

OVERVIEW OF  
**SCHOOL CHOICE IN FLORIDA:**  
ACCOUNTABILITY, FINANCE, AND GOVERNANCE

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# AIMS AND PURPOSES OF SCHOOL CHOICE

## EDUCATIONAL INTEREST

- Improve student achievement
- Promote diversity
- Expand parental involvement in education

## FINANCIAL INTEREST

- Attempt to control net cost-per-station

## IDEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- Privatize the largest, costliest activity of state government
- Use market approach to improve government service

# SCHOOL CHOICE IN FLORIDA

**School choice broadly describes any means by which parents may have some meaningful role in determining which school their child attends.**

**Parents in Florida may select or seek enrollment via several school choice models including:**

- District-operated schools (including magnet schools)
- Charter schools (including Schools of Hope)
- Private and religious schools
- Scholarship/voucher schools
- Home schools

# DISTRICT-OPERATED SCHOOLS

<b>AUTHORITY</b>	Constitution of the State of Florida, Article IX
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Elected local School Board
<b>TUITION</b>	Not allowed
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	Open
<b>STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS</b>	Required
<b>TEACHER CERTIFICATION</b>	Required
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	Provided (except for virtual schools)
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Provided (except for virtual schools)
<b>SREF COMPLIANCE</b>	Required
<b>FEFP FUNDED</b>	Yes
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDED</b>	Yes, as applicant, grantee, subgrantee, fiscal agent
<b>ENROLLMENT SHARE</b>	2,537,301 students (74%)

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

<b>AUTHORITY</b>	§ 1002.33, Fla. Stat,
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Self (sponsored by local School Board)
<b>TUITION</b>	Not allowed
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	Open
<b>STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS</b>	Required
<b>TEACHER CERTIFICATION</b>	Required
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	Not required
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Provided (except for virtual charter schools)
<b>SREF COMPLIANCE</b>	Not required
<b>FEFP FUNDED</b>	Yes
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDED</b>	Yes, as part of local education agency
<b>ENROLLMENT SHARE</b>	295,814 students (9%)

# CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING DETAIL

## **Charter schools receive these state and local funds:**

- Basic program, ESE guarantee, class size, SAI, *et al.*)
- discretionary lottery funds
- operating discretionary millage levy
- 1.5 mill capital outlay levy
- PECO capital outlay
- categorical program funds for eligible students, programs, and staff (Safe Schools, Digital Classrooms, K-12 reading, instructional materials, mental health assistance, Best & Brightest, *et al.*)

# CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING DETAIL

**Charter schools receive proportionate share of federal funds, including:**

- ESEA Title I, Part A Improving Basic Programs
- ESEA Title I, Part C Education of Migratory Children
- ESEA Title I, Part D Neglected & Delinquent Youth
- ESEA Title II, Part A Supporting Effective Instruction
- ESEA Title III, Part A English Language Acquisition
- ESEA Title IV, Part A Student Support & Academic Enrichment
- ESEA Title IX, Part A Homeless Children & Youth
- IDEA, Part B Grants to States
- WIA Perkins Secondary

# PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

<b>AUTHORITY</b>	Self, but defined in § 1002.01, Fla. Stat.
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Self
<b>TUITION</b>	Allowed
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	Open or restricted
<b>STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS</b>	Not required
<b>TEACHER CERTIFICATION</b>	Not required
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	Not required
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Not required
<b>SREF COMPLIANCE</b>	Not required
<b>FEFP FUNDED</b>	No (except via scholarships)
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDED</b>	Yes, for services provided by local education agency
<b>ENROLLMENT SHARE</b>	370,166 students (11%)



# SCHOLARSHIP/VOUCHER SCHOOLS

<b>AUTHORITY</b>	§ 1002.385, 1002.39, 1002.395, and 1002.421, Fla. Stat.
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Self
<b>TUITION</b>	Allowed; scholarships from public funds
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	Open or restricted (scholarship eligibility)
<b>STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS</b>	Not required
<b>TEACHER CERTIFICATION</b>	Not required
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	Not required
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Not required
<b>SREF COMPLIANCE</b>	Not required
<b>FEFP FUNDED</b>	Yes, via scholarships
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDED</b>	Yes, for services provided by LEA
<b>ENROLLMENT SHARE</b>	151,059 (4%)

# HOME SCHOOLS

<b>AUTHORITY</b>	§ 1002.01 and 1002.41, Fla. Stat.
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Self
<b>TUITION</b>	Not applicable
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	Restricted to family
<b>STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS</b>	Not required
<b>TEACHER CERTIFICATION</b>	Not required
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	Not applicable
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Not applicable
<b>SREF COMPLIANCE</b>	Not applicable
<b>FEFP FUNDED</b>	No
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDED</b>	No
<b>ENROLLMENT SHARE</b>	89,817 (3%)

# VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

<b>AUTHORITY</b>	§ 1002.37, 1002.45, and 1002.455 Fla. Stat.
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Varies (District-operated, charter, private, home)
<b>TUITION</b>	No
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	Open to all Florida K-12 students (full or part-time)
<b>STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS</b>	Required (for state, district, and charter)
<b>TEACHER CERTIFICATION</b>	Required (for state, district, and charter)
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	Not applicable
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Not applicable
<b>SREF COMPLIANCE</b>	Not applicable
<b>FEFP FUNDED</b>	Yes (reduced rate based on course completion)
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDED</b>	Yes (for state, district, and charter)
<b>ENROLLMENT SHARE</b>	9,152 (0.4% of state/district) 1,937 (0.07% of charter)

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# FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

<b>Category</b>	<b>Funding</b>		<b>Management</b>
District-operated schools	public		public
Charter schools	public		private
Private and religious schools	private	public	private
Scholarship/voucher schools	private	public	private

# FUNDING STREAM SUMMARY

<b>Category</b>	<b>State &amp; Local Operating Funds</b>	<b>State &amp; Local Capital Outlay Funds</b>	<b>Federal Grant Funds</b>
District-operated schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charter schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private and religious schools	No	No	Services only
Scholarship/voucher schools	No	No	No
Home schools	No	No	No

# ACCOUNTABILITY SUMMARY



<b>Category</b>	<b>Florida School Grades</b>	<b>School Improvement Ratings</b>	<b>Federal Percent of Points Index</b>
District-operated schools	General education	Alternative	Yes
Charter schools	General education	Alternative	Yes
Private and religious schools	No	No	No
Scholarship/voucher schools	No	No	No
Home schools	No	No	No

# OTHER CHOICES

## **Schools of Hope**

- A means for charter schools to open quickly in certain conditions.

## **Hope Scholarship Account**

- Students who are bullied may attend another public or private school.

## **Opportunity Scholarship**

- Students in “F” schools may transfer to a higher-performing public school.

## **Reading Scholarship Account**

- Students with low reading scores may receive \$500 toward curriculum, tutoring, *etc.*

# OTHER CHOICES

## **Magnet schools or programs**

- Themed schools or programs that promote diversity in schools.

## **Military Family Choice**

- Special option for military families to receive a McKay scholarship.

## **Controlled Open Enrollment**

- Option to choose any public school with open seats anywhere in the state.



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