







SCHOOL CHOICE IN MONTANA

		AVAILABILITY	COST
 <p>TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS</p>	<p>Montana districts can set their own open enrollment policies, so families should check locally. Starting in 2024, open enrollment will be standardized and more easily available to families.</p>	BROAD	FREE
 <p>PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS</p>	<p>Laws passed in 2023 authorized public charter schools, sometimes called “community choice schools,” in Montana.</p>	LIMITED	FREE
 <p>PUBLIC MAGNET SCHOOLS</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. 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>	LIMITED	FREE
 <p>ONLINE LEARNING</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>	LIMITED	FREE
 <p>PRIVATE SCHOOLS</p>	<p>Montana offers a tax credit scholarship program with universal eligibility for students. Starting in 2024, a new state-run scholarship will be available for students with special needs.</p>	BROAD	FREE TO SOME
 <p>HOME EDUCATION</p>	<p>All parents in Montana 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.</p>	BROAD	VARIES
 <p>MICROSCHOOLS</p>	<p>Montana offers microschool options ranging from homeschoolers gathering at an enrichment center to small private schools committed to individualized learning. Microschools focus on small-group learning, strong relationships, and personalized education for each student.</p>	BROAD	VARIES