

News Release

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30 schools to participate in Special Needs Scholarship Program

MADISON — The Department of Public Instruction has posted a list of the 30 schools that have registered to participate in the [Special Needs Scholarship Program](#) for the 2017-18 school year. Applications for new student scholarships open July 1 as required in statute.

This is the second year of the Special Needs Scholarship Program, which was created in the 2015-17 Wisconsin state budget. The program allows a child with a disability who meets eligibility requirements to receive a scholarship to attend a participating private school chosen by the child's parents or guardians. To be eligible for a scholarship, the child must be a resident of the state and must meet the following criteria:

1. been enrolled in a public school district for the entire 2016-17 school year,
2. been rejected from attending a public school in a nonresident district under the state's open enrollment program for the 2017-18 school year, and
3. have an individualized education program (IEP) or services plan in effect.

Parents and guardians of students new to the Special Needs Scholarship Program may apply to the program beginning July 1 and throughout the course of the 2017-18 school year. Eligible students who currently participate in the Special Needs Scholarship Program will not have to re-apply to be eligible for a scholarship.

Each school that registered to participate in the program by the March 1 deadline provided the DPI with a Special Education Profile that describes the methods of instruction and qualifications of those who will provide special education and related services to Special Needs Scholarship Program students. Those profiles are available online on the [Special Needs Scholarship Program: 2017-18 Student Applications website](#).

For the current school year, participating private schools receive \$12,000 per full-time equivalent student. The list of participating schools may change based on schools' compliance with remaining program requirements.

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NOTES: More information and the list of schools participating in the [Special Needs Scholarship Program](#) for the 2017-18 school year is available at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/special-needs-scholarship/student-applications-17-18>. The application will be available on that site starting July 1. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2017_34.pdf.