

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 2024. (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)	104	3,748	36
Standalone Lutheran Elementary Schools (LES)	35	1,867	53
Combined ECM & LES	241	34,084	141
Area Lutheran High Schools (ALHS)	29	6,879	237
Preparatory High Schools (LPS & MLS)	2	605	303
Totals	411	47,183	

Total Early Childhood Ministries	345	11,338	
Total Lutheran Elementary Schools	276	28,361	
ECM with Year Round Child Care	101		

Enrollment by District

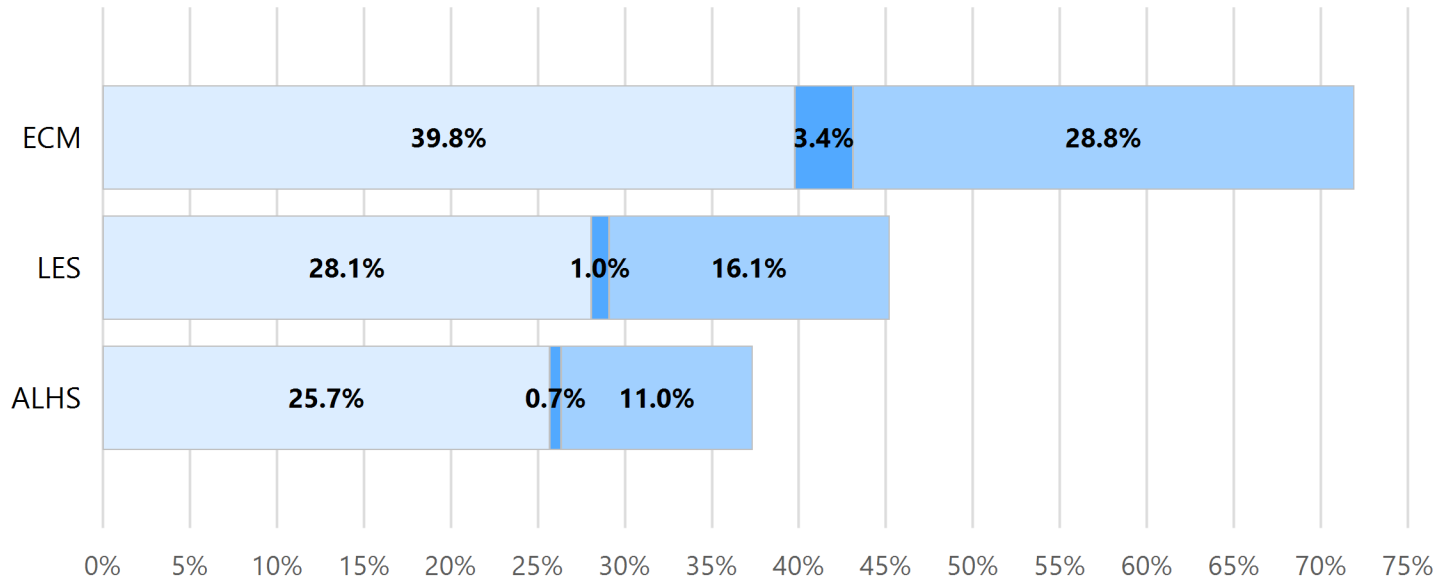
WELS Districts	ECM		LES		ALHS		LPS & MLS
	Schools	Enrollment	Schools	Enrollment	Schools	Enrollment	Enrollment
Arizona-California	20	688	20	1,699	3	403	
Dakota-Montana	7	227	6	446	1	145	
Michigan	31	770	34	1,768	2	170	190
Minnesota	41	1,174	30	2,685	4	899	
Nebraska	23	550	13	782	2	121	
North Atlantic	5	177	2	114	0	0	
Northern Wisconsin	50	1,744	43	4,643	3	1,363	
Pacific Northwest	15	407	7	696	1	108	
South Atlantic	30	1,210	18	2,644	2	432	
South Central	8	374	6	772	2	77	
Southeastern Wisconsin	62	2,259	53	8,084	5	2,217	
Western Wisconsin	53	1,758	44	4,028	4	944	415
Totals	345	11,338	276	28,361	29	6,879	605

International <i>(Subset of the total above)</i>	0	0	12	58	17	328	16
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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	2,581	22.8%	605	5.3%	4,508	39.8%	381	3.4%	3,263	28.8%
LES	13,811	48.7%	1,731	6.1%	7,959	28.1%	293	1.0%	4,567	16.1%
ALHS	4,134	60.1%	177	2.6%	1,767	25.7%	45	0.7%	756	11.0%

