

WISCONSIN

Overall Market Rating: **Growth Ready**

New school growth is possible statewide. Wisconsin’s voucher amounts are among the highest in the nation. The regulatory burden is significant but navigable. Outside of Milwaukee and Racine, choice students face a limited enrollment window (February-April). This represents a big hurdle for first-year schools, as they typically rely on the summer months to meet enrollment targets.

There are technically three voucher programs, but in most respects they mirror one another. In Milwaukee and Racine, there is no enrollment cap and participants’ family income must be equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty level. Statewide, the income threshold is 220% of the FPL, and participation is capped for SY2025-26 at 10% of a local district’s public school enrollment. Participating schools must administer annual Wisconsin state assessments to all voucher students. They must also be accredited within three years of joining the program and submit CPA-performed audits annually to the state. Wisconsin publishes report cards for all public schools and private schools that participate in any of the three programs, with a five-star rating system.

+ Best ✓ Fair - Inadequate	Program(s) Prioritize Low- Income HHS	Funding Is Adequate to Meet Demand (High or No Cap)	New Schools Eligible in First Year	Per-Pupil Amount Is Adequate	The Application Process Is Family-Friendly	There Is a Supportive Ecosystem for Private Schools
WISCONSIN	+	+	✓	+	+	✓

K-12 Enrollment

WISCONSIN 2024-25			
Total PK-12	Public District	Public Charter	Private
981,697	805,881 (82%)	49,461 (5%)	126,355 (13%)

Choice Program Details

Wisconsin/Milwaukee/Racine Parental Choice Programs

Eligibility	Amounts	Participation (2024-25)	Other
<i>HH income</i> Statewide: 220% of FPL	<i>All (2024-25)</i> K-8: \$10,877	<i>All</i> 58,623 students	Participating schools must administer state tests to

Milwaukee: 300% of FPL Racine: 300% of FPL	9-12: \$13,371 SPED: \$15,409	516+ schools	voucher students, be accredited within 3 years, submit CPA-performed audits to state, and ensure teachers have bachelor's degrees (among other requirements)
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K-12 Private School Tuition Deduction

Eligibility	Amounts	Participation (2022-23)	Other
Any Wisconsin taxpayer with children enrolled in a private school	\$4,000 tax deduction (K-8) \$10,000 tax deduction (9-12)	Over 30,000 taxpayers	Benefit is a tax deduction (reduces taxable income) rather than a credit (reduces tax payable)

Sources: State of Wisconsin, EdChoice.org