



Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

Chesterton Academy of Milwaukee participates in the WPCP so eligible students might be able to receive a school voucher. Our participation in this program does not change our religious and classical identity, mission, and integrated Catholic curriculum. Further, our application process of clearly identifying standards and expectations remains unchanged. The Chesterton Academy admissions application fee, tuition, and student fee are waived for WPCP participants. Students receiving Choice vouchers may borrow textbooks from the school office.

How does someone qualify for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program?

A student qualifies for the WPCP on the basis of their residency and their family income, if applicable.

Residency: Students must reside in a Wisconsin school district, other than in the city of Milwaukee and Racine Unified School District. Residents of Milwaukee county cities who are not in the city of Milwaukee may apply to WPCP. In addition, students applying for the WPCP must (1) be applying to grades K4, K5, 1 or 9; OR (2) meet one of the following requirements for the current school year: (a) attended a public school in Wisconsin; (b) attended school in another state; (c) not enrolled in school (includes students who were homeschooled for the entire current school year); (d) participated in the MPCP, RPCP or WPCP; (e) on a MPCP, RPCP or WPCP waiting list; OR (3) on any prior year WPCP waiting list in 2015-16 or later due to a school district enrollment cap.

Income: New income charts come out near the beginning of each calendar year for the following school year. For the 2024-25 school year, family income must be at or below the amount listed in the chart below, as determined by the **Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)** on the federal income tax return for the prior calendar year. Family size includes parents/legal guardians and their children by birth, marriage or adoption that reside in the same household as the student applicant.

WPCP Income Limits: 220% of the Federal Poverty Level for 2024-25

| Family Size | Single Parent Household Maximum Yearly Income* | Married Couple Household Maximum Yearly Income* |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | \$43,384 | |
| 3 | \$54,692 | \$61,692 |
| 4 | \$66,000 | \$73,000 |
| 5 | \$77,308 | \$84,308 |
| 6 | \$88,616 | \$95,616 |

* For each additional family member beyond six, add \$11,308.



If a family has not yet filed the prior calendar year's tax return, they can use **the year prior's AGI** if they use the Department of Revenue (DOR) income method to report income for their WPCP application. The DOR system will pull the most recent tax information on file, and any DOR income determination is final. A family should only use this method if they are certain their income will qualify. A student continuing in any Choice program or a student on the DPI's WPCP waiting list from the prior year does **not** have to prove income eligibility.

"Once in, Always in" Provision

All students must meet the residency requirement every year, but the "once in, always in" provision allows a child to keep his or her voucher through 12th grade even if family income rises above the income limits in future years. This provision applies only if a student continues to attend a school in a parental choice program, applies **each year** during the application period, and does not voluntarily leave a program.

Applying for WPCP

All students must apply each year and provide documentation that they meet the residency requirement. Continuing students applying to any Choice program and students on a Choice waiting list in the prior year applying to the same program are not required to provide income documentation. Applications for WPCP must be submitted on an annual basis during the application period at <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs/student-applications>. The WPCP open application period runs **from the 1st weekday in February to the 3rd Thursday in April**. It is critical that you **designate Chesterton Academy as your first choice school** on the WPCP application.

Documentation Required

Any required supporting documentation to confirm a family meets the residency and income requirements for WPCP must be submitted to our school office **by the 3rd Thursday in April**. Examples of documentation include a property tax bill, WE Energies utility bill,..... [see full list](#).

Please note: Chesterton Academy of Milwaukee will NOT provide tuition assistance for a student who was eligible to receive a school voucher from the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, but failed to apply during the application period. If applying to WPCP for the first time, a family who would need financial assistance, should they not receive a voucher, is encouraged to also fill out a Chesterton Academy financial assistance application by the deadline. DPI starts notifying parents of their determination beginning late May.

Questions? See <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs/student-applications> or contact the school office at (262) 788-8400 x1.