

These statistics are a snapshot of the WELS school system. They represent information gathered with an online form completed by school personnel. The statistics are only as accurate as the information that was reported. In some instances, data from the previous year was used for schools that failed to complete the statistics form for 2023. (Please note that multi-site schools are counted as one unit.)

Number of forms not returned this collection cycle: ECM - 0, LES - 0, LHS - 0.

LHS includes ALHS, LPS and MLS

Schools and Enrollment

	Schools	Enrollment	Average Enrollment
Standalone Early Childhood Ministries (ECM)	107	4,075	38
Standalone Lutheran Elementary Schools (LES)	31	1,794	58
Combined ECM & LES	249	34,011	137
Area Lutheran High Schools (ALHS)	28	6,779	242
Preparatory High Schools (LPS & MLS)	2	602	301
Totals	417	47,261	

Total Early Childhood Ministries	356	11,799	
Total Lutheran Elementary Schools	280	28,081	
ECM with Year Round Child Care	102		

Enrollment by District

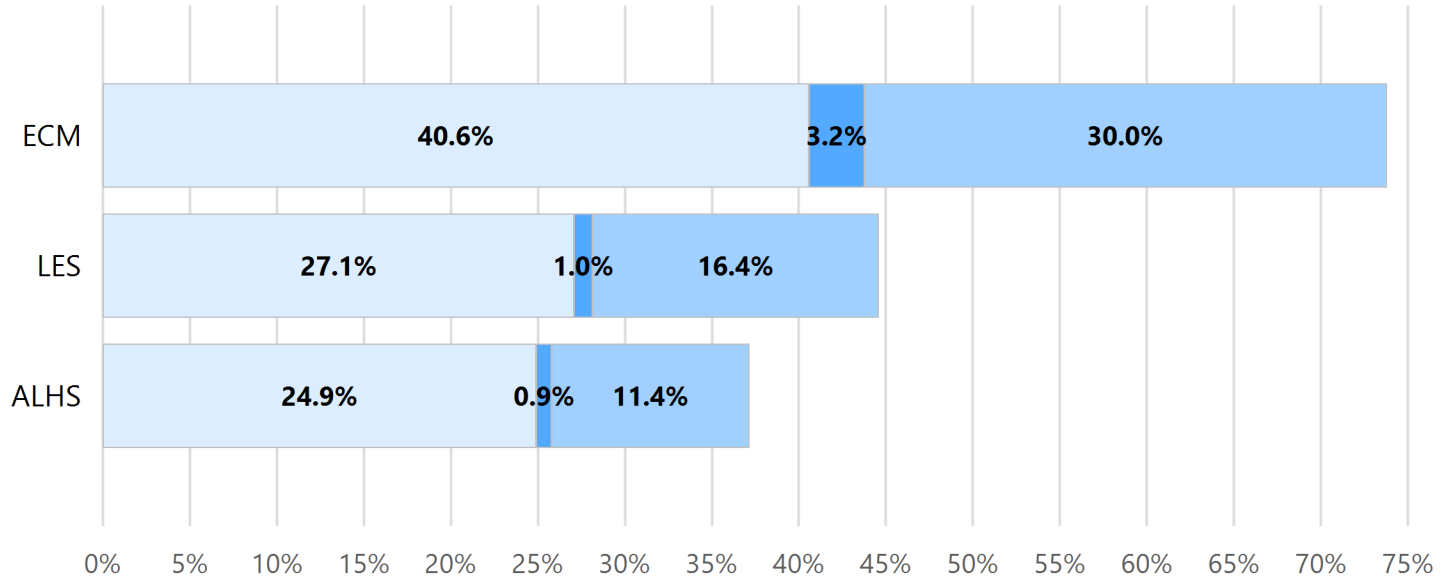
WELS Districts	ECM		LES		ALHS		LPS & MLS
	Schools	Enrollment	Schools	Enrollment	Schools	Enrollment	Enrollment
Arizona-California	20	712	20	1,765	3	388	
Dakota-Montana	8	354	6	440	1	137	
Michigan	33	802	34	1,743	2	164	192
Minnesota	41	1,108	30	2,628	4	913	
Nebraska	25	641	15	779	2	117	
North Atlantic	5	188	2	114	0	0	
Northern Wisconsin	53	1,799	44	4,659	3	1,330	
Pacific Northwest	15	426	7	697	1	97	
South Atlantic	31	1,292	18	2,560	2	442	
South Central	8	376	6	752	1	56	
Southeastern Wisconsin	63	2,301	53	7,900	5	2,228	
Western Wisconsin	54	1,800	45	4,044	4	907	410
Totals	356	11,799	280	28,081	28	6,779	602

International <i>(Subset of the total above)</i>	0	0	10	35	19	346	17
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Enrollment by Church Affiliation

	Governing Congregation(s)		Other WELS/ELS Congregations		Other Christian Congregations		Non-Christian		No church affiliation	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
ECM	2,460	20.8%	635	5.4%	4,785	40.6%	379	3.2%	3,540	30.0%
LES	13,766	49.0%	1,800	6.4%	7,604	27.1%	294	1.0%	4,617	16.4%
ALHS	4,065	60.0%	195	2.9%	1,689	24.9%	60	0.9%	770	11.4%

