

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 2025. (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)	97	3,363	35
Standalone Lutheran Elementary Schools (LES)	38	1,832	48
Combined ECM & LES	234	33,656	144
Area Lutheran High Schools (ALHS)	30	7,097	237
Preparatory High Schools (LPS & MLS)	2	583	292
<b>Totals</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>46,531</b>	

Total Early Childhood Ministries	332	10,784	
Total Lutheran Elementary Schools	272	28,067	
ECM with Year Round Child Care	95		

## Enrollment by District

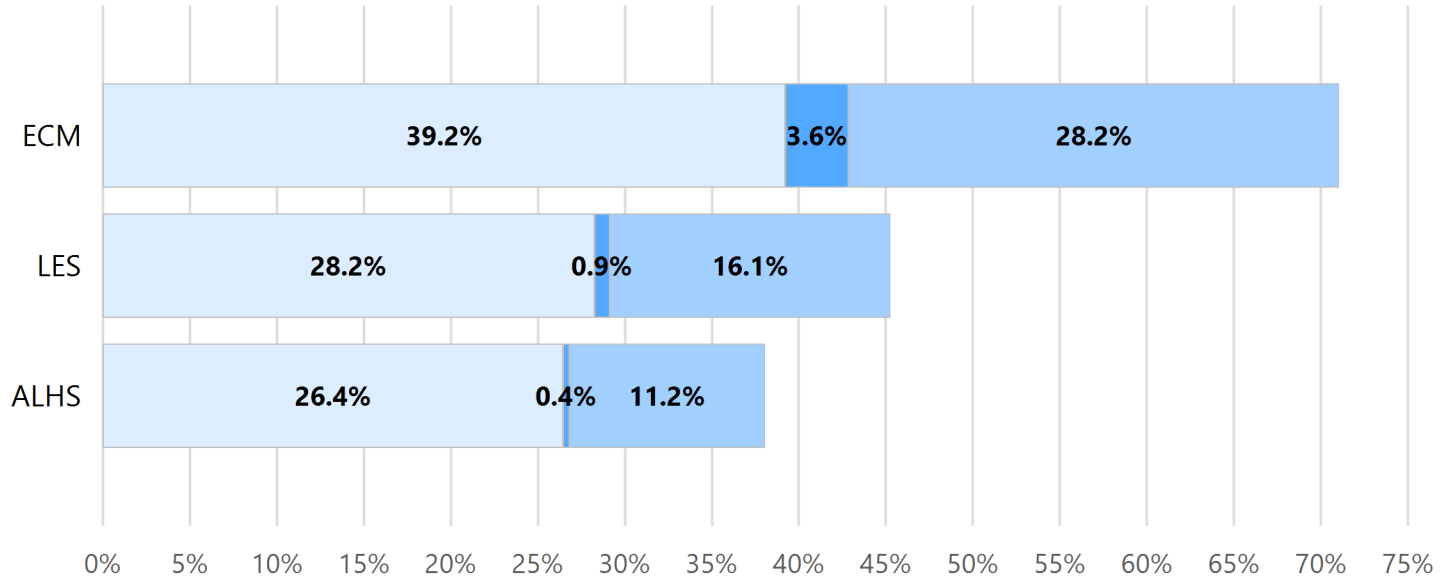
WELS Districts	ECM		LES		ALHS		LPS & MLS
	Schools	Enrollment	Schools	Enrollment	Schools	Enrollment	Enrollment
Arizona-California	18	579	21	1,645	3	361	
Dakota-Montana	7	211	6	417	1	138	
Michigan	29	654	33	1,714	2	173	191
Minnesota	41	1,148	30	2,623	4	883	
Nebraska	23	551	13	777	2	127	
North Atlantic	5	165	2	110	0	0	
Northern Wisconsin	49	1,666	43	4,713	3	1,470	
Pacific Northwest	15	395	7	649	1	120	
South Atlantic	29	1,189	18	2,636	3	433	
South Central	9	349	5	809	2	87	
Southeastern Wisconsin	58	2,186	51	7,954	5	2,331	
Western Wisconsin	49	1,691	43	4,020	4	974	392
<b>Totals</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>10,784</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>28,067</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7,097</b>	<b>583</b>

International <i>(Subset of the total above)</i>	0	0	9	36	17	323	13
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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	2,532	23.5%	591	5.5%	4,230	39.2%	390	3.6%	3,041	28.2%
LES	13,684	48.8%	1,685	6.0%	7,925	28.2%	256	0.9%	4,517	16.1%
ALHS	4,240	59.7%	158	2.2%	1,877	26.4%	26	0.4%	796	11.2%

