

# Saint Nicholas Catholic School

## Wisconsin School Choice Information Meeting



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*Rooted in our Catholic faith we empower, model and share the light of Christ with all we meet.*

Any questions please contact us at:  
**Saint Nicholas Catholic School**  
**W2035 County Road S**  
**Freedom, WI 54130**  
920-788-9371  
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## *Prayer for Catholic Schools*

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# Wisconsin School Choice Summary

- Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (created 2011)
  - **This is SNS fourth year in the program**
- Wisconsin School Choice is a statewide Parental Choice Program, a private school voucher program. The program offers school vouchers to students whose families meet certain income qualifications and are not assigned to the Milwaukee Public School or Racine Unified School Districts.



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# Wisconsin School Choice Summary

- The program is limited to families with Adjusted Gross Incomes at or below **220% of federal poverty**.
- **In 2021-2022, participating is limited to no more than 5% of eligible students residing in each school district. Schools can draw from multiple school districts.**



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# Which students are eligible to participate?

- Must be a resident of the State of Wisconsin
- Must reside **outside** of the Milwaukee and Racine Unified School District.
- The family must have an **Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)** at or **below (220%) of the federal poverty level.**
- **Current public-school students can enroll in a private school at any grade level.**
- **Students who did not attend any school in prior year can enroll in private school at any grade level. This includes homeschoolers.**
- **Private school students enrolling in 4K, K, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, or 9<sup>th</sup> grades ONLY.**



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# Qualifying Incomes for Statewide WPCP

Family Size	Single Income	Married Income (+\$7,000)
2	\$37,428	
3	\$47,784	\$54,784
4	\$57,640	\$64,640
5	\$67,496	\$74,496
6	\$77,352	\$84,352

\* For each additional child add \$9,504

\*\*Income levels are based on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from the 2020-2021 year

\*\*\*Qualifying Income Levels for the Choice Program for 2021-2022.



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# What if family income rises in subsequent years?

- A **“once in, always in”** provision allows your child to keep his or her voucher even if family income rises above the income limits in subsequent years.
- **Family income is determined for each child in the year they enter the parental choice program.** Therefore, families could have some **children qualify and others not qualify for the WPCP depending on amount of the family’s AGI in the year** in which each child sought entry into the program.



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# How do parents apply for WPCP?

- To apply for the program a **parent or guardian must complete an online application** that will be available from **February 1, 2021 to April 20, 2021**.
- A link to the parent application will be available the **morning of February 1, 2021**.
- Within the online application the parent or guardian selects the school or schools to which they wish to apply for.



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# How do parents apply for WPCP?

- After completing the online application, **the parent or guardian must provide proof they meet residency and income requirements at each school** to which they have applied to no later than **April 20, 2021**.
- Schools do not need to be accredited until December of the third year of participation in the program (St. Nicholas Catholic School is **accredited**). Pre-accreditation is due August 1 prior to the first year of participation.



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# What if my child is already in the program?

- A “**once in, always in**” provision allows your child to keep his or her voucher even if family income rises above the income limits in subsequent years.
- Parents still need to log in and **accept** or decline the aid that is being provided.
- A proof of a **residency** is needed to be turned in every year.



# Is my family automatically in the program once we meet the income and residency requirements of the WPCP?

- Not necessarily. If there are more applicants for a particular grade level than seats available, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will conduct a random lottery to assign seats to applicants.



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# What to do when I have submitted the online application?

- All applicant families must provide two pieces of information to SNS.
  - One is proof of residency. This may be a recent utility bill, a cable bill, a tax bill, or another government-issued mailing that proves that the family lives at the location that it submitted on the online application..
  - The family must document its financial eligibility. For those using the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) method, this typically means providing their completed and signed 2019 tax forms to SNS.
  - For those using the Department of Revenue (DOR) method, this means providing the Social Security number(s) of the parent(s) during the application process.



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# What are the estimated costs?

- \$10-15K for annual financial and operating audits
- \$450 annual application fee to Department of Instruction (DPI)
- The cost of a Student Information System (SIS); PowerSchool
- Cost of Registration through the E-Collect system



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# Does the Choice payment cover every SNS related expense?

- No, the Choice payment covers tuition and education-related fees in full. Expenses not covered by the choice payment include:
  - Social and extracurricular activities (e.g.: athletic fees, class retreats)
  - Milk and Snack Break
  - Hot Lunch
  - **Please Note:** Being a member of School Choice covers fundraising



Thank You!

Parents remember to apply for WPCP starting  
**February 1, 2021**

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# Resources:

- <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs>
- <https://schoolchoicewi.org/>
- <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs/on-demand-training>



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