

1. **Public School Choice has a bigger impact than vouchers.** Currently, about 60,800 Wisconsin students¹ – nearly 7 percent -- are using **public school choice**, otherwise known as “open enrollment.” Families of all incomes are eligible.

The enrollment in this program has a far greater impact on school districts than the parental choice programs.

2. **Only low-income families can participate in a Parental Choice Program (PCP).** There are 28,066 students in the Milwaukee², 3,242 students in Racine³ and 6,878 students statewide⁴ using the Parental Choice Programs.
3. **The Special Needs Scholarship program provides vouchers for students with disabilities that attend private schools.** Only 250 private school students are currently participating.
4. **Private schools are needed in Wisconsin because they save taxpayers money.** If the private schools closed, state and local taxes would have to increase by **\$1 billion annually** to educate all of those children in the public system, according to an analysis by the non-partisan Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.
5. **Private schools can’t replace public education because there aren’t enough private schools to do so and because schools are hard to start.** The vast majority of private schools in Wisconsin enroll kindergarteners through eighth graders. These students graduate on to attend public high schools. For that reason, the private schools have long supported a robust public education system, and work closely with public schools to help students transition from one system to the other.
6. **Private schools in Wisconsin are covered by hundreds of state and federal laws regulating every aspect of school life.** Schools participating in the voucher program have even more regulations to follow. And, these private schools also have to keep the tuition paying parents happy because if they don’t, the tuition disappears and schools close.
7. **The voucher programs are Constitutional.** Both the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court long-ago ruled that voucher programs are constitutional because the government plays no role in the selection of the school. The courts ruled that choice programs meet the state’s secular interest of educating children. If a voucher is used to attend a religious school, it’s because of a parental decision -- not government fiat.
8. **The point of the money is to educate children -- not sustain systems for the sake of adults, public or private.**

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Association of Christian
Schools International

Christian Schools
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Diocese of Green Bay

Diocese of LaCrosse

Diocese of Madison

Diocese of Superior

Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
North Wisconsin District

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Missouri Synod
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Wisconsin Association
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Western Wisconsin District

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¹ Most current available data: [Public School Open Enrollment by the Numbers](#)

² [MPCP Facts & Figures, Department of Public Instruction](#)

³ [RPCP Facts & Figures, Department of Public Instruction](#)

⁴ [WPCP Facts & Figures, Department of Public Instruction](#)