

SCHOOL CHOICE MATTERS

Wisconsin Policy Report

Introduction

PURPOSE

A combination of well-designed policies give all students access to the broadest range of educational opportunities, including key core policies and helpful policy enhancers. The purpose of this document is to provide insight to how well your state is doing at implementing the Ecosystem of School Choice Policies. This state report summarizes evidence across the seven policy buckets, with each policy component detailed in individual cells.

CORE POLICIES

Key policies expand student opportunities.



[Open Enrollment](#)



[Charter Schools](#)



[Private School Choice](#)



[Homeschooling](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS

Supporting policies enhance those opportunities.



[Part-time Enrollment/Course Access](#)



[Learn Everywhere](#)



[Transportation](#)

CORE POLICIES



Open Enrollment in Wisconsin

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Transfers Between Districts</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Mandatory policy requiring districts to accept all students where capacity exists</p>	<p>Wisconsin Statute allows for interdistrict open enrollment, through application, at the discretion of the school board, if facilities are adequate and the nonresident student meets its entrance requirements.</p> <p>(b) If facilities are adequate, a school board, board of control of a cooperative educational service agency or county children with disabilities education board may admit nonresident pupils who meet its entrance requirements.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.51 Full-time open enrollment; Wisconsin Stat. 121.77 Admission of nonresident pupils)</p> <p><u>118.51 Full-time open enrollment.</u></p> <p>(5) Nonresident school district acceptance criteria.</p> <p>(a) Permissible criteria. Except as provided in sub. (3) (a) 2., the criteria for accepting and rejecting applications from nonresident pupils under subs. (3) (a) and (3m) (a) may include only the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The availability of space in the schools, programs, classes, or grades within the nonresident school district... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pupils attending the school district for whom tuition is paid under s. 121.78 (1) (a). b. Pupils and siblings of pupils who have applied under sub. (3) (a) or (3m) (a) and are already attending the nonresident school district. c. If the nonresident school district is a union high school district, pupils who have applied under sub. (3) (a) or (3m) (a) and are currently attending an underlying elementary school district of the nonresident school district under this section.

2. Whether the pupil has been expelled from school by any school district during the current or 2 preceding school years for any of the following reasons or whether a disciplinary proceeding involving the pupil, which is based on any of the following reasons, is pending:
 - a. Conveying or causing to be conveyed any threat or false information concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made or to be made to destroy any school property by means of explosives.
 - b. Engaging in conduct while at school or while under supervision of a school authority that endangered the health, safety or property of others.
 - c. Engaging in conduct while not at school or while not under the supervision of a school authority that endangered the health, safety or property of others at school or under the supervision of a school authority or of any employee of the school district or member of the school board.
 - d. Possessing a dangerous weapon, as defined in [s. 939.22 \(10\)](#), while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority.
3. Whether the nonresident school board determined that the pupil was habitually truant from the nonresident school district during any semester of attendance at the nonresident school district in the current or previous school year.
4. Whether the special education or related services described in the child's individualized education program under [s. 115.787 \(2\)](#) are available in the nonresident school district or whether there is space available to provide the special education or related services identified in the child's individualized education program, including any class size limits, pupil-teacher ratios or enrollment projections established by the nonresident school board.
6. Whether the child has been referred to his or her resident school board under [s. 115.777 \(1\)](#) or identified by his or her resident school board under [s. 115.77 \(1m\) \(a\)](#) but not yet evaluated by an individualized education program team appointed by his or her resident school board under [s. 115.78 \(1\)](#).

School boards of districts of residence and districts of attendance may also allow for open enrollment through a written agreement between districts that allows students to attend public schools outside the student's district of residence. In these situations, the school district of residence will pay tuition.

[\(Wisconsin Stat. 121.78 Tuition payments by school districts\)](#)

Wisconsin Statute provides for whole grade sharing agreements – school boards of 2 or more school districts may enter into whole grade sharing agreements to provide for all or a substantial portion of the students enrolled in one or more grades in any of the school districts to attend school in one or more of the other school districts for all or a substantial portion of a school day.

