

# Frequently Asked Questions - Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

## How Does this Program Benefit Winnebago Lutheran Academy Families?

90 WLA students currently receive a voucher through the WPCP that covers their tuition in full. These students come from 15 different school districts and 15 different Association Congregations.

## What is the Income Eligibility for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program?

The table below shows the income criteria for the 2021-22 School Year.

| <u>One Parent Household – 21-22 school year</u> |               | <u>Two Parent (Married) Household – 21-22 school yr</u> |               |
|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| Family Size                                     | Family Income | Family Size   | Family Income |
| 2   | \$37,928      | 3   | \$54,784      |
| 3   | \$47,784      | 4   | \$64,640      |
| 4   | \$57,640      | 5   | \$74,496      |
| 5   | \$67,496      | 6   | \$84,352      |
| 6   | \$77,352      | 7   | \$94,208      |

\*Add \$9,856 for each additional family member

\*\*Family Income is the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on Federal 1040 tax form

\*\*\*Family Income is based on 220% of the Federal Poverty Level

## Who is eligible to apply for a voucher through the WPCP?

Ninth grade is considered an entry point in the program. This means all incoming ninth graders who meet the income and residency criteria are eligible to apply and be selected for a voucher. The cap for vouchers in the 2021-22 school year is 6% of the school district's total enrollment where the family resides. Students are selected by the Wisconsin DPI. Note the last couple of years our area school districts have not hit the school district cap mentioned, meaning all students who applied to the WPCP and met the income and residency criteria were accepted into the program. Once a student is selected to the WPCP, their voucher is renewable annually through their graduation from WLA. A family only needs to meet the income limits for their student's first year in the program. In a student's remaining years at WLA, a family only needs to provide residency documentation. If a younger sibling enters the program, a family does need to meet the income criteria again in the younger sibling's first year in the program.

## What if my child is currently receiving a voucher at a WLA Association Grade School?

If your child is currently receiving a voucher at a WLA Association Grade School for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, this voucher can be transferred directly to WLA for your child's 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. The student would be considered a "returning student" on the online application form, and thus your family would not need to re-qualify for the income criteria. On your family's voucher renewal (see steps to apply on the reverse page), simply put Winnebago Lutheran Academy for the school your child will be attending as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader.

## What is the timeline?

February 1st - April 15th: Open Application period for the WPCP & WLA Financial Aid

May: Students selected for the WPCP by the Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction

Late May/Early June: WLA Financial Aid award letters are sent out to families

**Note:** In most cases, we recommend completing your 2020 taxes BEFORE you apply for the WPCP. Much of the information compiled on your 1040 and accompanying tax forms will be used on your WPCP application. *HOWEVER, if your income is close to or just over the income criteria above, please contact us before filing your taxes and we can speak about your specific situation.*

# Steps to Apply for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

1. Fill out the online application. The online application needs to be completed through the WPCP website <https://dpi.wi.gov/choice>. There is also a link to the WPCP website on the WI Parental Choice page at [wlvikings.org](http://wlvikings.org). The Application is open from February 1, 2021 through April 15, 2021. Please note that Parent email verification is part of the application process. It may take 5 minutes to 24 hours for the verification email to be received by the applicant. There is no preference for a family being picked if they apply right away in early February or wait to the end of the application period. We do encourage families to apply in February or March so if there are any issues or questions about their specific family situation, they can be worked out well in advance of the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## 2. Provide Proof of Residency to WLA (All Applicants):

WLA must be given a copy of ONE of the following documents. The document must be current (within the last 3 months).

- A. Current water, gas, electric, cable, satellite, or landline phone bill. (Cell phone & internet bills are NOT accepted).
- B. 2020 Property tax bill or current (signed and dated) lease agreement
- C. Current wage statement (can be a year-end W2 for 2020)
- D. Recent government correspondence. Current benefits statements from [access.wisconsin.gov](http://access.wisconsin.gov)

Families applying to the WPCP as a “New Student” need to provide income documentation. Returning voucher families do not need to re-qualify for income. **It is preferred that families select the DPI Income Method.** The DPI method makes it easier for WLA to verify applications.

### 3a. DPI Method Documentation (\*Preferred Method\*): **OR**

Acceptable documentation includes:

- A. Copy the first two pages of your 1040 Federal Income Tax Return for 2020. Needs to be signed and dated by taxpayers.  
OR
- B. If your taxes are not completed, you may submit copies of all 2020 income documentation (employer W2s, 1099s, etc).  
OR
- C. If you do not file for income tax, you must provide copies of all other documentation for 2020 (Social Security statements, unemployment compensation statements, child support statements, etc).

### 3b. DOR Method (Secondary Method):

OK DOR method as part of the WPCP application or Provide Social Security Number(s) of parents/guardians to WLA

**\*\*Note that once the DOR check is done, the results are final. Sometimes the DOR check will look back at your 2019 taxes instead of 2020. We encourage families to use the DPI Income method for the most up to date and accurate way to verify income, especially if your income is close to the income limits.**

All documentation requested should be mailed to or dropped off in the WLA office (475 E Merrill Ave Fond du Lac, WI 54935 – enter Door #5 on Merrill Ave) and may be marked attention to Principal Schroeder or Mr. Schraufnagel. Documentation may also be emailed to these individuals.

Principal David Schroeder  
[dschroeder@wlvikings.org](mailto:dschroeder@wlvikings.org)

Business Manager Eric Schraufnagel  
[eschraufnagel@wlvikings.org](mailto:eschraufnagel@wlvikings.org)