



# FAQs about CWC & Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

## What is the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program?

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program presents vouchers to parents with limited economic means so they can enjoy true choice in education for their children. The program began in the Milwaukee program more than 20 years ago, was later expanded to Racine, and recently has been extended statewide to all religious and independent schools..

## Why is CWC applying to be a "Choice" school?

Central Wisconsin Christian believes that parents are the best equipped to decide what school is the best fit for their child. The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) allows parents who meet financial eligibility requirements to choose Christ-centered education for their son or daughter. This new state-funded program will allow more families to choose this educational option for their kids. Most importantly, CWC will have the opportunity to impact the faith lives of more families as we provide their children with an excellent Christ-centered education.

## Will the "School Choice" program compromise CWC's mission?

The mission of CWC and our current academic program will not change with our participation in the choice program. CWC has a number of current families who will qualify under the income requirements of the program as choice students. Our current practice of integrating faith and learning into all subjects and programs will continue. The Wisconsin DPI allows all of our current courses and chapel to be counted as part of our students' required instructional hours. The CWC Board and administration have carefully researched the program and believes the WPCP will be a blessing to many Christian families in our area who might not otherwise be able to afford a Christian education.

## How will it be determined if CWC becomes a "Choice" school?

The statewide WPCP program first began in 2013-14. In the first two years of the program, the 25 schools that received the most applications were accepted into the program. This means that **every application is extremely important!** The specific process for 2015.16 is being determined as part of the current state budget process.

## **Are other area or CSI schools involved in the program?**

Yes. Sheboygan Christian is completing their second year in the program. St. Mary's Springs, Winnebago Lutheran, Fox Valley Lutheran, Heritage Christian, Milwaukee Lutheran, and their supporting elementary schools have all been involved in the program. Members of an ad-hoc study committee on this issue talked to several different schools that are currently "choice" schools, and their experiences were compiled. Their experience to this point has been extremely positive!

## **Is CWC encouraging parents to apply?**

Letters will be sent to all current school families encouraging them to apply if they meet the financial criteria. If a current family receiving financial aid qualifies for a voucher, it will free up tuition assistance resources to help other students who may need financial assistance, but who don't qualify for the WPCP program. All application information is held in strict confidence by the Finance Committee.

## **How will students be chosen for the "School Choice" program?**

Students from families who meet the income guidelines will be chosen through a lottery system established by the State of Wisconsin. Selected students will receive a voucher (valued at \$7,856 in 2014.15) from the State of Wisconsin to apply to their schooling. Families will be notified in May. Students selected do not need to reapply annually, but remain in the program throughout their K-12 educational years.

## **What if I qualify and my student is not chosen for the "School Choice" program?**

In addition to applying for the WPCP program, qualifying families are also encouraged to apply to the CWC Tuition Assistance Program through FACTS. Each year, Central Wisconsin Christian provides thousands of dollars to financial aid for many families and students. Guidelines for applying are found on our website at [centralwisconsinchristian.org](http://centralwisconsinchristian.org) or by contacting Barb Sterk in the Business Office. Please note the deadline for these applications is May 1.

## **What can I do to promote the "School Choice" program?**

Please share the news about this exciting new program with your friends, neighbors, and associates who might be interested in Christian education for their children. It is critical that we contact as many people as possible to maximize the number of applications to increase our chances of being accepted into the program.

**Thank you for your help and we pray we have the opportunity to expand our Kingdom impact through the WPCP program.**