		(Wisconsin Stat. 118.50 Whole grade sharing)
Transfers Within Districts	LIMITED School officials can block transfers	<p>Wisconsin Statute provides that every elementary school and high school is free to all students who reside in the school district.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 121.77 Admission of nonresident pupils)</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute provides that nonresident school boards may assign students accepted to attend public school in the school district to a school or program within the school district. The Board may give preference in attendance at a school, program, class or grade to residents of the school district who live outside the school's attendance area.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.51 Full-time open enrollment)</p>
Year-round Transfer Window	LIMITED Restricted transfer window	<p>Parents seeking to transfer their students must apply between the first Monday in February and the last weekday in April immediately before the school year the student wishes to attend.</p> <p>Parents are also limited in applying to no more than three nonresident school boards in any school year.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.51 Full-time open enrollment)</p>
Tuition-Free Public Schools	YES Prohibition on parent tuition	<p>121.77 Admission of nonresident pupils.</p> <p>(1) (a) Every elementary school and high school shall be free to all pupils who reside in the school district.</p> <p>121.78 Tuition payments by school districts.</p> <p>(1) By agreement.</p> <p>(a) The school board of the district of residence and the school board of the district of attendance may make a written agreement to permit an elementary or high school pupil to attend a public school, including an out-of-state school, outside the school district of residence. The school district of residence shall pay tuition to the school board of the district of attendance in an amount specified in the written agreement. The school district of residence shall be paid state aid for the pupil, in an amount up to the amount specified in the written agreement, as though the pupil were enrolled in the school district of residence.</p> <p>(b) A school board, upon its own order, may provide for the enrollment of a pupil in a public school located outside this state if the course of study in such school is equivalent to the course of study in</p>

		<p>this state. The school board shall pay the tuition for such pupil and the school district shall be paid state aid as though such pupil was enrolled in the school district of residence.</p> <p>Where facilities are adequate and a nonresident student meets entrance requirements to be admitted to a school district outside of their district of residence, the agency of service must charge tuition, unless the student is attending the school through a whole grade sharing agreement, or certain other exceptions apply.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 121.77 Admission of nonresident pupils)</p> <p>School boards of districts of residence and districts of attendance may also allow for open enrollment through a written agreement that allows students to attend public schools outside the student’s district of residence. In these situations, the school district of residence will pay tuition.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 121.78 Tuition payments by school districts)</p>
<p>School Capacity Transparency</p>	<p>NO No transparency policy</p>	<p>School districts in Wisconsin are not required to publicly report capacity by school and grade level.</p>
<p>Transfer Data Transparency</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Wisconsin does require the Department of Public Instruction to annually submit a report to the Governor and appropriate standing committees of the Legislature a report that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of students who applied to attend public school in a nonresident district; • the number of applications denied and the bases for the denials; • among other totals. <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.51 Full-time open enrollment)</p>
<p>Transparent Appeal Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Wisconsin Statute does allow students’ parents to appeal a decision to deny a transfer to the Department of Public Instruction within 30 days after the decision. The decision will be affirmed, unless the Department finds the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.51 Full-time open enrollment); see Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Public School Open Enrollment Appeals Information</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Wisconsin Stat. 118.50 Whole grade sharing](#)

[Wisconsin Stat. 118.51 Full-time open enrollment](#)

[Wisconsin Stat. 121.77 Admission of nonresident pupils](#)

[Wisconsin Stat. 121.78 Tuition payments by school districts](#)

State Department of Education

[Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Public School Open Enrollment](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Public School Open Enrollment Appeals Information](#)



Charter Schools in Wisconsin

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Multiple Charter Authorizers</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Multiple authorizers</p>	<p>The following entities may approve charter schools in Wisconsin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local school boards • The common council of the city of Milwaukee • The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee • The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin- Parkside • The Milwaukee area technical college district board • Each technical college district board other than the Milwaukee area technical college district board; • The chancellor of any institution in the University of Wisconsin System other than the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside; • The county executive of Waukesha County; • The College of Menominee Nation; and • The Lac Courte Orielles Ojibwa community college. <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.40 Charter schools)</p>
<p>Charter Appeal Process</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Independent appeals process</p>	<p>Wisconsin Statute provides that if a local school board denies a petition to establish a charter school, the person seeking to establish the school may appeal the denial to the Department of Public Instruction within 30 days.</p> <p>The Department’s decision is final and not subject to judicial review.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.40 Charter schools)</p>

