School choice in **Maryland**

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."

❯ *Open enrollment is not available in Maryland.*

Charter Schools: Charter schools are tuition-free public schools that are allowed the freedom to innovate while being held accountable for student achievement. Sometimes charter schools are run by school districts. Other times they are run by nonprofits, organizations, colleges and universities, or even state and local governments.

❯ *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.
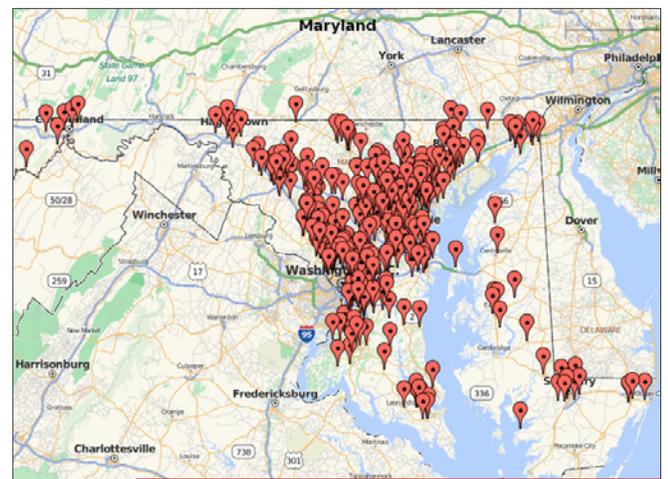
❯ *Maryland families under a certain income level may qualify for a publicly funded scholarship program. In addition, privately run scholarships may be available.*

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.

❯ *NSCW was unable to find any free, public online schooling options in Maryland; however, paid or private options are available.*

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.

2018 National School Choice Week Participants