

For Immediate Release
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School Choice Programs Continue Rapid Growth

Wisconsin Program Sees 37% Growth

Enrollment for the Parental Choice Programs for 2019-20 show significant growth once again per DPI. Please see the tables below for headcount data and important information about DPI data releases meant to mislead the media/public with regards to prior year enrollment.

	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	28,904	28,978	.26%
Racine Parental Choice Program	3,334	3,650	9.5%
Wisconsin Parental Choice Program	7,119	9,764	37%
Special Needs Scholarship Program	<u>682</u>	<u>1,058</u>	55%
Total Participation	40,039	43,450	8.5%

“Year over year, the Parental Choice Programs continue to grow across Wisconsin,” Jim Bender said. “Combined with public school open enrollment and independent charters, more than 12% of students are educated with public dollars outside their resident district. That number continues to increase every year.”

WPCP – District limits are at 4% of enrollment for 2019-20. There are currently waiting lists generated within five public school districts across the state.

The data sheets found on DPI’s website list prior year enrollment in a manner that perpetuates a myth about the WPCP having a high percentage of students who were already in private school. They do not list the status of a student when they entered the program, just where they attended in the prior year. So, a student that transferred from a public school two years ago is listed on the DPI sheet as previously being a private school student. This egregious misrepresentation is not done by accident. It is meant to mislead.