







SCHOOL CHOICE IN IOWA

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	limited	limited	broad	broad	broad
COST	free	free	free	free	free to some	varies
IN IOWA...	<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>Iowa parents may choose any traditional public school within their district, or in another district, based on the state's flexible open enrollment laws.</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 Iowa. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts or (as of 2021) by the state Department of Education.</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>Iowa has some magnet schools throughout the state.</p>	<p>Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.</p> <p>Iowa offers several free, full-time online learning options for students, such as Iowa Connections Academy and Iowa Virtual Academy. In addition to these statewide options, several districts currently offer online programs serving all grades K-12.</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>Iowa families can take tax deductions for nonpublic school expenses, and families under a certain income level can qualify for state-run scholarship opportunities. A new ESA, passed in 2023, will phase in starting in the fall of 2023.</p>	<p>All parents in Iowa have the freedom to homeschool their children.</p> <p>In some cases, parents are required to provide a notice of their intent to homeschool their children. Please check for updated laws and regulations before proceeding. The state does not require standardized testing for most homeschoolers but in some cases requires parents to teach specific subjects.</p>

