing, which includes certain required preferences, of all eligible applications. The DPI will notify parents via email in the summer of students chosen in the WPCP random drawing and students on the WPCP waiting list. Parents of students chosen in the random drawing must confirm with the school their acceptance and indicate whether or not their students will attend the school. If the school finds a student's application ineligible, the school must notify the parent of non-acceptance by the first weekday of June.

Helpful Resources

The Application Process Presentation, Online Parent Application Print Screens, Frequently Asked Questions resource, and the Overview of Private School Choice Programs in Wisconsin handout at dpi.wi.gov/choice can help parents complete the application process and learn more about the Choice program and student eligibility.

For More Information:

Parents should contact schools directly with questions about the application process or status of their application. A list of participating private schools and their contact information can be found at: dpi.wi.gov/choice.

Private School Choice Programs
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Toll-free: 888-245-2732, ext. 3
Web site: dpi.wi.gov/choice

This information is based on Wis. Stats. §§118.60 & 119.23 and Wis. Admin. Code PI 35 & PI 48.

