



# School choice in



# Tennessee

**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."

Tennessee 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



WIDELY 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 across Tennessee. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts, the state, or an independent, statewide approval board.

## 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.

Tennessee offers multiple free, full-time online learning options for students, like Tennessee Virtual Academy and Tennessee Connections Academy.

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS

\$  
FREE



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.

Tennessee students with special needs may be eligible for a publicly funded Individualized Education Account. Additional funding may be available from other sources.

## HOME EDUCATION



WIDELY AVAILABLE

All parents in Tennessee have the freedom to homeschool their children, provided that the parent holds a high school diploma or GED. Parents must provide an annual notification to the state (or school district) of their intent to homeschool. The state does not require homeschooling parents to teach specific subjects but does require some level of assessment, testing, or evaluation.

