

## Educational Options in Wisconsin 2025-26

Revised July 2025

Under Wisconsin's compulsory school attendance law (Wis Stats §118.15), pupils aged 6 through 18 are required to attend school regularly until the pupil graduates or until the end of the school term, quarter, or semester in which the pupil turns 18. Full-time attendance in a public school, private school, tribal school or home-based private educational program satisfies the compulsory school attendance requirement. A pupil may be enrolled in only one of these educational entities: multiple or dual enrollment is not permitted. There may be additional attendance options available; specific options depend on the pupil's full-time enrollment.

### Full-Time Enrollment: Public, Private or Home-Based

Public School			Private School (including Vouchers) or Tribal School	Home-Based Private Educational Program (Homeschooling)
Resident School District	Nonresident School District	Independently Authorized (2r, 2x) Charter School		
<u>Conditions and Funding</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolled full-time in resident school district. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counted in membership by resident school district for state aid and revenue limits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Educational program solely controlled by resident school district.</li> </ul>	<u>Conditions and Funding</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolled full-time in nonresident school district. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open enrollment: resident district counts in membership, DPI transfers aid to nonresident district.</li> <li>Tuition agreement between districts: resident district counts in membership, pays nonresident district.</li> <li>Parent-paid tuition: neither district counts in membership, parent pays tuition.</li> <li>Inter-district chapter 220: Not open to new students after those approved for the 2015-16 school year. State pays nonresident district.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<u>Conditions and Funding</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No statutory restrictions on pupil residency.</li> <li>See below for full table of independent authorizers and restrictions on school location.</li> <li>Funded by state.</li> <li>Educational program solely controlled by charter school as specified in contract with authorizer.</li> <li>No virtual option.</li> </ul>	<u>Conditions and Funding</u> <p><i>Private School</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolled full-time in private school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent-paid tuition or other private funding.</li> <li>Private School Choice Programs; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State pays private school for eligible students.</li> <li>Under certain circumstances, private school may charge tuition in addition to voucher for high school pupils.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Special Needs Scholarship Program; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State pays private school for eligible students.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<u>Conditions and Funding</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolled full-time in home-based private educational program.</li> <li>No public funding.</li> <li>Educational program solely controlled by parent or guardian.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational program solely controlled by nonresident school district.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Private school may charge tuition.</li> <li>Educational program solely controlled by private entity.</li> </ul> <p><i>Tribal School</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolled full-time in tribal school.</li> <li>Educational program solely controlled by tribal school.</li> </ul>	
<u>Attendance Options</u>	<p><u>Attendance Options</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance in public school within resident district, including charter school, virtual charter school or program, or alternative school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in various programs offered in resident school district, such as at-risk, gifted, AP, work-study, alternative school or program, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Curricular modifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent may request, and school board may approve, curriculum modifications including, but not limited to: modifications of current academic program, programs located in resident school district,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Attendance Options</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonresident pupils have same rights and responsibilities as resident pupils and same attendance options, except with respect to open enrollment pupils taking online courses while not physically attending.</li> <li>Open enrolled pupils may not take online courses unless the online courses are provided by a virtual charter school or unless the pupil physically attends school in the nonresident district to take the course.</li> <li>Part-time Open Enrollment: Resident district treated as nonresident district for purpose of taking course. Nonresident district treated as resident district for purpose of payment.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Public School Attendance Options</u></p> <p><i>Resident district</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High school pupil enrolled in private school or tribal school.</li> <li>May take up to two courses per semester in the pupil's resident school district.</li> <li>Resident district counts FTE in membership for state aid but not revenue limit.</li> </ul> <p><i>Nonresident school district</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only on a parent-paid tuition basis.</li> </ul> <p><i>Extra-curricular or co-curricular activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident district may allow private school and tribal school pupils to participate in extra-curricular activities subject to school board policies and WIAA or</li> </ul>	<p><u>Public School Attendance Options</u></p> <p><i>Resident or nonresident district</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open to pupil enrolled in home-based private educational program in any grade.</li> <li>May take up to two courses in a resident or nonresident public school district during each semester.</li> <li>Resident district counts FTE in membership for state aid but not revenue limit.</li> <li>Nonresident district counts .25 for each course in membership for state aid but not revenue limit.</li> </ul> <p><i>Extra-curricular or co-curricular activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident district must allow home-based school pupils to participate in extra-curricular activities on the same basis and to</li> </ul>

<p>enrollment in nonsectarian private or tribal school located within resident school district, home-bound study including correspondence courses, tutoring, public educational program outside resident school district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 16-year-old may enroll in program leading to high school graduation.</li><li>○ 17-year-old may enroll in program leading to HSED.</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Part-time Open Enrollment:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pupil enrolled in a WI public school district in a high school grade.</li><li>○ May take up to 2 courses at a time in a nonresident public school district.</li><li>○ Resident district pays nonresident district.</li></ul></li><li>● Start College Now:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Eligible pupil: public school junior or senior.</li><li>○ May take post-secondary courses at a WI Technical College.</li><li>○ District of full-time attendance pays tuition/fees.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Start College Now and Early College Credit Program: Nonresident district considered district of full-time attendance for purposes of payment.</li></ul>		<p>other member-organization rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● No membership count or state funding.</li></ul>	<p>the same extent as pupils enrolled in the district, subject to WIAA or other member-organization rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● No membership count or state funding.</li></ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early College Credit Program:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Eligible pupil: public or private high school grades</li><li>◦ May take post-secondary courses at the UW-System, Wis. tribally-controlled college, or WI private, nonprofit college or university.</li><li>◦ Varying mix of state, parent and district of full-time attendance pays tuition/fees.</li></ul></li></ul>			
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## Statutory Citations

- Attendance by Pupils Enrolled in a Home-Based Private Educational Program: Wis. Stat. § 118.53
- Attendance by Pupils Enrolled in a Private School or Tribal School: Wis. Stat. § 118.145 (4)
- Charter Schools, including Independently-Authorized Charter Schools and Virtual Charter Schools: Wis. Stat. § 118.40
- Compulsory School Attendance, including Curriculum Modifications: Wis. Stat. §. 118.15
- Definition of a Private School: Wis. Stat. § 118.165
- Definition of Home-Based Private Educational Program: Wis. Stat. § 115.001 (3g)
- Early College Credit Program: Wis. Stat. § 118.55
- Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (Vouchers): Wis. Stat. § 119.23
- Part-Time Open Enrollment: Wis. Stat. § 118.52
- Public School Open Enrollment: Wis. Stat. § 118.51
- Statewide Parental Choice Program (Vouchers), including Racine Parental Choice Program: Wis. Stat. § 118.60
- School Finance, including Membership, Tuition and Special Transfer Program (Chapter 220): Chapter 121 Wis. Stats.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities: Wis. Stat. § 118.133

**Independent Charter School Authorizers:** Independent authorizers and limits, if any, on school location and pupil residency are listed below.

Charter Authorizer	School Location	Pupil Residency	Number of Charter Schools
City of Milwaukee (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
UW-Milwaukee (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
UW-Parkside (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
Any other UW System campus (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
Milwaukee Area Technical College (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
Gateway Technical College (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
Any other WI Technical College (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
Waukesha County Executive (2r)	Waukesha County	Statewide	Unlimited
College of Menominee Nation (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	No more than 6 schools between these two authorizers
Lac Courte Orielles Ojibwa Community College (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	
Office of Educational Opportunity (UW System) (2x)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited