



School choice in



Pennsylvania

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."

OPEN ENROLLMENT



PARTIALLY AVAILABLE

Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts or the state.

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 LEARNING



WIDELY AVAILABLE

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

Pennsylvania offers several free, full-time online learning options for students, such as PA Virtual Charter School, Reach Cyber Charter School, Agora Cyber Charter School, Commonwealth Charter Academy, 21st Century Cyber Charter School, PA Leadership Charter School, PA Cyber Charter School, and Insight PA Cyber Charter School.

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.

Pennsylvania families in low-achieving school zones or who fall below a certain income level may be eligible for state-run scholarship programs. Additional funding may be available from other sources.

HOME EDUCATION



WIDELY AVAILABLE

All parents in Pennsylvania have the freedom to homeschool their children, provided that the parent holds a high school diploma. Parents must provide an annual notification to the state (or school district) of their intent to homeschool. The state requires homeschooling parents to teach specific subjects and also requires some level of assessment, testing, or evaluation of homeschooled students.