

SCHOOL CHOICE IN ILLINOIS



TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

- ✓ Free public schools based on your physical address or zone
- ✓ Limited open enrollment within your zoned school district
- ✓ May charge tuition for open enrollment transfers outside your zoned school district



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

- ✓ Free public schools
- ✓ Must take any student who applies if there is a seat available - including students with disabilities
- ✓ Schools have fixed application deadlines
- ✓ If applications exceed available seats, a lottery is held



PUBLIC MAGNET SCHOOL

- ✓ Free public schools
- ✓ May have entrance exams or performance auditions
- ✓ Schools have fixed application deadlines



PRIVATE SCHOOL

- ✓ Money families spend on private schooling counts toward the taxes they owe
- ✓ Students residing in Chicago are eligible for additional scholarships
- ✓ Other scholarship options may be available from schools or nonprofits



ONLINE LEARNING

- ✓ Free, full-time online learning option available through your local school - fees may apply
- ✓ Private, tuition-based online options are available
- ✓ Some public school districts have their own online or hybrid programs



HOMESCHOOL & MICROSCHOOL

- ✓ Independent, parent-driven education
- ✓ Tax-credit for educational expenses available
- ✓ No notice of intent to homeschool is required
- ✓ Required to teach specific subjects
- ✓ No standardized assessment requirement
- ✓ Homeschooled children may be able to participate in sports and activities at their local public school
- ✓ Microschools - students gathered in small groups to learn are available