Outreach



Groupings by Enrollment - ECM

Enrollment Range	0-25	26-50	51-100	101-150	151+
Total Schools	176	108	64	5	3
Percent Schools	49.4%	30.3%	18.0%	1.4%	0.8%
Smallest/Largest	1				201
Total Enrollment	2,485	3,806	4,375	571	562

Groupings by Enrollment - LES

Enrollment Range	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251+
Total Schools	74	114	38	27	14	13
Percent Schools	26.4%	40.7%	13.6%	9.6%	5.0%	4.6%
Smallest/Largest	4					967
Total Enrollment	2,228	8,330	4,678	4,627	3,177	5,041

Groupings by Enrollment - ALHS

Enrollment Range	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501+
Total Schools	11	3	6	1	3	4
Percent Schools	39.3%	10.7%	21.4%	3.6%	10.7%	14.3%
Smallest/Largest	8					924
Total Enrollment	585	373	1,439	337	1,272	2,773

Enrollment Growth/Decline - 10 Years

	2014 2015	2015 2016	2016 2017	2017 2018	2018 2019	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022	2022 2023	2023 2024
ECM	10,595	10,911	10,754	11,126	11,270	11,447	9,803	11,672	12,009	11,799
LES	24,453	24,410	24,335	24,485	24,348	24,394	24,618	26,586	27,578	28,081
ALHS	5,093	5,174	5,320	5,493	5,619	5,793	5,874	6,041	6,413	6,779
LPS/MLS	675	643	645	616	611	599	581	605	601	602

Number of Called Workers Currently Serving

	ECM	LES	LHS	Total
	492	1,923	644	3,059

Continued Education

Approximately 58.2% of our preschoolers and kindergartens go onto or come from a WELS/ELS school.

Last year's LES graduates attending

ALHS	1,327	52.6%
LPS & MLS	127	5.0%
Other	1,070	42.4%
Total LES graduates reported for 2022 - 2023	2,524	

Last year's high school graduates attending

	ALHS		LPS & MLS	
MLC pastor track	15	1.1%	16	11.6%
MLC teacher track	68	5.1%	33	23.9%
MLC staff minister track	4	0.3%	1	0.7%
WLC	66	4.9%	14	10.1%
Bethany	31	2.3%	4	2.9%
Other	1,159	86.3%	70	50.7%
Total high school graduates reported for 2022 - 2023	1,343		138	

*Martin Luther College (MLC)
Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC)
Bethany Lutheran College (Bethany)*

Yearly Operating Cost per Student

	Average
ECM	\$7,408.62
LES	\$7,756.76
LHS	\$14,356.50

Average Annual Percent of Financial Support

	Church Budget		
ECM			16.2%
LES			47.4%
	Federation/Congregation	Tuition	Other
LHS	14.4%	64.3%	21.3%

Average Kindergarten Tuition

	Congregation Member	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS
Arizona-California	\$5,214.05	\$5,292.47	\$5,783.26
Dakota-Montana	\$1,405.00	\$1,680.63	\$2,607.63
Michigan	\$2,122.04	\$3,145.26	\$3,540.10
Minnesota	\$2,885.73	\$3,839.69	\$4,291.85
Nebraska	\$3,072.14	\$3,630.93	\$3,684.73
North Atlantic	\$7,423.00	\$10,247.50	\$10,247.50
Northern Wisconsin	\$1,610.56	\$3,330.35	\$3,274.90
Pacific Northwest	\$3,973.13	\$4,598.13	\$5,496.25
South Atlantic	\$8,656.00	\$8,883.93	\$9,128.21
South Central	\$7,460.83	\$8,507.00	\$8,864.17
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$2,590.13	\$4,492.74	\$5,268.64
Western Wisconsin	\$1,928.70	\$3,192.90	\$3,954.16

Average Elementary Tuition

	Congregation Member	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS
Arizona-California	\$5,943.14	\$6,033.59	\$6,610.64
Dakota-Montana	\$1,786.00	\$2,090.00	\$3,326.00
Michigan	\$2,368.78	\$3,409.15	\$3,828.72
Minnesota	\$3,205.15	\$4,216.56	\$4,665.00
Nebraska	\$3,625.77	\$4,420.64	\$4,478.29
North Atlantic	\$7,423.00	\$10,247.50	\$10,247.50
Northern Wisconsin	\$1,582.49	\$3,343.89	\$3,283.71
Pacific Northwest	\$4,369.29	\$5,083.57	\$6,324.29
South Atlantic	\$9,268.50	\$9,453.57	\$9,697.86
South Central	\$8,984.50	\$10,066.11	\$10,124.50
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$2,518.47	\$4,622.49	\$5,412.07
Western Wisconsin	\$1,947.62	\$3,269.82	\$4,088.37

Average High School Tuition

	Federation	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS	International
	\$9,563.50	\$10,423.77	\$10,905.21	\$18,097.61