<p>Charter Regulatory Flexibility</p>	<p>LIMITED Some or no exemptions</p>	<p>Wisconsin charter schools are generally exempt from most laws governing traditional public schools. Charter schools are exempt from sections 115-121 of Wisconsin Statutes, which are general provisions governing K-12.</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute requires the chartering entity to ensure that all instructional staff of charter schools hold a license or permit to teach issued by the department.</p> <p>The Statute explains that if a charter school is established by a school board on its own initiative, the school board will determine if the charter school is an instrumentality of that school district. If so, the school board will employ all personnel for the charter school, and those educators may be subject to collective bargaining requirements.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.40 Charter schools)</p>
<p>Equitable Charter Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED Disparities exist</p>	<p>Wisconsin Statute provides funding as follows: the Department must pay to the operator an amount equal to the sum of the amount paid per student in the previous school year; the amount of the per pupil revenue limit adjustment for the current school year, if positive; the change in the revenue ceiling, between the previous school year and current school year, if positive; the change in the amount of statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous school year and the current school year, if positive.</p> <p>The Statute provides for formulas for calculating statewide categorical aid per pupil.</p> <p>The Statute also explains that a charter school is established as a local educational agency and, as such, is eligible for federal funding as a local educational agency.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.40 Charter schools)</p>
<p>Charter Facilities Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED Some or no facilities funding</p>	<p>Wisconsin policy does not provide for charter school facilities funding, outside of general funding for operations.</p>

<p>Options for High-Performing Charters</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>High-performing charter schools receive incentives and a favorable regulatory environment</p>	<p>Charter agreements must include a provision allowing the governing board to open one or more additional charter schools if all the charter schools operated by the governing board were assigned to one of the top 2 performance categories in the most recent school and school district accountability report.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.40 Charter schools)</p>
<p>Charter Zoning Exemptions</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Less than full protections</p>	<p>Unable to locate policy regarding local zoning and ordinance exemptions for charter schools.</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

<p>Statutes</p> <p>Wisconsin Stat. 118.40 Charter schools</p>	<p>State Department of Education</p> <p>Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Charter Schools in Wisconsin</p>	<p>Other Resources</p> <p>Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Informational Paper #32 Charter Schools (January 2023)</p>
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Private School Choice in Wisconsin

POLICY	OVERALL RATING	PROGRAM OVERVIEW
<p>Universal Eligibility</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Eligibility less than 100%</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off % of all students served</i></p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Special Needs Scholarship Program The Special Needs Scholarship Program provides vouchers for students with disabilities to attend private schools.</p> <p>Eligible students must have an individualized education program or service plan in effect.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 115.7915 Special Needs Scholarship Program)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Parental Choice Program (Statewide) The Parental Choice Program is available to students in grades K-12 statewide, except in Milwaukee Public Schools or Racine Unified school districts and provides vouchers to students.</p> <p>To be eligible, students must be a member of a family that has a total family income that does not exceed an amount equal to 3.0 times the poverty level.</p> <p>Students must also meet one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student was enrolled in a public school in the previous year; • The student was not enrolled in school in the previous year; • The student attending a private school in the previous year; • The student is applying to attend kindergarten, 1st grade, or 9th grade in a private school participating in the program; • The student attended a school in another state in the previous school year; • The student was on a waiting list to attend a private school during the previous school year; • If the student resides in a school district, other than an eligible school district or 1st class city school district, the student was on a waiting list in any previous school year.

