



# ONLINE SCHOOLING



Online public schools can harness technology to empower flexible learning.



As of 2021, 35 states allow full-time online public schools to operate and draw students from across districts.



Online public schools do not charge tuition. Online public school costs are paid by taxpayers in the form of local, state, and federal taxes. In states without online public schools, tuition-based online private schools may be available.

## HOW MANY

About **375,000**

K-12 students attended online school in the U.S. in 2018-2019.

## EQUIPMENT & TECH

In some states, online public schools are required to provide free computers and other technology to students. Some schools cover internet access costs.



## CHOICE



Online public schools are designed to be **schools of choice**.

No student is ever automatically assigned to an online public school. Instead, parents must select that school for their child.

## SPECIAL NEEDS



Online public schools are required to **enroll and provide specific services for children with special needs**.

## ENROLLMENT



Online public schools do not require entrance exams for students, though online private schools may have their own requirements.

## MANAGEMENT

Online public schools are **run by individual school districts, groups of school districts, state entities, organizations, or charter schools**. All online public schools must follow the education law in their states



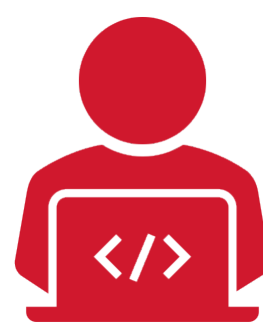
## TESTING



Students in online public schools are generally required to take occasional state assessments. Some school districts and individual schools have their own assessments as well.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Each state has its own teacher **certification or licensure policies**. Typically, all or most teachers in online public schools must be certified or licensed by the state to teach.



## WHY DO FAMILIES CHOOSE ONLINE SCHOOLING?

Flexibility. Perhaps that's the biggest reason families choose online school. Online schools require specific tasks each week but allow students to work through the tasks at their own pace. That flexibility means that online schooling meets the needs of students who have busy schedules outside the classroom, like athletes and child actors. Online education's flexibility is also appealing to students with special needs, gifted students, students who are pursuing a job or internship, students with mental or physical health issues, and more.



## Full-time online *or part-time?*

Online school isn't always full-time. Sometimes it is part-time. More than 35 states offer part-time online public schooling through course access, which allows students to use online coursework to supplement their education with specific classes. In many cases, this is accessible, and sometimes even free, for private school and homeschooled students.