

SCHOOL CHOICE IN CALIFORNIA

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	broad	broad	broad
COST	free	free	free	free	free to some	varies
IN CALIFORNIA...	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." In California, parents of students who are assigned to low-performing schools may be able to transfer their children to another school in their district or outside their district, based on the state's limited open enrollment laws.	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 California. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts or an independent statewide approval board.	Public magnet schools are permitted in all 50 states and focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing arts. California has many magnet schools throughout the state.	Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes. California has more than 30 online charter schools, giving every student a fully online option. Some of the largest of these schools are California Connections Academy, California Virtual Academies, California Pacific Charter Schools, and Method Online School. Additionally, some districts have created their own online schools.	Private schools are widely available, charge tuition, and may be faith-based or independent. Many private schools or nonprofit organizations offer scholarships. There are no state-run scholarship options in California, but private scholarships may be available.	All parents in California 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 certain subjects, but does not require homeschoolers to take standardized tests.

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