
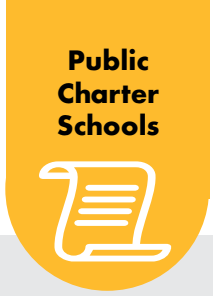






SCHOOL CHOICE IN MONTANA

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*	limited	broad	broad
COST	free	free	free	free	free to some	varies
IN MONTANA...	<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>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>	<p>Charter schools are public schools that are allowed the freedom to innovate while being held accountable for student achievement.</p> <p>Laws passed in 2023 authorized public charter schools, sometimes called "community choice schools," in Montana. There is currently one charter school in Bozeman.</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>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>	<p>Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.</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>	<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>Montana offers a tax credit scholarship program with universal eligibility for students.</p> <p>Starting in 2024, a new state-run scholarship program will be available for students with special needs.</p>	<p>All parents in Montana 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 certain subjects, but does not require homeschoolers to take standardized tests.</p>

* For more information, visit: schoolchoiceweek.com/guide-school-choice-montana