



School choice in



California

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

OPEN ENROLLMENT



PARTIALLY 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."

In California, parents of students who are assigned to low-performing schools may be able to transfer their children to another school in their district or outside their district, based on the state's limited open enrollment laws.

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 California. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts 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. Depending on where you live in California, you may be able to choose a magnet school.

ONLINE LEARNING



WIDELY AVAILABLE

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

California offers several free, full-time online learning options for students, like California Connections Academy, California Virtual Academies, Insight Schools of California, and IQ Academy.

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 California, but private scholarships may be available.

HOME EDUCATION



WIDELY AVAILABLE

All parents in California 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.