
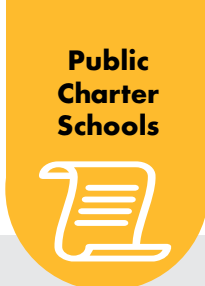






# SCHOOL CHOICE IN MONTANA

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	<b>broad*</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>limited*</b>	<b>limited</b>	<b>broad</b>	<b>broad</b>
COST	<b>free</b>	<b>free</b>	<b>free</b>	<b>free</b>	<b>free to some</b>	<b>varies</b>
<b>IN MONTANA...</b>	<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>Montana districts can set their own open enrollment policies, so families should check locally. The state only requires districts to offer open enrollment if parents live too far away from their child's assigned school.</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 not available or allowed in Montana. This information is accurate as of 2022; future legislative action may allow for the creation of charter schools in the state.</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, NSCW is not aware of any freestanding public magnet schools in Montana, but there may be magnet programs available in traditional public schools.</p>	<p>Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.</p> <p>NSCW was unable to find a full-time online school available statewide in Montana, but paid options are available. In a few areas, families can also choose a district-run online school. Montana Digital Academy allows all middle and high school students to take online classes on a part-time basis.</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>Montana offers a tax credit scholarship program with universal eligibility for students.</p>	<p>All parents in Montana 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 certain subjects, but does not require homeschoolers to take standardized tests.</p>

\* For more information, visit: [schoolchoiceweek.com/guide-school-choice-montana](https://schoolchoiceweek.com/guide-school-choice-montana)



[SCHOOLCHOICEWEEK.COM/MONTANA](https://SCHOOLCHOICEWEEK.COM/MONTANA)