



At-A-Glance: School Choice

School choice is a reform movement that focuses on granting parents the right to choose which school their child attends. While parents have traditionally had the option to choose private schools over the public schools their students are zoned for, the school choice movement has primarily focused on choice within the public school sector.



In Tennessee, some school districts offer school options such as charter schools, magnet schools, virtual schools, or traditional public schools with a specialized focus on a subject area such as STEM or the arts. In selected districts where the Achievement School District operates, it offers parents additional school choices.



Student eligibility and school admission criteria vary by school choice option. Districts may allow students to enroll in traditional public schools regardless of whether or not the student lives in the school's geographical zone.



Non-public school choice options include home schools, and in some states, programs that allow parents to use public school funds for private school tuition (often called vouchers, opportunity scholarships, or individualized education accounts).

The Tennessee General Assembly's passage of the Individualized Education Act in 2015 created an Individualized Education Account (IEA) program for children with disabilities.