



Mission: FCS students will be lovingly trained as disciples of Jesus Christ for a life of influence.

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Wisconsin Parental Choice Program Information Sheet

Introduction: The FCS Board of Directors, after two full years of prayer and intentional research, has unanimously approved participation in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for the 2022-2023 school year. The Board of Directors will evaluate the effectiveness of joining the program and decide whether or not to renew its participation for 2023-2024 by December of 2022.

Reading of Foundational Statements

- **Mission Statement:** FCS students will be lovingly trained as disciples of Jesus Christ for a life of influence.
- **Our Purpose:** Transform lives through the love of Jesus Christ.
- **FCS Foundational Vision Statement:** To be a model school that transforms our students and the world through the love of Christ.
- **FCS Vision Statement for 2020-2023:** Any family demonstrating a commitment to an increasingly excellent Christ-centered education can enroll their child at Faith Christian School (admissions process must be completed including an academic assessment).
- **FCS Vision Prayer for 2020-2023:** “Father, give us eyes to see and ears to hear what You have done, are doing, and will do in the future for the Faith Christian School family. May Your kingdom come and Your will be done in our individual lives and in our school. Send us families who truly desire an increasingly excellent Christ-centered education and provide the means for them to be here.”

Part 1: Rationale for joining the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)



Faith Christian School has chosen to be a part of this program:

1. To assist and benefit any of our current families who would qualify for the program.
2. To give mission-appropriate families who already demonstrate that they value a Christ-centered education and who otherwise would not be able to afford it, an opportunity to begin receiving a Christ-centered education at FCS.
3. To be able to disciple and educate students whom FCS would not otherwise be able to serve under normal budget constraints. (“We also seek to fulfill the Great

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Commission by reaching out to unchurched, unsaved families on a select basis.”

-Continuous School Improvement Plan, p. 3)

4. Because the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program currently does not run counter to or violate our Foundational Statements.
5. Increased Financial Viability

Part 2: Wisconsin Parental Choice Program FAQs

- What is the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)?
 - “Private, religious, and independent schools receive the aid [dollars designated for private school tuition] through the direction of parents.”
-Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools, Choice Handbook, 2018 Ed.

- “Schools participating in the program receive a state aid payment for each eligible student on behalf of the student’s parent or guardian.” -[Department of Public Instruction’s website](#) where you can learn more.
 - As a state funded program, schools do not receive federal funds.
- What does the program require of FCS?
 - **Philosophical requirements**
 - One example would be the religious opt-out provision. Parents of Choice students can technically opt out of religious activities. “...in the nearly 30 years of [Choice]...the provision is rarely used.” WCRIS Choice Handbook (pp. 43-44, 2018 ed.) The key to avoiding this situation is true integration of biblical instruction in every discipline and activity!
 - **Cultural requirements**
 - FCS will have the opportunity to disciple and educate students whom FCS would not otherwise be able to serve.
 - **Administrative & Financial Accountability:** major operational changes,

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examples to follow. (ACSI Accreditation, which FCS earned in December of 2020 already required these to a large extent.) Examples include staff educational credentials, academic standards, non-discrimination policy, seek support from a CPA approved by the DPI, separate tracking of Choice revenue, internal controls policies strengthened, and a full Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) audit is due annually by October 15.

- **Student Data Requirements**
 - Student Poverty & Income Data gathered confidentially.
 - State Academic Assessments: Certain pre-ACT tests are acceptable, many of which FCS already uses..
- What does the program provide for FCS?
 - Financial viability
 - For 2022-2023, the estimated amount of the voucher is \$4,150 for PreK, \$8,300 for grades K-8 and \$8,946 for grades 9-12.
 - Avg. per-student tuition collected in 2019-2020:
 - PreK-8th grade: \$3,960
 - 9th-12th grade: \$5,297
 - Estimate is for \$160,000 hard income and a per student average of at least \$8,000.
- Who is eligible for the WPCP?
 - A resident of the state of Wisconsin
 - Students from FCS and other private schools:
 - Entry points: PreK, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 9th grade.
 - Any grade is open to a public, charter, home-schooled, or virtual-schooled student.
 - Family income must not exceed 220% of the federal poverty level.
- Will partnering with the WPCP change FCS?
 - In fact, it should solidify our identity as a Christ-centered school committed to lovingly training disciples of Jesus Christ for a life of influence, including students who are currently unable to join us. The key is to proactively and intentionally communicate who we are and why we do what we do as clearly as possible as early as possible in the admissions process. Communicating the pervasiveness of Christ-centered, biblical instruction in

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all disciplines and activities is imperative. ACSI and WCRIS schools across Wisconsin have had extremely high success rates not only preserving their mission, core values, and culture, but in strengthening them.

