



SCHOOL CHOICE: A FULL MENU OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OPTIONS FOR OKLAHOMA FAMILIES

A new brief from Advance Oklahoma's Kids (AOK) - a statewide coalition of organizations committed to promoting equity in school funding and discipline - surveys the educational landscape in Oklahoma and finds a full menu of public and private school options available alongside traditional neighborhood schools. The [informational brief](#) is meant to help parents, policymakers, and advocates better understand the varieties of school choice and how they are administered and governed.

PUBLIC SCHOOL OPTIONS

Some 700,000 Oklahoma children attend public schools. In addition to their neighborhood schools, they can choose from among a range of educational options:

- **Open Transfer** - Under Oklahoma's new Open Transfer Law, school districts must accept most transfer requests from other districts if space is available.
- **Magnet Schools** - Public schools that are open to all students within the school district and have a specific focus or theme.
- **Charter Schools** - Public schools that are subject to fewer rules and restrictions than traditional public schools. There were 31 charter schools serving over 80,000 students in 2020-21.
- **Virtual Schools** - Both charter schools and traditional school districts operate schools and programs exclusively or partly online.
- **Alternative Schools** - There are close to 350 alternative education programs serving students at the highest risk of dropping out of school.

PRIVATE SCHOOL OPTIONS

Until recently, private schools were privately funded. Since 2010, however, the Oklahoma Legislature has enacted and expanded 3 programs that use public dollars to subsidize the cost of private K-12 education-

- **Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship Program:** Provides scholarships to private schools of about \$7,500 on average for students with disabilities and other eligible recipients who have previously attended public schools.
- **Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships:** Individuals and businesses can receive tax credits to provide scholarships to students in private schools with incomes up to about \$165,000.



- **Parental Choice Tax Credit:** The newest program, enacted in 2023, is a universal tax credit of between \$5,000 to \$7,500 per child to attend private schools. The total credit is capped at \$150M in 2024 and is scheduled to increase to \$250M by 2026.

The Parental Choice Tax Credit also provides up to \$1,000 to homeschool parents to subsidize educational expenses.

Go [here](#) to read and download the full brief authored by Dr. David Blatt, Director of Research and Strategic Impact for [Oklahoma Appleseed Center for Law and Justice](#).