



# School choice in



# North Carolina

**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."

## OPEN ENROLLMENT



NOT AVAILABLE

The state does not allow parents to choose traditional public schools outside of the schools assigned to their children by their districts.

## CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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 North Carolina. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by the state.

## MAGNET PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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 LEARNING



WIDELY AVAILABLE

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

In North Carolina, middle school and high school students may enroll full-time or part-time in North Carolina Virtual Public School. Other full-time options include North Carolina Virtual Academy and North Carolina Cyber 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.

North Carolina's students with disabilities, or whose families meet certain income guidelines, can qualify for state-run scholarships. Additional funding may be available from other sources.

## HOME EDUCATION



WIDELY AVAILABLE

All parents in North Carolina have the freedom to homeschool their children, provided that the parent holds a high school diploma. Parents must provide a one-time 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.