			<p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Parental Private School Choice Program (Racine) The Parental Private School Choice Program (Racine) is a school voucher program for families that live in the Racine Unified School District.</p> <p>To be eligible, students must live in the Racine Unified School District and be a member of a family that has a total family income that does not exceed an amount equal to 3.0 times the poverty level.</p> <p>Students must also meet one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student was enrolled in a public school in the previous year; • The student was not enrolled in school in the previous year; • The student attending a private school in the previous year; • The student is applying to attend kindergarten, 1st grade, or 9th grade in a private school participating in the program; • The student attended a school in another state in the previous school year; • The student was on a waiting list to attend a private school during the previous school year; • If the student resides in a school district, other than an eligible school district or 1st class city school district, the student was on a waiting list in any previous school year. <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Milwaukee Parental Choice Program The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program provides private school vouchers for students living in Milwaukee.</p> <p>To be eligible, students must live within Milwaukee and be a member of a family that has a total family income that does not exceed an amount equal to 3.0 times the poverty level.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 119.23 Milwaukee parental choice program)</p>

<p>Comparable Student Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Funding below 90%</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Milwaukee Parental Choice)</i></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Special Needs Scholarship Program</p> <p>This scholarship began in 2016-17 with \$12,000 per scholarship.</p> <p>Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, the scholarship amount is calculated as the sum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the scholarship amount for the previous school year; • the amount of the per pupil revenue limit adjustment for the current school year, if positive; • the change in the revenue ceiling between the previous school year and current school year, if positive; • the change in the amount of statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous school year and the current school year, if positive. <p>Further, beginning in the 2019-20 school year, if the private school submitted a financial statement for the child with a disability in the previous school year, the amount shown on the financial statement for that child for the previous school year, up to 150% of the calculated amount.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 115.7915 Special Needs Scholarship Program)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Parental Choice Program (Statewide)</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute specifies that the funding, from an appropriation, will be equal to the sum of the maximum amount per pupil the state superintendent paid a private school under this law in the previous school year for the grade in which the student is enrolled, and other amounts relating to the revenue ceiling, depending on the grade of the student (K-8 and 9-12).</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Parental Private School Choice Program (Racine)</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute specifies that the funding, from an appropriation, will be equal to the sum of the maximum amount per pupil the state superintendent paid a private school under this law in the previous school year for the grade in which the student is enrolled, and other amounts relating to the revenue ceiling, depending on the grade of the student (K-8 and 9-12).</p>

			<p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Wisconsin Statute specifies that the funding, from an appropriation, will be equal to the sum of the maximum amount per pupil the state superintendent paid a private school under this law in the previous school year for the grade in which the student is enrolled, and other amounts relating to the revenue ceiling, depending on the grade of the student (K-8 and 9-12).</p> <p>Wisconsin Code further provides that participating private schools may charge additional tuition to a student in certain circumstances.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 119.23 Milwaukee parental choice program)</p>
Uncapped Student Access	<p>YES</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Milwaukee Parental Choice)</i></p>	YES	<p>Special Needs Scholarship Program The Special Needs Scholarship Program does not have any funding or enrollment caps.</p>
		YES	<p>Parental Choice Program (Statewide) Student participation in the Parental Choice Program (statewide) is limited by an enrollment cap, ending with the 2025-2026 school year. For the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years, the applicable percentage of participation was 1% of students. For each school year beginning with 2017-18 and ending with 2015-26, the applicable percentage is the percentage from the previous school year plus one percentage point.</p> <p>Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, there will be no limit on the number of students that may participate.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p>
		YES	<p>Parental Private School Choice Program (Racine) The Parental Private School Choice Program for Racine does not have a funding or enrollment cap.</p>
		YES	<p>Milwaukee Parental Choice Program The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program does not have a funding or enrollment cap.</p>

			(Wisconsin Stat. 119.23 Milwaukee parental choice program)
Extended Application Window	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Application period or periods</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Milwaukee Parental Choice)</i></p>	YES	<p>Special Needs Scholarship Program</p> <p>Wisconsin Statutes explain that the application for the Special Needs Scholarship Program may be submitted at any time during a school year, and a child may begin attending an eligible school at any time during the school year.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 115.7915 Special Needs Scholarship Program)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Parental Choice Program (Statewide)</p> <p>Parents may submit applications between the first weekday in February and 3rd Thursday in April from students who reside in a school district.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Parental Private School Choice Program (Racine)</p> <p>Participating schools will select which application period they will accept Choice applications.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Private School Choice Programs: Frequently Asked Questions for Parents)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Milwaukee Parental Choice Program</p> <p>Participating schools will select which application period they will accept Choice applications.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Private School Choice Programs: Frequently Asked Questions for Parents)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Special Needs Scholarship Program</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute provides that a child is to be administered the appropriate examinations</p>

