SCHOOL CHOICE IN CONNECTICUT

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	none*	broad	broad
COST	free	free	free	free	free to some	varies
IN CONNECTICUT...	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 Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, and New London, parents can choose public schools outside of their district if there is space. Districts can also choose to participate in open enrollment in other areas.	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 in parts of Connecticut. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by the state.	Public magnet schools are permitted in all 50 states and focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing arts. Connecticut has several magnet schools throughout the state.	Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes. NSCW was unable to find a free online school in Connecticut, but paid options are available. Many Connecticut districts offer online options for credit recovery.	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 Connecticut, but private scholarships may be available.	All parents in Connecticut have the freedom to homeschool their children. It is recommended for parents to provide a notice of their intent to homeschool their children. 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-connecticut**