

Types of School Choice

Type of School	Classification	Available to Alabama Families?	Accountability Measures Made Public	Description	Who controls eligibility for enrollment?	Does the State Board of Education have authority to regulate academic standards?	Who determines curriculum?	How is the school funded?
Public	Geographically-zoned neighborhood school	Yes	Yes	Children attend neighborhood school	Local board of education draws attendance zones	Yes	Local Board of Education	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds
Public	Open enrollment, intradistrict	No	Yes	Children attend school of choice within district	Local board of education crafts enrollment policy	Yes	Local Board of Education	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds
Public	Open enrollment, interdistrict	No	Yes	Children attend school of choice regardless of district	Governed by legal agreements among boards of education or state laws	Yes	Local Board of Education	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds
Public	Magnet	Only in certain districts	Yes	Children attend school that specializes in an area such as technology, art, performing art, or STEM	Local board of education determines eligibility requirements	Yes	Local Board of Education	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds
Public	Statewide virtual online school	No	Yes	Children attend school fully online, with no campus-based activities	State board of education	Yes	Local Board of Education	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds
Public	Charter school	No	Yes	Children attend school formed around a "charter", or purpose	Local OR State board of education	Yes	Charter school operators	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds
Private	Nonpublic school	Yes	No	Children attend private school of family's choice	Operators of private school	No	Private school operators	Family pays tuition
Private	Nonpublic qualifying school	Yes	No	Children attend qualifying private school of family's choice	Operators of private school	No	Private school operators	Family pays tuition, parent tax credit allowed
Private	Nonpublic qualifying school	Yes	No	Children attend qualifying private school of family's choice	Operators of private school	No	Private school operators	Scholarship pays tuition, donations earn tax credits
Homeschool	Family pays costs	Yes	No	Family determines school routine with minimum requirements for the days and number of hours of schooling required	Family of child	No	Family	Family

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The following are not typically whole-school choice programs, but are choice programs housed on school campuses, and enrollment is typically not bound by geographic zoning

Type of School	Classification	Available to Alabama Families?	Accountability Measures Made Public	Description	Who controls eligibility for enrollment?	Does the State Board of Education have authority to regulate academic standards?	Who determines curriculum?	How is the school funded?
Public	International Baccalaureate	Only in certain districts	Yes	Children attend school with curriculum determined by International Baccalaureate programme	Local board of education determines eligibility requirements, taking into account IB rules	Yes, but defers to IB for curriculum	Local Board of Education agreement with IB	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds. Families typically pay additional fees out of pocket
Public	Academies (typically only high school)	Only in certain districts	Yes	Children attend a "school within a school", where a particular interest is pursued	Local board of education determines enrollment requirements	Yes	Local Board of Education, possibly National Academies Foundation	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds, Families typically pay additional fees out of pocket
Public	"Drop Back In"	Only in certain districts	Yes	Students who have left school prior to graduation return to school to complete graduation requirements	Local board of education determines enrollment requirements	Yes	Local Board of Education	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds
Public	Online, blended learning (known as ACCESS distance learning)	Yes	Yes	Children attend school online, either at home or on a public school campus	Local board of education	Yes	Local Board of Education	Federal, state, and local taxpayer funds

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