<p>Student Testing Options</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Rigid mandates, multiple tests, or no accountability</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Milwaukee Parental Choice)</i></p>		<p>required under the law only upon the request of a parent of the child receiving the scholarship.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 115.7915 Special Needs Scholarship Program)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Parental Choice Program (Statewide)</p> <p>Participating private schools must administer assessments to students and each school must annually provide to the Department for each of the previous 5 school years in which the school has participated, student scores on all standardized tests administered under Statute 118.30.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute requires the administration of assessments in grades 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.30(1t) Pupil assessment)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Parental Private School Choice Program (Racine)</p> <p>Participating private schools must administer assessments to students and each school must annually provide to the Department for each of the previous 5 school years in which the school has participated, student scores on all standardized tests administered under Statute 118.30.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute requires the administration of assessments in grades 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.30(1t) Pupil assessment)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Milwaukee Parental Choice Program</p> <p>Participating private schools must administer assessments to students and each school must annually provide to the Department for each of the previous 5 school years in which the school has participated, student scores on all standardized tests administered under Statute 118.30.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 119.23 Milwaukee parental choice program)</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute requires the administration of assessments in grades 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11.</p>

<p>School Autonomy</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Silent language or adverse regulations</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Milwaukee Parental Choice)</i></p>	<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Special Needs Scholarship Program Wisconsin Statute does not address private school autonomy.</p>
<p>Accessible School Participation</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Accreditation requirement</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Milwaukee Parental Choice)</i></p>	<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Special Needs Scholarship Program Eligible schools must have been approved as a private school by the state superintendent (which requires an affidavit from an accrediting associations) or be accredited by Cognia, Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation, the Independent Schools Association of the Central States, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation, Wisconsin Association of Christian Schools, National Lutheran School Accreditation, Christian Schools International, Association of Christian Schools International, the diocese or archdiocese within which the eligible school is located, or any other organization recognized by the National Council for Private School Accreditation.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 115.7915 Special Needs Scholarship Program)</p> <p>Wisconsin Administrative Code confirms that schools do need to be accredited to participate.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 49.03 School requirements)</p>
		<p>LIMITED</p>	<p>Parental Choice Program (Statewide) Participating private schools must be accredited. If a private school is not accredited, they must obtain preaccreditation by August 1 before the first school term in which the private school</p>

			<p>begins participation. The school must obtain full accreditation by the 3rd school year following the first school year in which the private school begins participation.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Parental Private School Choice Program (Racine) Participating private schools must be accredited. If a private school is not accredited, they must obtain preaccreditation by August 1 before the first school term in which the private school begins participation. The school must obtain full accreditation by the 3rd school year following the first school year in which the private school begins participation.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts)</p>
		LIMITED	<p>Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Participating private schools must be accredited. If a private school is not accredited, they must obtain preaccreditation by August 1 before the first school term in which the private school begins participation. The school must obtain full accreditation by the 3rd school year following the first school year in which the private school begins participation.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 119.23 Milwaukee parental choice program)</p>

ESAs and Parent-Directed Spending

Freedom to Customize	NO No ESA or microgrant program	Wisconsin does not have an education scholarship account or microgrant program.
Freedom to Access	NO No ESA or microgrant program	

Carry-Over Funding	<p>NO</p> <p>No ESA or microgrant program</p>	
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Tax Credits

