

## News Release

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### Kindergarten for 4-year-olds continues steady growth

MADISON — Kindergarten for 4-year-old children continues steady growth in school districts throughout the state with 18 districts adding 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) for the 2011-12 school year. With 46,022 students in 4K classrooms in 368 school districts, enrollment has more than doubled over 10 years.

“Early kindergarten, known as 4K in Wisconsin, makes so much sense,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Communities know and research supports the importance of making this educational investment, which pays such huge dividends for students.”

Studies have shown that students enrolled in quality early education programs perform better in school, are less likely to be identified in need of special education services, have lower retention rates, and need fewer extra services. Additionally, 4K programs support

social and emotional development, language and communication skills, and acquisition of general knowledge.

Children who attend quality, early childhood programs are more likely to graduate from high school, work, and avoid incarceration.

In addition to 4K programs in nearly 90 percent of public school districts serving elementary students, many 4-year-olds attend state-supported 4K through the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) and the Parental Private School Choice Program (PPSCP) in Racine. The Milwaukee voucher program has 2,003 students enrolled in 4K at 85 schools. The new Racine voucher program has 25 4K students enrolled in two schools.

Most growth in 4K programming comes through Wisconsin’s pioneering community approach, which brings agencies serving children and families together to consolidate efforts to better address community needs. Currently, at least 115 districts report using a community approach to provide services to 4-year-olds. Community approach models vary. Some school districts provide a licensed 4K teacher in a private child care setting, some

#### Growth in 4K over 10 Years

School Year	Number of Districts	Number of Students
2002-03	180	16,051
2003-04	189	16,957
2004-05	208	18,652
2005-06	235	20,959
2006-07	257	24,078
2007-08	283	27,759
2008-09	319	33,976
2009-10	333	38,075
2010-11	350	41,176
2011-12	368	46,022

(more)

contract with Head Start or the child care setting for the licensed teacher, and others bring child care into the licensed 4K public school program or mesh licensed 4K services with a Head Start Program.

Education for 4-year-olds is enshrined in Wisconsin's Constitution, largely due to the influence of the state's early German immigrants. The first kindergarten in the United States opened in 1856 in Watertown. The school, started by Margarethe Meyer Schurz, was based on the work of Friedrich Froebel, who had opened the first kindergarten in Germany 19 years earlier. His "children's garden," the translation of the German word kindergarten, emphasized creative play and educational games. The first public kindergarten serving 4- and 5-year-olds opened in Manitowoc in 1873.

"As Wisconsin approaches nearly universal 4K, the philosophy of those kindergarten innovators rings true. When children receive care that is appropriate for their stage of development, they gain a foundation for the tasks ahead in school and their lives," Evers paraphrased.

He added that, "Communities embrace 4K as a means to start students off right. It helps close achievement gaps and boost learning for all students so they progress in school, gaining the knowledge and skills needed to graduate ready for the workforce or further education."

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**NOTE:** A list of school districts enrolling students in 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) for the 2011-12 school year is attached. Background on 4-year-old kindergarten, <http://dpi.wi.gov/ec/ec4yrpag.html>, and a link to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, <http://dpi.wi.gov/fscp/pdf/ec-wmels-bk.pdf>, are available on the web. This [news release](#) and a [map of 4K](#) throughout the state is available electronically at <http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/newsroom.html>.

# Districts Offering 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

2011-12 School Year

## A-B

Abbotsford  
Adams-Friendship Area  
Albany  
Algoma  
Alma  
Alma Center  
Almond-Bancroft  
Altoona  
Amery  
Antigo  
Arcadia  
Argyle  
Ashwaubenon  
Athens  
Auburndale  
Augusta  
Baldwin-Woodville Area  
Bangor  
Baraboo  
Barneveld  
Barron Area  
Beaver Dam  
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembin  
Belmont Community  
Beloit  
Beloit Turner  
Benton  
Berlin Area  
Birchwood  
Black Hawk  
Black River Falls  
Blair-Taylor  
Bloomer  
\* Bonduel  
Boscobel Area  
Bowler  
Boyceville Community  
Brillion  
Brodhead  
Brown Deer  
Bruce  
Butternut

## C-D

Cadott Community  
Cambria-Friesland  
Cambridge  
Cameron  
Campbellsport

Cashton  
Cassville  
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area  
Chequamegon  
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area  
Chilton  
Chippewa Falls Area  
Clayton  
Clear Lake  
Clinton Community  
Clintonville  
Cochrane-Fountain City  
Colby  
Coleman  
Colfax  
Columbus  
Cornell  
Crandon  
Crivitz  
Cuba City  
Cudahy  
Cumberland  
Darlington Community  
\* De Forest Area  
De Soto Area  
Deerfield Community  
Delavan-Darien  
Denmark  
Dodgeland  
Dodgeville  
\* Dover #1  
Drummond Area  
Durand

## E-F

East Troy Community  
Eau Claire Area  
Edgar  
Edgerton  
Elcho  
Eleva-Strum  
Elk Mound Area  
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah  
\* Elkhorn Area  
Ellsworth Community  
Elmwood  
Erin

