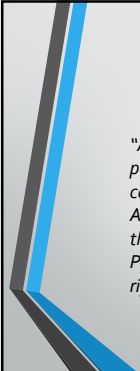



Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

Waukesha Catholic Informational Meeting
September 30th, 2014



Catechism of the Catholic Church

"As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental. As far as possible parents have the duty of choosing schools that will best help them in their task as Christian educators. Public authorities have the duty of guaranteeing this parental right and of ensuring the concrete conditions for its exercise."



Wisconsin Catholic Bishops

Choice in education is a tool through which parents may ensure the proper formation of their children. Though this right extends to all families, we support this limited expansion as a much needed step in the right direction, especially for families hindered by limited means and limited options.

Letter to Wisconsin Legislature, March 5th, 2013

Waukesha Catholic Mission Statement

Waukesha Catholic develops well-educated, caring, and confident individuals who lead Christ-centered lives and are inspired to build a better world.

Waukesha Catholic Value Statements

- **Focus on the Whole Child**
Fostering the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social and physical development of our children, while recognizing each one's uniqueness.
- **Academic Excellence**
Measuring our programs, teachers and students against the highest national standards.
- **Catholic Faith**
Embodying the practice of Catholic family values and participation in the sacramental and moral life of the Church.
- **Respect**
Reflecting human dignity in our actions toward self and others.
- **Responsibility**
Being accountable for one's actions and attitudes.

Waukesha Catholic Value Statements Continued

- **Reverence**
Demonstrating honor for God and all God's creatures.
- **Diversity**
Exemplifying our commitment to attract students and faculty who represent the cultural, economic and family makeup of our community.
- **Inclusiveness**
Removing barriers to make Catholic education possible for all children.
- **Participation**
Involving students, their families and parishioners in the life of the school, parish and community

What are Choice Programs

- First started in 1990, the Milwaukee Parental Choice program allows families of eligible students who reside in Milwaukee to receive a voucher to attend a private elementary at no charge or a private high school at no charge or limited tuition.
- A nearly identical Racine Choice Program was started in 2011.
- The statewide Expansion program (Wisconsin Parental Choice program) began in 2013.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee Schools Participating in Parental Choice Programs 2013-14

Currently, 38 elementary schools and 11 secondary schools participate in this program. In 2013-14, these schools serve approximately 10,543 students. In the City of Milwaukee, this is 33% of the student enrollment in all Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholic schools.

Legislative Changes 2013-15

- Expansion to statewide program
- 500 student cap in year one (2013-14)
- 1000 student cap in year two (2014-15)
- Year 1: Only 25 schools with most applications– each school guaranteed 10 seats. Remaining 250 seats by random selection to those 25 schools.
- Year 2: Schools in year one and the corresponding seats remain in year two. For additional 500 seats, 25 schools with most applications – each school guaranteed 10 seats. Remaining 250 seats by random selection to those 25 schools.
- No more than 1 % of the pupil membership of a school district may attend a participating private school. (SDW = 13,864 (Fall 2012) 1%= 138.64)

2014-15 WPCP Applications

- Total Applications (includes 483 WPCP students from 2013-14): 3,407
 - 2,555 currently attending private schools
 - 633 currently attending public school
 - 219 from out-of state, homeschooled or no school
- Total Schools Indicating Intent to Participate: 68
- Number of Schools Eligible (Highest application generating): 31

Check for Understanding

Income Eligibility

185% of the Federal Poverty Level for 2014-15

Family Size	Annual Income
1	\$24,554
2	\$29,095
3	\$36,636
4	\$44,177
5	\$51,718
6	\$59,259

- For each additional member add \$7,541
- If the child's parents/legal guardians are married their income is reduced by \$7,000 when determining income eligibility for the program.

State Aid (Voucher) per Student

2013-14: K-12: \$6,442
2014-15: K-8 = \$7,210
 9-12 = \$7,856

OR

The private school's operating and debt service cost per student, whichever is less

K4 = ½ amount

Current Waukesha Catholic Eligibility

20 families
36 students

Current Waukesha Catholic Eligibility

20 families
36 students x \$7,210

Current Waukesha Catholic Eligibility

\$259,560

Waukesha Catholic Tuition Assistance
2014-15

- Budgeted Tuition Assistance Amount: \$125,000
- Amount granted as of 9/30/2014: \$121,529
- Amount of Assistance needed based on FAIR analysis: \$203,861
- 63 families, 121 students

**Check for
Understanding**

Frequently Asked Questions

State Aid Payments

- Four payments (two per semester) based on enrollment counts
 - September, November, February, May
- State Aid may be spent on any educational purpose

Allowable Fees

- School supplies and personal use items, including uniforms and gym clothes
- Social and extracurricular activities if the activity is not part of the required curriculum
- Musical instruments
- Meals
- Transportation
- Before-school and after-school child care

Once in Always In

- A student participating in a Parental Choice program whose income increases may continue to attend a school participating in the Choice Program.
- All students must meet residency requirements each year.
- Incoming siblings must meet income eligibility at the time of application
- Eligible siblings are given enrollment priority under the family application

Requirements of the School

Participating private schools must:

- accept all eligible students*
- obey all laws that apply to Wisconsin private school
- follow state accounting practices
- File an independent audit
- Comply with health, safety codes, and civil rights laws
- Participate in state standardized testing
- Be fully accredited through a state accepted accrediting agency
- Comply with other school choice regulations

Religious Opt Out

If the parents of a student participating in the Parental Choice Program submits to the student's teacher or principal a written request that the student be excused from any religious activity, the teacher and school must honor that request.

Special Education Services

A choice school may not discriminate against a child with special needs during the admissions process or elsewhere. However, as a private school, the school participating in the Parental Choice program is only required to offer those services to assist students with special needs that it can provide with minor adjustments.

Check for Understanding

St. Martin of Tours Experience

Questions and Clarification

Next Steps
