







SCHOOL CHOICE IN

TENNESSEE

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	broad	broad	broad
COST	free	free	free	free	free to some	free to some
IN TENNESSEE...	<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>Tennessee parents may be able to choose any traditional public school within their district, or in another district, based on the state's recently-expanded 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 across Tennessee. These schools can be opened after they are authorized by school districts, the state, or an independent statewide approval board.</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>Tennessee has several magnet schools.</p>	<p>Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.</p> <p>Tennessee offers multiple free, full-time online learning options for students. Some of these, like Tennessee Virtual Academy and Tennessee Connections Academy, are available statewide, while others are district-specific.</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>Tennessee students with special needs may be eligible for a publicly funded Individualized Education Account. Additionally, low-income and middle-income students in Nashville, Memphis, or Chattanooga may be eligible for a state-funded voucher program. Additional funding may be available from other sources.</p>	<p>All Tennessee parents have the freedom to homeschool their children, provided that the parent hold a high school diploma or GED.</p> <p>Parents must provide an annual notification to the state or district of their intent to homeschool. The state does not require homeschooling parents to teach specific subjects but does require some level of assessment. Some students with special needs may be eligible for a state-run scholarship.</p>

