







# SCHOOL CHOICE IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

|                            | <br><b>Traditional Public Schools</b>   | <b>Public Charter Schools</b><br>   | <br><b>Magnet Public Schools</b>   | <b>Online Learning</b><br>   | <br><b>Private Schools</b>  | <b>Home Education</b><br>  |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>AVAILABILITY</b>        | <b>broad*</b>  | <b>broad</b>   | <b>broad</b>  | <b>broad*</b>  | <b>broad</b>   | <b>broad</b>  |
| <b>COST</b>                | <b>free</b>  | <b>free</b>  | <b>free</b>   | <b>free</b>  | <b>free to some</b>  | <b>varies</b>   |
| <b>IN MASSACHUSETTS...</b> | <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>Massachusetts parents should check with their local school district if they wish to participate in open enrollment, since the state allows districts to set their own open enrollment policies.</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 Massachusetts. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by 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>Massachusetts has a few magnet schools.</p> | <p>Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.</p> <p>Students in Massachusetts may attend Greater Commonwealth Virtual School or TEC Connections Academy, either full-time or part-time, with an agreement from the local school district.</p> | <p>Private schools are widely available, charge tuition, and may be faith-based or independent. Many private schools or nonprofit organizations offer scholarships.</p> <p>There are no state-run scholarship options in Massachusetts, but private scholarships may be available.</p> | <p>All parents in Massachusetts have the freedom to homeschool their children.</p> <p>Parents must provide an annual notification to the state (or school district) of their intent to homeschool. The state requires homeschooling parents to teach specific subjects and may require some level of assessment, testing, or evaluation of homeschooled students.</p> |

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



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