

What is the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program?

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) provides state-funded tuition vouchers for students from low-income families who reside in Wisconsin, but outside the city of Milwaukee and Racine School District, to attend participating private schools. WPCP is a separate application process from SMCS enrollment and financial aid/scholarship forms.

What expenses are covered by the tuition vouchers?

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program provides schools with state-funded vouchers cover full tuition. WPCP does not pay for co-curricular activities or equipment, transportation, after-school care, summer care, elective school trips, classroom supplies or meals.

How does a student apply for Wisconsin Parental Choice Program?

Parents must complete the online student application available at [this link](#). An email address is required to use the online application. Parents may only apply during the open application period, February 1-April 20, 2017. In addition, parents must provide income documentation (if applying for a new student) and residency documentation (for all students) directly to SMCS within the application period. Please see the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) at the link above for more information.

What documentation is required to prove that I am eligible for the program?

Proof of residency is required for all Wisconsin Parental Choice Program applications. This documentation must be submitted to the St. Mary Catholic Schools business office during the open application period. For a list of acceptable forms for proof of residency, refer to the DPI list on the attached page. *Proof of income* is required for all students new to WPCP. This documentation must be submitted to the St. Mary Catholic Schools business office during the open enrollment period. For income limit information and the documentation required to meet DPI guidelines, refer to the table on the attached page.

How are students chosen to participate in WPCP at St. Mary Catholic Schools?

All eligible WPCP applications received during the open application period will be verified. Valid applications require that an application be fully completed online and proof of residency and income be provided at SMCS. The DPI will draw randomly from among eligible valid applications, and will notify parents over the summer regarding pupils' acceptance or waitlist status.

Do I need to reapply for WPCP every year if my child receives a seat at St. Mary Catholic Schools?

Yes. Students receiving a WPCP seat at SMCS will have a seat offered each subsequent year provided we receive an eligible WPCP application with all supporting documentation during the open application period.

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM
Information from the WI Department of Public Instruction

Residency Documentation

Along with the online application, a copy of one of the “proof of residence” documents listed below must be provided to the school in person. All residency documentation must be submitted during the school’s open enrollment period. Late submissions will not be accepted. Online applications without residency documentation are considered ineligible and will not be part of the drawing for a WPCP seat. The residency documentation must include the name of one of the parents/legal guardians and must include a date to show that it is current. The student’s address at the time of application must be the address listed on the WPCP application, *and* it must match the address on one of the following:

1. A current wage statement in the name of one of the parents/guardians at the address on the student application. This can be a W-2 year-end earnings statement that the parent/guardian has recently obtained.
2. A current utility bill in the name of one of the parents/guardians at the address on the student application. Acceptable utility bills are a bill for water, gas, electric, cable or landline phone. Cell phone bills are not acceptable.
3. A current property tax bill or lease agreement in the name of one of the parents/guardians at the address on the student application. Expired leases are not acceptable. If a month-to-month lease is used, it must be dated within three months of when the application is submitted. Rent receipts *are not* an allowed residency document.
4. Recent government correspondence (such as Supplemental Security Income, Wisconsin Works “W2” cash benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Share “food stamps,” or housing assistance letters with the address listed on the application and the name of one of the parents/guardians). Benefits statements printed from Access.gov can be used if they are current and include a date.

2017-18 Income Limits for New Students

Family Size	Single Parent/Guardian Maximum Yearly Income*	Married Parents/Guardians Maximum Yearly Income*
1	\$ 21,978	xx
2	\$ 29,637	xx
3	\$ 37,296	\$ 44,296
4	\$ 44,955	\$ 51,955
5	\$ 52,614	\$ 59,614
6	\$ 60,273	\$ 67,273
7	\$ 67,951	\$ 74,951
8	\$ 75,647	\$ 82,647
9	\$ 83,343	\$ 90,343
10	\$ 91,039	\$ 98,039
11	\$ 98,735	\$ 105,735

*Income as determined by Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on the federal income tax return for the prior calendar year
(2016 Income for the 2017-18 School Year)

Family income includes the income of the child’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that reside in the same household as the student applicant. If the child’s parent(s)/legal guardians are married their income is reduced by \$7,000 when determining income eligibility for the program. Family size includes parent/guardians and their children by birth, marriage or adoption that reside in the same household as the student applicant.

If you have any questions concerning St. Mary Catholic Schools’ participation in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, please contact Shelley Wautlet at swautlet@smcatholicschools.org or 920-722-7796 ext 851, or visit the DPI website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs>.