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













AVAI	LABI	LITY
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broad*

limited

broad

free

limited

broad

broad

COST

free

free

Public magnet schools are permitted in all 50

states and focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing

Illinois has many magnet schools, especially in the Chicago area.

free

Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.

NSCW was unable

to find a free, full-time online school that operates statewide in Illinois, but paid options are available. Illinois students in grades 5-12 can take supplemental online courses through Illinois Virtual School. Additionally, some districts may offer their own online programming.

free to some

Private schools are widely available, charge tuition, and may be faith-based or independent. Many private organizations offer scholarships.

or home schools, and state-run scholarships for students under a certain income level. Additional funding may be available from other sources.

varies

All parents in Illinois

to homeschool their

Parents are currently

have the freedom

children.

N ILLINOIS.

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."

Illinois parents may be able to choose any traditional public school within their district, based on the state's flexible 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 in parts of Illinois, like Chicago. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts or an independent statewide approval board.

schools or nonprofit Illinois offers tax deductions for most students in private

not required to provide a notice of their intent to homeschool their children. However. 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.

^{*}For more information, visit: schoolchoiceweek.com/guide-school-choice-illinois

