



School choice in



# Massachusetts

**School choice is the process of allowing every family to choose the K-12 educational options that best fit their children.**

## TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREE

TO ATTEND



WIDELY AVAILABLE

Traditional public schools are available for families throughout the state. States that allow families access to their choice of traditional public schools offer what's called "open enrollment."

Massachusetts parents should check with their local school district if they wish to participate in open enrollment, since the state allows districts to set their own open enrollment policies.

## CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREE

TO ATTEND



PARTIALLY AVAILABLE

Charter schools are public schools that are allowed the freedom to innovate while being held accountable for student achievement.

Public charter schools are available for families in parts of Massachusetts. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by the state.

## MAGNET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREE

TO ATTEND



WIDELY AVAILABLE

Public magnet schools are permitted in all 50 states and focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing arts.

## ONLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WIDELY AVAILABLE

Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.

Students in Massachusetts may attend Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School or TEC Connections Academy, either full-time or part-time, with an agreement from their local school district.

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS



FREE TO SOME



WIDELY AVAILABLE

Private schools are widely available, charge tuition, and may be faith-based or independent. Many private schools or nonprofit organizations offer scholarships.

There are no state-run scholarship options in Massachusetts, but private scholarships may be available.

## HOME EDUCATION



WIDELY AVAILABLE

All parents in Massachusetts have the freedom to homeschool their children. Parents must provide an annual notification to the state (or school district) of their intent to homeschool. The state requires homeschooling parents to teach specific subjects and may require some level of assessment, testing, or evaluation of homeschooled students.