Outreach



Groupings by Enrollment - ECM

Enrollment Range	0-25	26-50	51-100	101-150	151+
Total Schools	173	109	53	7	3
Percent Schools	50.1%	31.6%	15.4%	2.0%	0.9%
Smallest/Largest	2				205
Total Enrollment	2,465	3,861	3,630	816	566

Groupings by Enrollment - LES

Enrollment Range	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251+
Total Schools	73	103	47	24	14	15
Percent Schools	26.4%	37.3%	17.0%	8.7%	5.1%	5.4%
Smallest/Largest	5					1033
Total Enrollment	2,232	7,317	5,777	4,189	3,164	5,682

Groupings by Enrollment - ALHS

Enrollment Range	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501+
Total Schools	11	5	5	1	3	4
Percent Schools	37.9%	17.2%	17.2%	3.4%	10.3%	13.8%
Smallest/Largest	13					923
Total Enrollment	533	693	1,244	313	1,277	2,819

Enrollment Growth/Decline - 10 Years

	2015 2016	2016 2017	2017 2018	2018 2019	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022	2022 2023	2023 2024	2024 2025
ECM	10,911	10,754	11,126	11,270	11,447	9,803	11,672	12,009	11,799	11,338
LES	24,410	24,335	24,485	24,348	24,394	24,618	26,586	27,578	28,081	28,361
ALHS	5,174	5,320	5,493	5,619	5,793	5,874	6,041	6,413	6,779	6,879
LPS/MLS	643	645	616	611	599	581	605	601	602	605

Number of Called Workers Currently Serving

	ECM	LES	LHS	Total
	489	1,942	677	3,108

Continued Education

Approximately 57.0% of our preschoolers and kindergartens go onto or come from a WELS/ELS school.

Last year's LES graduates attending

ALHS	1,286	49.6%
LPS & MLS	124	4.8%
Other	1,181	45.6%
Total LES graduates reported for 2023 - 2024	2,591	

Last year's high school graduates attending

	ALHS		LPS & MLS	
MLC pastor track	12	0.8%	22	12.2%
MLC teacher track	77	5.3%	62	34.4%
MLC staff minister track	1	0.1%	1	0.6%
WLC	85	5.8%	2	1.1%
Bethany	26	1.8%	1	0.6%
Other	1,264	86.3%	92	51.1%
Total high school graduates reported for 2023 - 2024	1,465		180	

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

Yearly Operating Cost per Student

	Average
ECM	\$6,565.20
LES	\$8,420.94
LHS	\$14,908.97

Average Annual Percent of Financial Support

	Federation/Congregation	Tuition	Other
ECM	26.4%		
LES	46.2%		
LHS	12.6%	66.5%	21.0%

Average Kindergarten Tuition

	Congregation Member	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS
Arizona-California	\$5,256.68	\$5,465.11	\$6,088.68
Dakota-Montana	\$1,534.88	\$2,105.63	\$3,674.75
Michigan	\$2,456.84	\$3,315.63	\$4,298.86
Minnesota	\$2,871.22	\$4,061.15	\$4,471.00
Nebraska	\$2,810.92	\$3,237.15	\$3,378.00
North Atlantic	\$7,785.50	\$10,747.50	\$10,747.50
Northern Wisconsin	\$1,739.54	\$3,770.41	\$3,585.76
Pacific Northwest	\$3,589.00	\$4,505.67	\$5,227.17
South Atlantic	\$9,347.00	\$10,000.33	\$10,000.33
South Central	\$8,404.17	\$9,260.00	\$9,583.33
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$2,695.50	\$4,969.10	\$5,661.60
Western Wisconsin	\$1,890.68	\$2,937.90	\$3,577.97

Average Elementary Tuition

	Congregation Member	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS
Arizona-California	\$6,189.50	\$6,212.23	\$6,892.59
Dakota-Montana	\$1,891.50	\$2,652.50	\$4,744.67
Michigan	\$2,457.10	\$3,387.35	\$4,292.52
Minnesota	\$3,200.46	\$4,449.26	\$4,843.21
Nebraska	\$3,426.00	\$4,144.83	\$4,297.42
North Atlantic	\$7,785.50	\$10,747.50	\$10,747.50
Northern Wisconsin	\$1,749.90	\$3,759.68	\$3,570.78
Pacific Northwest	\$4,722.33	\$5,639.00	\$6,610.50
South Atlantic	\$9,865.94	\$10,515.94	\$10,515.94
South Central	\$10,466.50	\$11,171.11	\$11,174.00
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$2,692.29	\$5,153.21	\$5,761.38
Western Wisconsin	\$1,942.66	\$3,117.28	\$3,801.82

Average High School Tuition

	Federation	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS	International
	\$10,187.74	\$11,059.77	\$11,517.27	\$18,599.11