



# School choice in



# Montana

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

## TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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."

Montana 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 policies. The state only requires districts to offer open enrollment if parents live too far away from their child's assigned school.

## CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



TO ATTEND NOT AVAILABLE

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

Public charter schools are not available or allowed in Montana. This information is accurate as of 2020; future legislative action may allow for the creation of charter schools in the state.

## MAGNET PUBLIC SCHOOLS



TO ATTEND PARTIALLY AVAILABLE

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

Currently, we are not aware of any freestanding public magnet schools in Montana, but there may be magnet programs available in traditional public schools.

## ONLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



NOT AVAILABLE

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

NSCW was unable to find a free, full-time online school in Montana, but paid options are available. Montana Digital Academy allows all middle and high school students to take online classes on a part-time basis.

## 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.

Montana offers a tax credit scholarship program with universal eligibility for students.

## HOME EDUCATION



WIDELY AVAILABLE

All parents in Montana 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 certain subjects, but does not require homeschoolers to take standardized tests.

