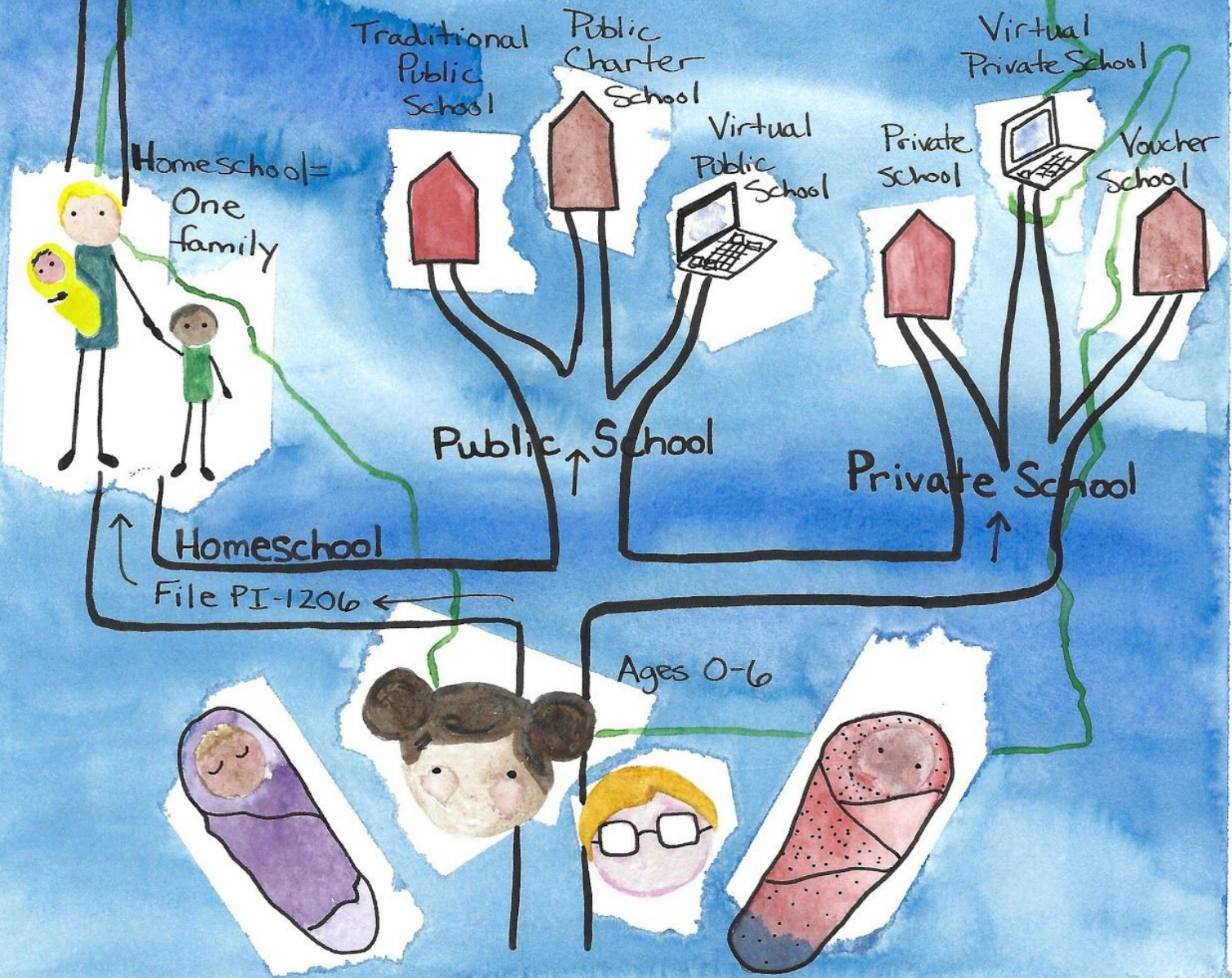


School Choices

in

Wisconsin



Wisconsin Education Options

Wisconsin on Education

Wisconsin Statute 118.15(1)(a) states: “Except as provided under pars. (b) to (d) and (g) and sub. (4), unless the child is excused under sub. (3) or has graduated from high school, any person having under control a child who is between the ages of 6 and 18 years shall cause the child to attend school regularly during the full period and hours, religious holidays excepted, that the public, private, or tribal school in which the child should be enrolled is in session until the end of the school term, quarter, or semester of the school year in which the child becomes 18 years of age.”

Taxpayer-Funded Options Include:

- Public Schools
- Public Charter Schools
- Public Virtual Schools
- Private School Choice Programs
- Tribal Schools

Privately-Funded Options Include

- Private Schools, including: On Campus, Boarding School, Online, University Model
- **Home-Based Private Educational Program (HBPEP or “homeschooling”)**

Maintaining Clear Definitions

Wisconsin Parents Association is a state-wide, inclusive, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the right and freedom of parents to provide an education to their children according to their own principles and beliefs.

We have a unique situation in Wisconsin that homeschoolers in most other states do not have. We have an enormous amount of freedom to homeschool in whatever way works for our family, as long as we follow our reasonable homeschool law. In order to maintain the freedom that Wisconsin homeschoolers have enjoyed since 1984, *we must say no to government money and special treatment for homeschoolers* that will lead to additional regulation. Only one option is defined by the state of Wisconsin as a home-based private educational program (“homeschooling”), although other home-based education options exist.

★ Public Schools

Tuition-free schools funded by the taxpayers, and operated by local school districts. Enrolled students are public school students, and attend school outside of the home.

★ Public Charter Schools

Tuition-free form of experimental public schools funded by the taxpayers, operated either independently or contracted by school districts. Enrolled students are public school students.

★ Public Virtual Schools

Tuition-free online school funded by taxpayers that takes place primarily in the home, and are operated under contract with a school district. This option is public school at home, and enrolled students are public school students.

★ Homeschooling

Wisconsin Statute 115.001(3g) defines a home-based private educational program as: “*Home-based private educational program*’ means a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child’s parent or guardian or by a person designated by the parent or guardian. An instructional program provided to more than one family unit does not constitute a home-based private educational program.” A home-based private educational program provides full legal standing and complete parental control. Parents take full responsibility for their child’s education, including financial responsibility. Home-based private educational programs are exempt from standardized testing and approval requirements. The parent sets their own academic calendar, schedule, curriculum, and graduation requirements, creates a high school transcript, and issues a diploma to their child.

★ Private School Choice Program Schools

Private schools which participate in one of Wisconsin’s Private School Choice programs, and which receive taxpayer funding. Children enroll through an application process, and while private school students, are subject to certain Wisconsin educational requirements.

★ Private Schools

A non-public school which is funded by the child’s family. Private schools can be on campus, boarding school, online, or University Model (where students spend part of the week on campus and part of the week at home). Enrolled students are private school students.

