







# SCHOOL CHOICE IN MISSOURI

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

	 <b>Traditional Public Schools</b>	<b>Public Charter Schools</b> 	 <b>Magnet Public Schools</b>	<b>Online Learning</b> 	 <b>Private Schools</b>	<b>Home Education</b> 
AVAILABILITY	broad*	broad*	broad	broad*	broad	broad
COST	free	free	free	free	free to some	free to some
IN MISSOURI...	<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>Missouri districts set their own policies on open enrollment, so families should check locally. The state only requires it to be offered for families in districts without accredited high school instruction through 12th grade.</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 Missouri, such as Kansas City and St. Louis. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts, colleges and universities, an independent statewide approval board, or 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>Missouri has several magnet schools for families to consider.</p>	<p>Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.</p> <p>Missouri public school students have access to free, full-time online programs through the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program. To participate, students must get enrollment approved by their school district. Any non-public student in Missouri, from kindergarten through 12th grade, can take courses online through MOCAP for a fee.</p>	<p>Private schools are widely available, charge tuition, and may be faith-based or independent.</p> <p>Many private schools or nonprofit organizations offer scholarships.</p> <p>Students currently enrolled in public school or about to enter kindergarten may be eligible for Missouri's new education savings account program. This lets families use their education tax dollars for private school tuition, tutoring, or other learning expenses.</p>	<p>All parents in Missouri have the freedom to homeschool their children.</p> <p>Parents are currently not required to provide a notice of their intent to homeschool. But, please check updated laws and regulations before proceeding. The state requires homeschooling parents to teach certain subjects, but does not require homeschoolers to take standardized tests. Homeschoolers can apply for a state-run scholarship program.</p>

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



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