\* Fall Creek  
Fall River  
Fennimore Community  
Flambeau  
Florence  
Fond du Lac  
Fontana J8  
Fort Atkinson  
Fox Point J2  
Frederic  
Freedom Area

## G-L

Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau  
Geneva J4  
Gillett  
Gilman  
Gilmanton  
Glendale-River Hills  
Glenwood City  
Goodman-Armstrong  
Granton Area  
Grantsburg  
Green Bay Area  
Green Lake  
Greendale  
Greenfield  
Greenwood  
Gresham  
Hamilton  
Hartford J1  
Hartland-Lakeside J3  
Hayward Community  
Herman #22  
Highland  
Hilbert  
Hillsboro  
Holmen  
Horicon  
Hortonville  
Howards Grove  
Howard-Suamico  
Hurley  
Hustisford  
Independence  
Iola-Scandinavia

Iowa-Grant  
Ithaca  
Janesville  
Jefferson  
Johnson Creek  
Juda  
Kaukauna Area  
Kenosha  
Kettle Moraine  
Kewaskum  
Kewaunee  
Kickapoo Area  
Kiel Area  
Kimberly Area  
Kohler  
La Crosse  
La Farge  
Lac du Flambeau #1  
Ladysmith  
Lake Country  
Lake Geneva J1  
Lake Holcombe  
Lake Mills Area  
Lancaster Community  
Laona  
Lena  
Linn J4  
Linn J6  
Little Chute Area  
Lodi  
Lomira  
Loyal  
Luck

## M

\* Madison Metropolitan  
Manawa  
Manitowoc  
Maple  
Maple Dale-Indian Hill  
Marathon City  
Marinette  
Marion  
\* Markesan  
Marshall  
Marshfield  
Mauston  
\* Mayville  
Medford Area

Mellen	Onalaska	Rosendale-Brandon	Tomorrow River
Menasha	Oostburg	Rosholt	Trevor-Wilmot Consolidated
Menominee Indian	Oregon	Royall	Tri-County Area
Menomonee Falls	Osceola	* Saint Croix Central	Turtle Lake
Menomonie Area	Oshkosh Area	Saint Croix Falls	Twin Lakes #4
Mercer	Osseo-Fairchild	Saint Francis	Two Rivers
Merrill Area	Owen-Withee	Salem	Unity
Merton Community	Palmyra-Eagle Area	Sauk Prairie	
* Middleton-Cross Plains	Pardeeville Area	Seneca	<b>V-W</b>
* Milton	Parkview	Sevastopol	Viroqua Area
Milwaukee	Pecatonica Area	Seymour Community	Wabeno Area
Mineral Point	Pepin Area	Sharon J11	Walworth J1
Minocqua J1	Peshtigo	Shawano	Washburn
Mishicot	Pewaukee	Sheboygan Area	Waterloo
Mondovi	Phelps	Sheboygan Falls	Watertown
Monona Grove	Phillips	Shell Lake	Waukesha
Monroe	Pittsville	Shiocton	* Waunakee Community
Montello	Platteville	Shorewood	* Waupun
Monticello	Plum City	Shullsburg	Wausau
Mosinee	Plymouth	Silver Lake J1	Wausaukee
Muskego-Norway	Port Edwards	Siren	Wautoma Area
	Port Washington-Saukville	Slinger	Wauwatosa
	Portage Community	Solon Springs	Wauzeka-Steuben
<b>N-P</b>	Potosi	Somerset	Webster
Necedah Area	Poynette	South Milwaukee	West Allis
Neillsville	Prairie du Chien Area	South Shore	West De Pere
Nekoosa	Prairie Farm	Southern Door County	West Salem
Neosho J3	Prentice	Southwestern Wisconsin	Westby Area
New Auburn	Prescott	Sparta Area	Westfield
New Glarus	Princeton	Spencer	Weston
New Holstein	Pulaski Community	Spring Valley	Weyauwega-Fremont
New Lisbon		Stanley-Boyd Area	Wheatland J1
New London	<b>R-S</b>	Stevens Point Area	* White Lake
New Richmond	Racine	Stockbridge	Whitefish Bay
* Niagara	Randall J1	Stone Bank	Whitehall
North Cape	Randolph	Stoughton Area	Whitewater
North Crawford	Random Lake	Stratford	Whitnall
North Fond du Lac	* Raymond #14	Sturgeon Bay	Wild Rose
* North Lake	* Reedsburg	Sun Prairie Area	Williams Bay
North Lakeland	Reedsville	Superior	Winter
Northern Ozaukee	Rhineland	Suring	Wisconsin Dells
Northland Pines	Rib Lake		Wisconsin Heights
Northwood	Rice Lake Area		Wisconsin Rapids
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	Richfield J1	<b>T-U</b>	Wonewoc-Union Center
Norway J7	Richland	Thorp	Woodruff J1
Oak Creek-Franklin	Richmond	Three Lakes	
Oakfield	Rio Community	Tigerton	
Oconomowoc Area	Ripon Area	Tomah Area	
Oconto	River Ridge	Tomahawk	
Oconto Falls	Riverdale		
Omro			

**NOTE:** The 18 districts marked with an asterisk (\*) reported 4K enrollment for the 2011-12 school year and did not have 4K enrollment the previous school year.