







# SCHOOL CHOICE IN ARKANSAS

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

	 <b>Traditional Public Schools</b>	<b>Public Charter Schools</b> 	 <b>Magnet Public Schools</b>	<b>Online Learning</b> 	 <b>Private Schools</b>	<b>Home Education</b> 
<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 ARKANSAS...</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>In Arkansas, there are some limits on open enrollment, like seat capacity and desegregation orders, but families may be able to transfer to a public school of choice outside their neighborhood.</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 Arkansas. 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>Arkansas has several magnet schools throughout the state.</p>	<p>Online public schools are permanent, fully-online, and free educational options that teach students through digital classes.</p> <p>Arkansas offers several free, full-time online learning options for students, like Arkansas Connections Academy and Arkansas Virtual Academy.</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>Arkansas offers state-run scholarship programs for students in foster care, students with disabilities, dependents of U.S. military, and students from low-income families. Additional funding may be available from other sources.</p>	<p>All parents in Arkansas 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 does not require homeschooling parents to teach specific subjects and does not require standardized testing for homeschoolers.</p>

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



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