



## **Key Information: National School Choice Week 2021**

*shining a spotlight on effective education options for every child*

### **DATES:**

- National School Choice Week 2021 begins on Sunday, January 24, and ends on Saturday, January 30.
- This will be the eleventh annual celebration of National School Choice Week. The first celebration of National School Choice Week was in January 2011.

### **GOALS:**

- The goal of National School Choice Week is to raise awareness about the K-12 education options available to families in communities across the country. During the Week, participants also shine a spotlight on the benefits of opportunity in education and providing parents with access to a variety of education environments for their children.
- National School Choice Week does not prefer one type of education environment over another. Instead, we invite schools of all types – along with homeschooling groups and families – to use the Week to spotlight their achievements and accomplishments. National School Choice Week is nonpartisan, nonpolitical, and committed to including all school choice perspectives (traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online academies, and homeschooling) in the celebration.
- The Week is held every January with the goal of empowering parents to choose schools for their children during the best time of year to start the process of selecting a school. We also offer resources for parents that explain all the education options available in each type of school on a state-by-state basis. These can be found at [schoolchoiceweek.com/mystate](https://schoolchoiceweek.com/mystate).

### **EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:**

- National School Choice Week is the largest annual series of education-related events and activities in U.S. history.
- National School Choice Week 2021 will feature more than 33,000 virtual celebrations.
- This year, activities include virtual school fairs, drive-in events, a kick-off video featuring students from all 50 states, and more. Across the country, more than a dozen state landmarks will light up in School Choice Week's official colors, red and yellow.

## **ABOUT SCHOOL CHOICE:**

- School choice means giving parents access to the best K-12 education options for their children. These options include traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online academies, and homeschooling. National School Choice Week is an annual effort that helps parents raise awareness of these options.
- The Week is the best time of the year for families to consider their education options for the next school year. Not only do great local schools in every community use the opportunity to connect with the community, but National School Choice Week provides parent-oriented resources that explain every type of school available in their state and provide next steps to pursue any of them.
- School choice is important because every child deserves an effective, challenging, and motivating education that inspires them to be successful and achieve their dreams. But children learn in different ways, and have different talents, skills, and challenges. What might be a good school for one student might not be a good fit for another child. School choice allows parents to identify the best learning environments for their individual children. [Across the country:](#)
  - ✓ 46 states offer some type of open enrollment policies for traditional public schools, allowing parents to choose schools outside of their “zones.”
  - ✓ 45 states allow the creation of public charter schools. There are currently more than 7,500 charter schools in the U.S. serving about 3.3 million children. West Virginia became the most recent state to pass a law allowing them in 2019.
  - ✓ All 50 states allow for the creation of magnet schools, which are theme-based public schools focusing on subjects such as math, science, technology, or arts. More than 4,000 magnet schools serve children across the country.
  - ✓ All 50 states have private school options for families. In 29 states, parents can access state-sponsored private school scholarship or tax deduction programs. Combined, these programs benefit more than 1 million children.
  - ✓ 33 states offer full-time, public online academies and at least 35 states offer part-time online schooling through course access.
  - ✓ All 50 states provide parents with the freedom to homeschool their children.