



# WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Aquinas Catholic Schools is proud to offer the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). Under this program, parents have a voice in how their tax dollars are spent on the education of their children. This income-based K-12 program provides parents the choice to send their children to a private or chartered school tuition-free through graduation. For those eligible students selected to the WPCP, the family receives a voucher from the State of Wisconsin that pays their student's ACS tuition and other school fees in full.

### What is the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program?

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) allows students who reside in a Wisconsin School district to attend any participating private school tuition-free if financial and residential criteria are met and the students are selected by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The private school, on behalf of the student's parent or guardian, receives a state aid payment (voucher) for each eligible student. WPCP is a separate application process from the ACS tuition assistance application through FACTS.

### How do I know if we are eligible?

You must first be a resident of the State of Wisconsin. Families also must meet income and student eligibility requirements.

**Income eligibility:** The prior-year adjusted gross income (AGI) must be at or below 220% of the federal poverty guideline (see chart).

Family Size	Single Parent 2019* Income	Married 2019* Income
2	\$37,202	XX
3	\$46,926	\$53,926
4	\$56,650	\$63,650
5	\$66,374	\$73,374
6	\$76,098	\$83,098
7	\$85,822	\$92,822

The stated limits would include income of parents or legal guardians residing in the same household as the student applicant. Family size includes parents or legal guardians and their children by birth, marriage, or adoption residing in the same household as the student applicant.

**\*2018 Income can be used to qualify if you apply for the WPCP prior to filing your 2019 taxes.**

**Student eligibility:** Students new to ACS, coming from a public school or home school in grades Kindergarten through grade 12, are eligible. Returning ACS students entering K4, K5, Grade 1, and Grade 9 are eligible.

### **What expenses are covered by the WPCP vouchers?**

The WPCP provides private schools with state-funded vouchers that cover full tuition, enrollment fees and books. WPCP vouchers do not cover co-curricular activities, equipment, transportation, after-school or summer care, elective school trips, classroom supplies, or meals.

### **How and when do we apply?**

Parents MUST complete the online Private School Choice Program application during the open application period February 3 through April 16, 2020 available at <https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>. An email address is required to apply. In addition, parents must provide supporting documentation directly to the ACS Finance office within the application period. The State of Wisconsin will not accept late applications for any reason.

### **What supporting documentation is required to complete the application?**

**Proof of income** is required for all students new to WPCP. A signed copy of the Federal 1040 is acceptable for verification. *It is strongly recommended that you select the DPI method to verify income. The Department of Revenue (DOR) method is highly sensitive and submissions using this method are final.*

**Proof of residency** is required for all new and returning applicants. For a complete list of acceptable forms, refer to the DPI website (see below). All supporting documentation must be submitted to the ACS Finance office during the application period, Feb. 3 – Apr. 16, 2020.

### **Do I need to reapply for WPCP every year if my child receives a voucher at Aquinas Catholic Schools?**

**YES!** You must reapply each year online via the DPI website and supply residency documentation during the open application period. Students who have received a Choice voucher and reapply will be awarded a voucher each subsequent year regardless of income and grade.

### **What if my income increases in subsequent years?**

Once your student is awarded a voucher to attend ACS, he or she is eligible to stay in the program each year through grade 12. The “once in/always in” provision means your student remains voucher eligible even if family income rises. Family income is determined for students in the year they **enter** the program. Residency requirements must still be verified each year.

More information on the program can be found at the Department of Public Instruction website:

<https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>



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