

SCHOOL CHOICE IN MAINE

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*	limited	limited	broad	broad	broad
COST	free	free	free	free	free to some	varies
IN MAINE...	<p>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."</p> <p>Maine 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.</p>	<p>Charter schools are public schools that are allowed the freedom to innovate while being held accountable for student achievement.</p> <p>Public charter schools are available for families in parts of Maine. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by an independent statewide approval board.</p>	<p>Public magnet schools are permitted in all 50 states and focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing arts.</p> <p>Currently, Maine has just a couple public magnet schools.</p>	<p>Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.</p> <p>Maine students can attend free, full-time online school programs through the online public charter schools Maine Connections Academy or Maine Virtual Academy.</p>	<p>Private schools are widely available, charge tuition, and may be faith-based or independent. Many private schools or nonprofit organizations offer scholarships.</p> <p>Students in certain Maine towns may be eligible for the state's tuitioning program, allowing them to attend schools in other communities. Additional funding may be available from other sources.</p>	<p>All parents in Maine have the freedom to homeschool their children.</p> <p>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.</p>

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



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