

	2011	2018	Notes
Graduation rate	87.0% (2010-11. Source)	89.6% (2017-18. Source)	Wisconsin's DPI reports on high school graduation rates annually. Shown here are four-year graduation rates. Formulas for calculating rates have changed over time. Wisconsin's high school graduation rate is among the highest in the country.
Average ACT score	22.0/36 (2010-11 graduates. Source)	20.3/36 (2016-17 graduates. Source)	This figure shows the average composite ACT score for students who graduated high school in the given year. Wisconsin began paying for students to take the exam in 2014-15, which vastly improved the participation rate and brought down the average score. Comparisons must keep this shift in mind.
ACT participation	59.8% (2010-11 graduates. Source)	92.1% (2016-17 graduates. Source)	As noted above, Wisconsin began paying for high school juniors to take the ACT Exam in the 2014-15 school year, driving the participation rate up tremendously. As of 2017, 17 states administer the ACT Plus Writing to all students.
Math proficiency	46.7% (2010-11 WKCE. Source)	43.5% (2017-18 Forward Exam. Source)	While presented next to each other, these figures should *not* be directly compared. In the 2015-16 school year, Wisconsin switched from the long-used Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) to the Badger Exam. In 2016-17, the state again moved assessments, this time to the Forward Exam. Different exams have entirely different cutoff points for proficiency and mastery of materials. In this case, both exams were administered to students in grades 3-8.
Reading/English proficiency	35.5% (2010-11 WKCE reading proficiency. Source)	42.2% (2017-18 Forward Exam English language arts proficiency. Source)	As noted above, these figures should *not* be directly compared, but simply display a snapshot in time of proficiency according to the standard then used.
Open enrollment participation	34,498 (number of transfers in 2010-11. Source)	60,820 (number of transfers in 2017-18. Source)	Wisconsin has allowed students to transfer to other public school districts through the open enrollment program since the 1998-99 school year, when 2,464 students used the program. By participation levels, public school open enrollment is the most popular form of school choice in the state.
Parental choice program enrollment	20,996 headcount in 102 schools (Sept. 2010 count for MPCP. Source)	40,073 in 284 schools (Sept. 2018 headcount for MPCP, RPCP, WPCP, SNSP. Source)	The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) was launched in the 1990-91 school year and allows certain students to attend private schools using a voucher. Similar programs now exist in Racine (RPCP) and statewide (WPCP), as well as a Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) that gives children with special needs scholarships to attend the school of their choosing.
Public school enrollment	872,436 (Sept. 2010 headcount. Source)	858,833 (Sept. 2018 headcount. Source)	Total public school enrollment has fallen across the country, and Wisconsin has seen the same trend play out as well. The total school-aged population has slowly declined, and the rise of other K-12 options has allowed families to pursue other educational options.
Private and tribal school enrollment	125,372 (Sept. 2010 headcount. Source)	121,836 (Sept. 2017 headcount. Source)	The Wisconsin DPI tracks private and tribal school enrollment together. Over time, private school enrollment has also fallen.
Homeschooled enrollment	19,576, or 1.93% of all students (Sept. 2010 headcount. Source)	21,633, or 2.16% of all students (Sept. 2017 headcount. Source)	The share of students attending home-based educational programs, also known as homeschooling, has wavered through the years. Recently, the trend is moving distinctly upward - the percent of students homeschooled today is the largest it has ever been since DPI began tracking the figure in 1984.
Students attending failing schools	43,748 (2012 report cards, the first produced. Source)	40,919 (2018 report cards. Source)	Since the 2011-12 school year, Wisconsin's DPI has produced annual report cards for public districts and schools across the state. Private schools participating in parental choice programs now receive report cards, as well. Schools and districts are given five-star rankings based on an overall assessment score. The lowest ranking is one star, or "fails to meet expectations."
Students attending five-star schools	19,989 (2012 report cards, the first produced. Source)	123,073 (2018 report cards. Source)	The highest possible ranking on the annual report cards is five stars or "significantly exceeds expectations." DPI tracks the number of schools who achieve this distinction, as well as total enrollment at those schools.
Advanced Placement Exam participation	10.4% participation rate, 46,647 exams taken, with 67.6% scored three or above (May 2011 exams. Source)	16.9% participation rate, 74,962 exams taken, with 66.5% scored three or above (May 2018 exams. Source)	Advanced Placement (AP) Exams are a way for high school students to earn college credit. Typically, by scoring a three out of five or higher, they can earn at least three related general education requirements at a university. Overall AP Exam participation has steadily increased over the years. The number of exams taken by Wisconsin high schoolers has grown by 61% during this time.
Total state school aids	\$11,675,044,300 (2011-13 budget. Source , page 537.)	\$13,725,716,400 (2017-19 budget. Source , page 544)	The majority of the funding that K-12 schools receive comes from the state, followed by local property taxes and federal sources. Elementary and secondary school aids make up the largest single line item in the state budget. Total school aids include general and categorical aid, the school levy tax credit, the first dollar credit, and state residential schools.
Percentage of state support to schools	61.3% state funding to schools (First year of 2011-13 budget. Source , page 537)	65.8% state funding to schools (Second year of 2017-19 budget. Source , page 543)	The state made a commitment to provide two-thirds of total school funding under Gov. Tommy Thompson in 1996, but walked back the promise under Gov. Jim Doyle in 2003. During Gov. Scott Walker's tenure shown here, the total share of state support gradually increased and is close to two-thirds.
UW Graduation rate	28.7% (Four-year graduation rate, 2011. Source)	38.1% (Four-year graduation rate, 2017. Source)	The UW System tracks graduation rates by the percentage of students who had graduated within four or six years of their freshman year. For 2011 column, students entered school in fall 2007. For 2018 column, students entered school in fall 2013.
UW System total degrees conferred	34,608 (2010-11. Source)	36,825 (2017-18. Source)	The UW System reports on total degrees conferred across all UW institutions in each academic year. Approximately ¾ of all degrees conferred are Bachelor's Degrees.