- Will FCS loosen its admissions requirements?
 - No, they will be tightened. FCS will use this program to attract families already with us, whether in person or in spirit.
 - The number one target audience for this program is families already at Faith Christian School.
 - The number two target audience are the 8th graders at our “sister-schools.” Examples include Mount Zion Christian School and Delavan Christian School.
 - The third target audience is families who are already committed to Christ-centered education but have thus far not possessed or taken the opportunity to be a part of a Christ-centered school on a full-time basis. Some of these families currently homeschool; some are in public school.
 - Finally, the fourth target audience is a small group of students from unsaved and/or unchurched families who agree with our statement of faith and philosophy of education.
 - Choice families must still go through the FCS admissions process which requires the Christian testimony of one parent, agreement with the FCS Statement of Faith, and a family/student interview with the FCS Leadership Team.
- Should we be concerned about partnering with the government?
 - Yes and No.
 - Yes, in the sense that there are legitimate and concerning indicators that a government entity has the potential to infringe upon the religious liberties of a school like ours, one that is wholly committed to the Word of God. That is why the Board of Directors has adopted non-negotiables for the state of Wisconsin: “Wisconsin, thou shalt not...” or FCS will no longer participate in the program if you break one of these commandments (see below). These parameters were adapted from the experience and best practices of multiple Christ-centered schools all over our state who are members of WCRIS and accredited by ACSI. These are schools who have proven track



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records of strengthening both their mission and their financial viability. Legal participation in the WPCP renews annually; schools may choose not to renew annually.

- No, in the sense that “Schools participating in the program receive a state aid payment for each eligible student **on behalf of** the student’s parent or guardian.” Technically, the money belongs to the eligible family before it belongs to Faith Christian School. As a state funded program, schools do not receive federal funds.

Part 3: The Non-Negotiables for WPCP Participation

Faith Christian School shall discontinue participation in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program if the State of Wisconsin and/or the Department of Public Instruction:

1. Imposes requirements are in direct violation of our beliefs and/or our methods for delivering the highest quality Christ-centered education to our students in accordance with our [Foundational Documents and Core Values](#), including, but not limited to:
 - Any state requirements placed on the school in regards to its academic standards, curriculum, or substantive teaching material and subject matter.
 - Any state requirements limiting or in any way restricting how the school teaches the Bible: religion, theology, and a Christian worldview to the students, or any requirements placed on the school that inhibit how the school teaches these subject matters to regular tuition-pay students.
 - Any state requirements which dictate that we could not make decisive determinations on whom FCS hires based on, but not limited to, their sexual orientation, their belief in God, or their signed acceptance of the FCS Statement of Faith.
 - Any state requirements which dictate that FCS cannot make enrollment, admission, or discipline decisions based solely on a student’s views or behavior related to adultery, including pre-marital sex; sober-mindedness; homosexuality; gender; and sexual identity, including the student’s own gender identification.

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- Any state requirements placed on how the school disciplines, including those students in the choice program.

- 2. If 5% or more of choice students are avoiding religion classes or other religious teaching areas. The Choice Administrator, designated by the Board of Directors, shall be responsible for determining what class(es) said students complete in order to meet graduation requirements.
 - Each year, prior to the voucher application period, the Head of School will report to the Board of Directors giving an overview of the voucher program, including known test scores, behavior issues, and particulars regarding students who opt out of our Bible or religion classes.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or comments about Faith Christian School's participation in the WPCP, please reach out to current Head of School Jim McCormick (jmccormick@faithchristianschool.org) or incoming Head of School Drew Popejoy (dpopejoy@faithchristianschool.org).

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