Full Tax Credit	<p>N/A</p> <p>No Tax Credit Program</p>	<p>Wisconsin does not have an education tax credit program.</p>
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SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes	Administrative Code	State Department of Education
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<p>Wisconsin Stat. 71.05(6)(b)49 Income computation</p> <p>Wisconsin Stat. 115.7915 Special Needs Scholarship Program</p> <p>Wisconsin Stat. 118.30(1t) Pupil assessment</p> <p>Wisconsin Stat. 118.60 Parental choice program for eligible school districts and other school districts</p> <p>Wisconsin Stat. 118.165 Private schools</p> <p>Wisconsin Stat. 118.167 Private school determination by state superintendent</p> <p>Wisconsin Stat. 119.23 Milwaukee parental choice program</p>	<p>Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 49.03 School requirements</p>	<p>Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Special Needs Scholarship Program</p> <p>Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Private School Choice Programs</p> <p>Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Private School Choice Programs: Frequently Asked Questions for Parents</p>
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Homeschooling in Wisconsin

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Homeschool without Prior Approval</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>No permission required</p>	<p>Wisconsin Statute provides that instruction in a home-based educational program that meets criteria established in Statute may be a substitute for attendance at a public or private school.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.15 Compulsory school attendance)</p> <p>The criteria that must be met for homeschooling to meet the compulsory attendance requirements are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary purpose of the program must be to provide private or religious-based education; • The program must be privately controlled; • The program must provide at least 875 hours of instruction each school year; • The program must provide a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health; • The program must not be operated or instituted for the purpose of avoiding or circumventing the compulsory attendance requirements of the state. <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.165 Private schools)</p> <p>These statutes do not require parents to receive permission from a local school board or other administrative body to start homeschooling.</p>
<p>No Extra Homeschool Notifications</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Annual notification</p>	<p>Administrators of home-based private educational programs must submit a statement of enrollment in a program by October 15 of each year to the Department of Public Instruction. This must include an assurance that the program will meet the requirements in Statute 118.165.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 115.30 Forms and reports)</p>

<p>No Certification to Homeschool</p>	<p>YES No certification requirement</p>	<p>Home-based private educational program is a program that is provided to a child by the child’s parent or guardian, or a person designated by the parent or guardian. There are no requirements in policy requiring homeschool parents to possess teacher certifications.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 115.001 Definitions; Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Home-Based Private Educational Program (Homeschooling) – Frequently Asked Questions (October 2023))</p>
<p>Flexible Assessment Options</p>	<p>YES Flexible academic accountability</p>	<p>Wisconsin Statute does not address assessment of a student’s academic progress. Programs need only provide a “sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health...”</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.165 Private schools)</p> <p>The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction encourages parents to maintain records of the instruction provided.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Home-Based Private Educational Program (Homeschooling) – Frequently Asked Questions (October 2023))</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Wisconsin Stat. 115.30 Forms and reports](#)

[Wisconsin Stat. 118.15 Compulsory school attendance](#)

[Wisconsin Stat. 118.165 Private schools](#)

State Department of Education

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Home-Based Private Education Program \(Homeschooling\)](#)

[Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Home-Based Private Educational Program \(Homeschooling\) – Frequently Asked Questions \(October 2023\)](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS



Part-time Enrollment in Wisconsin

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Resident Course Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>By type of student, type of course, or district policy</p>	<p>Wisconsin statute allows school boards to establish minimum standards for admission of homeschool students to a course offered by the school districts in grades K-8. If a homeschool student meets the minimum standards for admission to a high school, the student may attend up to 2 courses at a public school during each semester, if there is capacity.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.53 Attendance by pupils enrolled in a home-based private educational program)</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute also provides that school boards of districts operating high school grades may allow a student enrolled in a private school or a student enrolled in a tribal school, who has met the requirements for admission to the high school, to take up to 2 courses during each school semester, if the student resides in the school district in which the public school is located and there is capacity.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.145 Admission to high school)</p>
<p>Nonresident Course Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Districts only serve resident students or can impose other restrictions</p>	<p>Wisconsin Statute does allow for part-time open enrollment to allow students to access public school courses outside their district of residence. Students enrolled in a public school in high school grades may attend public school in a nonresident school district to take a course offered by the nonresident school district. If more applications are received than spaces available, the nonresident school board must determine which students to accept on a random basis.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.52 Part-time open enrollment)</p>

<p>Virtual Course Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p>	<p>Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative, through Wisconsin Statute 115.28. This provides access to high-quality online education and offers services to school districts, cooperative educational service agencies, charter schools, and private schools. The two organizations involved are the Wisconsin Virtual School and the Wisconsin eSchool Network.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative (WDLC) – WI Blended, Online & Virtual School Programs)</p>
<p>Extracurricular Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p>	<p>Homeschool Students</p> <p>Wisconsin Statute requires school boards to permit resident students who are enrolled in home-based private education programs to participate in interscholastic activities and extracurricular activities on the same basis as students enrolled in the district.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.133 Participation in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities)</p> <p>Private School Students</p> <p>Participation by private school students is at the discretion of the public school. Private school students may participate in extracurricular activities, subject to local school board policies and WIAA or other member-organization rules.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Educational Options in Wisconsin 2023-24)</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

- [Wisconsin Stat. 118.52 Part-time open enrollment](#)
- [Wisconsin Stat. 118.53 Attendance by pupils enrolled in a home-based private educational program](#)
- [Wisconsin Stat. 118.133 Participation in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities](#)
- [Wisconsin Stat. 118.145 Admission to high school](#)

State Department of Education

- [Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative \(WDLC\) – WI Blended, Online & Virtual School Programs](#)
- [Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Educational Options in Wisconsin 2023-24](#)



Learn Everywhere in Wisconsin

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Provider Qualification Standard	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	<p>Wisconsin has not established a Learn Everywhere program.</p>
Course Credit Standard	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	
Core Course Opportunities	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	
Central State List	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	



Transportation in Wisconsin

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Open Enrollment Transit</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Less than equitable and/or for some students only</p>	<p>Wisconsin Code provides that schools may, but are not required to, provide transportation for nonresident students who are attending public school in the school district or the resident students who are attending public school in another district.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 121.54 Transportation by school districts; Wisconsin Stat. 118.51 Full-time open enrollment)</p> <p>Where a student is attending a school outside of their district of residence through a whole grade sharing agreement, the student’s resident school board will be responsible for transporting the student to and from the school the student is attending.</p> <p>(Wisconsin Stat. 118.50 Whole grade sharing)</p> <p>Other exceptions: Students with IEP have interdistrict transportation costs covered. Low-income families are eligible for partial reimbursement of open enrollment transportation costs Open Enrollment Transportation and Transportation Reimbursement Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.</p>
<p>Fair Transportation Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Equitable transportation offered to some charter OR private students</p>	<p>Private School Students</p> <p>Wisconsin Code provides that school boards that operate high school grades must provide transportation to and from the school a student attends for each student residing in the school district who attend a private school located 2 miles or more from the student’s residence, if the private school is a school within whose attendance area the student resides and is situated within the school district or not more than 5 miles beyond the boundaries of the school district. (Wisconsin Stat. 121.54 Transportation by school districts)</p> <p>Where private school students are not required to be transported, parents may request transportation, which may be provided at the school board’s discretion with a possible fee charged. (Wisconsin Stat. 121.545 Additional transportation)</p> <p>Charter School Students</p> <p>The operator of a charter school may provide transportation to students and may claim transportation aid for students transported. (Wisconsin Stat. 118.40 Charter schools)</p>

		Public schools are not required to transport charter school students; however, school districts have the discretion to offer transportation. (Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Informational Paper #32 Charter Schools (January 2023))
Vehicle Flexibility	YES	Wisconsin Statute allows for flexible vehicle options. School boards can use motor vehicles transporting nine or fewer passengers; and a motor vehicle transporting 10 or more passengers where the use is temporary due to an emergency. (Wisconsin Stat. 121.555 Alternative methods of providing transportation)

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

- [Wisconsin Stat. 118.40 Charter schools](#)
- [Wisconsin Stat. 118.50 Whole grade sharing](#)
- [Wisconsin Stat. 118.51 Full-time open enrollment](#)
- [Wisconsin Stat. 121.54 Transportation by school districts](#)
- [Wisconsin Stat. 121.545 Additional transportation](#)
- [Wisconsin Stat. 121.555 Alternative methods of providing transportation](#)

Other Resources

- [Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Informational Paper #32 Charter Schools \(January 2023\)](#)

