SCHOOL CHOICE IN MARYLAND

School choice is the process of families choosing the K-12 educational options that best fit their children.

	Traditional Public Schools	Public Charter Schools	Magnet Public Schools	Online Learning	Private Schools	Home Education
AVAILABILITY	broad*	broad	broad	limited	broad	broad
COST	free	free	free	free	free to some	varies

IN MARYLAND...

Traditional Public Schools: 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."

Maryland families can only choose open enrollment in a few cases, such as when they move during the school year, or if their child is experiencing a unique physical or mental hardship that would be mitigated by a transfer.

Public Charter Schools: 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 in parts of Maryland. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts.

Magnet Public Schools: Public magnet schools are permitted in all 50 states and focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing arts.

Maryland has several magnet schools.

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

NSCW was unable to find a free online school available statewide in Maryland, but paid options are available. Students in select Maryland districts, like Baltimore City Public Schools and Montgomery County Public Schools, can access district-run online learning for free.

Private Schools: Private schools are widely available, charge tuition, and may be faith-based or independent. Many private schools or nonprofit organizations offer scholarships.

Maryland families under a certain income level may qualify for a state-run scholarship program. Additional funding may be available from other sources.

Home Education: All parents in Maryland 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 specific subjects and may also request to review samples of a homeschooling family's education materials and work.

*For more information, visit: schoolchoiceweek.com/guide-school-choice-maryland