

School choice in Tennessee

Traditional Public Schools: Traditional public schools are operated by school districts, free to attend, open to all students, and funded by taxpayers. Some states allow parents to send their children to any public school, regardless of where it is located. This is called "Open Enrollment."

📌 *Tennessee offers families the possibility of open enrollment, leaving it up to districts and schools to choose to participate.*

Charter Schools: Public charter schools are public schools that are free to attend, open to all students, and funded by taxpayers. Charter schools are given more freedom to decide how they operate, in exchange for specific accountability provisions.

📌 *Parents can choose from many charter schools around the state.*

Magnet Schools: Public magnet schools are public schools, free to attend, and funded by taxpayers. Public magnet schools are permitted in all 50 states and focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing arts.

Private Schools: Private schools are nonpublic schools that charge tuition. Some private schools are faith-based, and others are non-sectarian. Effective in 2018, the federal government now allows parents to save for K-12 private school tuition using tax-preferred 529 savings accounts. Some states also offer state-authorized scholarship programs or education savings accounts to assist parents with tuition, in addition to privately-available scholarships or tuition assistance.

📌 *Tennessee offers scholarship programs for private schooling.*

Online Learning: There are two types of online learning: online academies and course access. Virtual academies instruct students through online or digital classes. Most of these schools are public, free to attend, and funded by taxpayers. Course access allows parents to combine public online learning with homeschooling or private education.

📌 *Tennessee offers families tuition-free, full-time online public schooling. It does not offer course access options.*

Home Education: Homeschooling is the process of parents educating students at home. Homeschooling is permitted in all 50 states, and many homeschool families choose to participate in curriculum sharing groups, online learning activities, or cooperatives to enhance their home education.



Why Celebrate National School Choice Week?

"School choice is within reach for so many members of the community who may not know just how many options are available to them. We look forward to connecting parents and families with the information and social connections they need to make the most of school choice."

—Carra Powell, Tennessee Federation for Children