## Outreach



## Groupings by Enrollment - ECM

Enrollment Range	0-25	26-50	51-100	101-150	151+
Total Schools	166	103	54	7	2
Percent Schools	50.0%	31.0%	16.3%	2.1%	0.6%
Smallest/Largest	1				208
Total Enrollment	2,331	3,574	3,641	830	408

## Groupings by Enrollment - LES

Enrollment Range	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251+
Total Schools	74	102	41	24	14	17
Percent Schools	27.2%	37.5%	15.1%	8.8%	5.1%	6.3%
Smallest/Largest	4					1033
Total Enrollment	2,327	7,224	5,088	4,158	3,062	6,208

## Groupings by Enrollment - ALHS

Enrollment Range	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501+
Total Schools	12	4	5	3	2	4
Percent Schools	40.0%	13.3%	16.7%	10.0%	6.7%	13.3%
Smallest/Largest	5					938
Total Enrollment	524	503	1,179	1,037	888	2,966

## Enrollment Growth/Decline - 10 Years

	2016 2017	2017 2018	2018 2019	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022	2022 2023	2023 2024	2024 2025	2025 2026
ECM	10,754	11,126	11,270	11,447	9,803	11,672	12,009	11,799	11,338	10,784
LES	24,335	24,485	24,348	24,394	24,618	26,586	27,578	28,081	28,361	28,067
ALHS	5,320	5,493	5,619	5,793	5,874	6,041	6,413	6,779	6,879	7,097
LPS/MLS	645	616	611	599	581	605	601	602	605	583

## Number of Called Workers Currently Serving

	ECM	LES	LHS	Total
	480	1,923	689	3,092

## Continued Education

Approximately 68.6% of our preschoolers and kindergartens go onto or come from a WELS/ELS school.

Last year's LES graduates attending

ALHS	1,380	50.8%
LPS & MLS	112	4.1%
Other	1,223	45.0%
Total LES graduates reported for 2024 - 2025	2,715	

Last year's high school graduates attending

	ALHS		LPS & MLS	
MLC pastor track	22	1.4%	24	15.6%
MLC teacher track	76	5.0%	44	28.6%
MLC staff minister track	1	0.1%	1	0.6%
WLC	123	8.1%	12	7.8%
Bethany	35	2.3%	2	1.3%
Other	1,264	83.1%	71	46.1%
Total high school graduates reported for 2024 - 2025	1,521		154	

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

## Yearly Operating Cost per Student

	Average
ECM	\$7,399.92
LES	\$11,667.23
LHS	\$15,150.41

## Average Annual Percent of Financial Support

	Federation/Congregation	Tuition	Other
ECM	27.1%		
LES	46.6%		
LHS	12.9%	67.7%	19.4%

## Average Kindergarten Tuition

	Congregation Member	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS
Arizona-California	\$6,349.29	\$6,349.29	\$6,677.56
Dakota-Montana	\$1,628.56	\$2,430.67	\$4,329.56
Michigan	\$2,681.05	\$3,382.04	\$4,585.89
Minnesota	\$3,273.56	\$4,352.57	\$4,894.54
Nebraska	\$3,033.00	\$3,404.80	\$3,760.47
North Atlantic	\$8,239.00	\$11,330.00	\$11,330.00
Northern Wisconsin	\$1,911.44	\$4,119.90	\$3,895.53
Pacific Northwest	\$3,731.67	\$4,648.33	\$5,440.00
South Atlantic	\$7,970.40	\$8,577.07	\$8,583.73
South Central	\$10,174.60	\$10,174.60	\$11,044.60
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$2,837.53	\$5,177.67	\$6,096.31
Western Wisconsin	\$2,151.70	\$3,206.62	\$3,892.71

## Average Elementary Tuition

	Congregation Member	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS
Arizona-California	\$6,654.89	\$6,682.53	\$7,475.32
Dakota-Montana	\$1,975.67	\$2,761.17	\$4,983.00
Michigan	\$2,881.50	\$3,576.44	\$4,765.89
Minnesota	\$3,510.59	\$4,660.61	\$5,231.14
Nebraska	\$3,569.38	\$4,205.14	\$4,586.21
North Atlantic	\$8,239.00	\$11,330.00	\$11,330.00
Northern Wisconsin	\$1,926.87	\$4,117.79	\$3,887.72
Pacific Northwest	\$4,951.67	\$5,868.33	\$6,910.00
South Atlantic	\$8,729.31	\$9,298.06	\$9,304.31
South Central	\$12,512.11	\$12,512.11	\$12,995.44
Southeastern Wisconsin	\$2,910.25	\$5,361.13	\$6,228.06
Western Wisconsin	\$2,194.97	\$3,316.79	\$4,079.24

## Average High School Tuition

	Federation	Other WELS/ELS	Non-WELS/ELS	International
	\$9,764.09	\$10,666.31	\$10,945.65	\$18,416.17