**Glossary of Terms**

* **Charter Schools**: Charter schools are independently run public schools exempt from many rules and regulations in exchange for increased accountability. Typically, if charters receive more applications than they have open seats, they must accept students based on a lottery. Families do not need to use ESAs, vouchers or tax-credit scholarships to pay to enroll their children in charter schools as these schools are already publicly funded. Learn more about [Charter Schools](https://www.publiccharters.org/).
* **Education Savings Accounts** - ESAs allow parents to withdraw their children from public district or charter schools and receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. Those funds—often distributed to families via debit card—can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses and other approved customized learning services and materials. Some ESAs, but not all, even allow students to use their funds to pay for a combination of public school courses and private services. Learn more about [Education Savings Accounts](https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/types-of-school-choice/education-savings-account/).
* **Homeschooling**: Homeschooling is an alternative form of education for children outside of public or private schools, typically within their own homes. Homeschooling is regulated differently from state to state. Learn more about [Homeschooling](https://hslda.org/).
* **Hybrid Homeschooling:** Hybrid homeschooling is an educational model where students split their time between homeschooling and a traditional classroom setting. Learn more about [Hybrid Homeschooling](https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikemcshane/2018/05/21/is-hybrid-homeschooling-the-wave-of-the-future/?sh=633c353b6bf7).
* **Individual Tax Credits and Deductions** - Individual tax credits and deductions allow parents to receive state income tax relief for approved educational expenses, which can include private school tuition, books, supplies, computers, tutors and transportation. Learn more about Individual [Tax Credits and Deductions](https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/types-of-school-choice/how-do-k-12-education-tax-credits-deductions-work/).
* **Inter/Intra-District Public Schools:** Sometimes referred to as open enrollment, inter- and intra-district choice laws allow families to choose traditional public schools other than the ones the government assigned based on their ZIP Codes. Intra-district choice allows families to choose from among more than one public school within their assigned district. Inter-district choice allows families to send their children to any traditional public school in their resident state or a defined region. Typically, these open enrollment options still allow public schools to give enrollment preference to students within their assigned district lines.
* **Magnet Schools**: A magnet school is a public school that offers specialized curricula and programs not available in traditional neighborhood public schools. Magnets are designed to attract students with a common interest or skillset, and students must apply and be accepted to enroll. Families do not need to use ESAs, vouchers or tax-credit scholarships to pay to enroll their children in magnet schools as these schools are already publicly funded. Learn more about [Magnet Schools](https://magnet.edu/).
* **Microschooling**: Microschooling is the reimagining of the one-room schoolhouse, where class sizes are usually fewer than 15 students of varying ages, and the schedule and curriculum is tailored to fit the needs of each class. This model of schooling can operate in either public, private or charter schools or separately on its own. Learn more about [Microschooling](https://www.heritage.org/education/report/lets-get-small-microschools-pandemic-pods-and-the-future-education-america).
* **Online Learning:** Online learning allows students to work with their curriculum and teachers over the internet—in combination with, or in place of, traditional classroom learning. Online schools can be public or private. Families may also use some educational choice options, such as ESAs and vouchers, to pay for online and virtual schooling.
* **Personalized Learning & Learning Pods:** Personalized learning is unique to every child. As an example, some students might use ESA or course choice programs to mix courses from public schools with privately tutored classes at home, online courses, special education therapies and a work-study internship. Some families have formed pods where small groups of children are taught a tailored curriculum at home by parents, tutors or hired teachers. For some, learning pods can be used to supplement their public school education, too. The possibilities are endless, especially as new innovations in learning continue to emerge.
* **Tax Credit Education Savings Accounts** - Tax-credit ESAs allow taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofit organizations that fund and manage parent-directed K-12 education savings accounts. Families may use those funds to pay for multiple education-related expenses, including private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses and other approved customized learning services and materials, and roll over unused funds from year to year to save for future educational expenses. Some tax-credit ESAs, but not all, even allow students to use their funds to pay for a combination of public school courses and private services. Learn more about [Tax Credit Education Savings Accounts](https://www.edchoice.org/what-is-a-tax-credit-education-savings-account/).
* **Tax Credit Scholarships** - Tax-credit scholarships allow taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships. Eligible taxpayers can include both individuals and businesses. In some states, scholarship-giving nonprofits also provide innovation grants to public schools and/or transportation assistance to students choosing alternative public schools. Learn more about [Tax Credit Scholarships](https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/types-of-school-choice/tax-credit-scholarship/).
* **Town Tuitioning:** Generally speaking, town tuitioning allows students who live in towns that don’t have district public schools to receive their per-pupil education tax dollars to pay tuition at a neighboring town’s public school or a private school of their choice—sometimes even across state lines for families who live close to state borders. This type of school choice functions much like a school voucher, and only a handful of rural states in the northeast use it.
* **School Vouchers** - Vouchers give parents the freedom to choose a private school for their children, using all or part of the public funding set aside for their children’s education. Under such a program, funds typically expended by a school district would be allocated to a participating family in the form of a voucher to pay partial or full tuition for their child’s private school, including both religious and non-religious options. Learn more about [School Vouchers](https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/types-of-school-choice/what-are-school-vouchers-2/).