

EMPOWER MISSISSIPPI

What is School Choice?

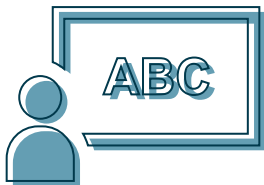
School choice is about empowering families to choose the best educational opportunity for their child, whether that's public school, private school, charter school, or homeschool.

Beyond just the freedom to choose that opportunity, school choice programs are designed to help families overcome the financial and regulatory barriers they may face when attempting to enroll their child in a school other than the child's assigned public school. We classify those programs into three main types:



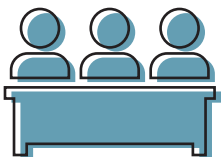
Private School Choice

Private school choice programs, like ESAs, vouchers, and tax credits, offer parents the ability to use government funding to offset the cost of private school tuition. ESAs and tax credits also allow parents to use those funds for additional expenses like educational therapies, tutoring, transportation, and more.



Public School Choice

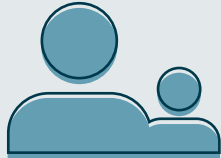
Sometimes referred to as “Portability” or “Open Enrollment,” public school choice would allow a student to more easily transfer to a different public school within their district (intradistrict) or to a different public school outside of their district (interdistrict).



Charter Schools

Charter schools are public schools. They are tuition-free, open to all students, and funded by taxpayers — just like traditional public schools. However, charter schools operate independently from local school districts, which gives them more flexibility to innovate and focus on what works best for their students.

Why School Choice is Good for Mississippi



Parents know their children best and deserve meaningful options.



Businesses and communities thrive when quality education choices attract and retain families.



A strong education system supports workforce development and long-term economic growth.



School choice improves academic outcomes for both students who participate and those who do not.



Every child in Mississippi is unique, and each student deserves access to a quality education. No single school model works for every student - and that's why we should give parents the ability to select the educational environment that best fits their child. Allowing families to choose what works best for them will provide a pathway for more Mississippians to receive a high-quality education that better prepares them for their future.

Learn More at [Empowerms.org](https://empowerms.org)