



**ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM  
Frequently asked Questions**

***Do your children qualify for free tuition? Call or email TODAY for a private consult!***

**What is the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program?**

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) allows students to attend a participating private school tuition-free if certain eligibility criteria are met and the students are selected by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The private school, on behalf of the student's parent or guardian, receives a state aid payment (grant) for each eligible student. WPCP is a separate application process from the St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) tuition assistance application.

**How do I know if we are eligible?**

Families must meet income and student eligibility requirements.

**Income eligibility:** The prior year adjusted gross income (AGI) must be at or below 220% of the federal poverty guideline (see chart). This would include income of parents or legal guardians residing in the same household as the student applicant. Family size includes parents or legal guardians and their children by birth, marriage or adoption that reside in the same household as the student applicant.

**Student eligibility:** Students new to SMCS coming from a public school or home school in grades kindergarten through grade 12 are eligible.

Returning SMCS students and students new to SMCS from a private school entering kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 9 are eligible.

**NEW 4K:** The WPCP grant is open to students selecting **4K, 5 half days only**. *The WPCP grant is NOT available for the full day or 3-day 4K options and does not include 3-year-old preschool.*

Family Size	Single Parent 2020* Income	Married 2020* Income
2	\$ 37,928	XX
3	\$ 47,784	\$54,784
4	\$ 57,640	\$64,640
5	\$ 67,496	\$74,496
6	\$ 77,352	\$84,352
7	\$87,208	\$94,208
8	\$97,064	\$104,064
9	\$106,920	\$113,920
10	\$116,776	\$123,776

\*2019 income can be used to qualify if you apply for the WPCP prior to filing 2020 taxes.

**What expenses are covered by the WPCP grant?**

The WPCP provides private schools with state aid that cover full tuition, registration and laptop leasing fees.

**WPCP grants do not cover** co-curricular activities, equipment, transportation, after-school or summer care, elective school trips, classroom supplies or meals.

**How and when do we apply?**

Parents must complete the online Private School Choice Program application during the open application period, **February 1-April 15, 2021** available at <https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>. An email address is required to apply. In addition, parents must provide supporting documentation directly to SMCS within the application period. Applicants are strongly encouraged to call Shelley Wautlet prior to completing the application.

**What supporting documentation is required to complete the application?**

**Proof of income** is required for all students new to WPCP. A signed copy of the federal 1040 is acceptable for verification. If taxes have not been filed, please contact Shelley Wautlet to determine the best option for your family to qualify and provide documentation. *It is strongly recommended that you select the DPI method to verify income. The Department of Revenue (DOR) method is highly sensitive and submissions are final. Do not enter your social security numbers until it is determined that this is the best method to verify your income.*

**Proof of residency** is required for all new and returning applicants. For a complete list of acceptable forms, refer to the DPI website (see below). **All supporting documentation must be submitted to the SMCS business office during the application period.**

**How are students chosen to participate in WPCP at SMCS?**

The DPI will randomly draw from all eligible applications. Parents are notified by the DPI via email in June regarding acceptance or waitlist status. The past four years, all SMCS students who were found eligible have been offered the grant, resulting in no waitlist at SMCS!

**If we received a WPCP grant last year, do we need to reapply this year?**

**Yes**, you must reapply each year online via the DPI website and supply residency documentation during the open application period. Students who have received a WPCP grant and reapply will be awarded the grant each subsequent year regardless of income and grade.

**If you have questions or would like to set up a private consult, contact Shelley Wautlet at [swautlet@smcatholicsschools.org](mailto:swautlet@smcatholicsschools.org) or (920) 967-0021. More information on the program can be found at the Department of Public Instruction website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs>.**