



# SCHOOL CHOICE IN MICHIGAN



## STATE SENATOR PATRICK COLBECK

Feature	Traditional Public School (LEA)	Public School Academy (Charter School)	Online Charter Academy (Cyber School)	Parochial/Private School	Home School
<b>Description</b>	Public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township or school district.	Public School Academies, also referred to as Charter Schools, are state supported public schools under the state constitution, operating under a charter contract issued by a public authorizing body such as a state university.	Cyber Charter Schools, also referred to as Virtual Academies, are state supported public schools under the state constitution, operating under a charter contract issued by a public authorizing body such as a state university.	A private, denominational or parochial school is any school other than a public school giving instruction to children below the age of 16 years.	Educating a child at their home by his or her parent or legal guardian in an organized educational program in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar.
<b>Cost to Parents</b>	Basic instruction program is free. May be incidental costs for uniforms, athletics, extracurricular activities, school supplies, etc.	Basic instruction program is free. May be incidental costs for uniforms, athletics, extracurricular activities, school supplies, etc.	Basic instruction program is free. Computer, textbooks and supplemental instructional materials provided by the school. May be incidental costs for athletics, extracurricular activities, school supplies, etc.	All education-related costs are paid for by the parents with the exception of Special Education costs which are paid for with state and or federal funds.	All education-related costs are paid for by the parents with the exception of Special Education costs which may be paid for with state and or federal funds.
<b>Funding</b>	Funded through the State School Aid Act. Receive funding through the per pupil base foundation. Some districts also receive taxes generated within the school district. There is also federal funding and categorical funding (such as at-risk funding, breakfast and lunch funding, etc.)	Funded through the State School Aid Act. Receive funding through the per pupil base foundation. There is also federal funding and categorical funding (such as at-risk funding, breakfast and lunch funding, etc.)	Funded through the State School Aid Act. Receive funding through the per pupil base foundation. There is also federal funding and categorical funding (such as at-risk funding, breakfast and lunch funding, etc.)	No public funds can be paid directly or indirectly to aid or maintain any private, denominational, or nonpublic school. Federally funded programs may be available to nonpublic school students. State funding for transportation services and some auxiliary services may be available under certain conditions. Students can dual enroll in college and have it paid by the state. Students can receive "shared time" instruction from public school teachers in non-core classes.	There are no public funds available for home schooling.
<b>Accountability – Education Quality Standards and Accreditation Standards</b>	Follows the State of Michigan’s Education – YES! Plan and the State’s federal waiver system of accountability. Michigan’s school accreditation system reports to school districts, buildings and to the public.  Public Schools are organized and administered under the direction of an elected board for multiple schools.	Follows the State of Michigan’s Education – YES! Plan and the State’s federal waiver system of accountability.. Michigan’s school accreditation system reports to school districts, buildings and to the public.  Michigan law requires charter schools to be organized and administered under the direction of an appointed board.	Follows the State of Michigan’s Education – YES! Plan. Michigan’s school accreditation system reports to school districts, buildings and to the public.  Michigan law requires cyber schools to be organized and administered under the direction of an appointed board.	The local superintendent of public instruction has supervision of all private schools attended by children below age 16 in the first eight grades.  Nonpublic schools may choose, but are not required, to participate in either of the following accreditation programs: Michigan Nonpublic School Accreditation Association and North Central Association.	The annual registering of a home school to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is voluntary. It is not required unless the student has special needs and is requesting special education services from the local public school or intermediate school district. Home school education, including homework, tests, the issuance of report cards, transcripts and diplomas, if any, is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.
<b>Teacher Certification</b>	Michigan law requires that teachers shall hold a certificate, permit or occupational authorization valid for the positions to which they are assigned. (There are exceptions to the requirements for teacher certification that apply to all public, charter and cyber schools equally).  To accept Title I funds public schools are required to adhere to the "Highly Qualified Teacher" provisions of the federal ESEA.  The Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) ensure that all professional school personnel complete quality preparation and professional development programs, which meet standards established by the Michigan Legislature and the State Board of Education.	Certification requirements for charter school teachers are identical to those of public school district teachers except that charter schools may engage university or community college faculty to teach under certain circumstances.  Charter schools that accept Title I funds also are required to adhere to the "Highly Qualified Teacher" provisions of the federal ESEA.  MDE is required to monitor charter schools for compliance with the IDEA and with Michigan’s Administrative Rules for Special Education.	Certification requirements for cyber school teachers are identical to those of public school district teachers except that charter schools may engage university or community college faculty to teach under certain circumstances.  Charter schools that accept Title I funds also are required to adhere to the "Highly Qualified Teacher" provisions of the federal ESEA.  MDE is required to monitor charter schools for compliance with the IDEA and with Michigan’s Administrative Rules for Special Education.	An individual may qualify to teach in Michigan nonpublic schools in one of three ways:  1. By obtaining a Michigan Teaching Certificate 2. By obtaining a Substitute, Expert in Residence, Full-Year, 1233b or Emergency teaching permit. 3. By obtaining a bachelor’s degree.  A nonpublic school can waive the minimum education requirements for teachers by claiming an objection to teacher certification based upon a sincerely held religious belief.	A parent or legal guardian that registers with MDE is qualified to teach their child if they have a teaching certificate or a bachelor’s degree.  However, if they claim an objection to teacher certification based upon a sincerely held religious belief, the minimum education requirement of a teaching certificate or a bachelor’s degree is waived.

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<b>Transparency</b>	The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has developed guidance to standardize the reporting of financial data for all Michigan public school districts, which a district must make available through a link on its website home page.  Must comply with the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and any other applicable state laws.	Charter schools must provide the same transparency information on their website that all public schools provide.  Must comply with the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and any other applicable state laws.	Charter schools must provide the same transparency information on their website that all public schools provide.  Must comply with the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and any other applicable state laws.	By early October of each school year, private schools must report the number of students in each grade, teacher qualifications and the course of study offered.	Michigan doesn't require homeschooling families to report or test. However, homeschoolers are required to be taught in the major subjects of reading, writing, math, art, and social studies. In order to obtain testing by the school district, homeschoolers must be registered with the state.
<b>Acceptance</b>	All children who are at least five years of age on December 1 are entitled to enroll in the school district in which they are residents.	May not be selective in its enrollment process. A random selection process must be used if the number of applicants exceeds the school's enrollment capacity.	May not be selective in its enrollment process. A random selection process must be used if the number of applicants exceeds the school's enrollment capacity. There is currently a cap on the number of students that can be admitted to cyber schools in Michigan.	If a private school doesn't receive federal financial assistance, it's free to pick and choose who attends the school.	Michigan parents have the right to home school their children.
<b>Student Testing</b>	Required to measure student achievement on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) for elementary and middle schools, or the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) for high schools.	Required to measure student achievement on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) for elementary and middle schools, or the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) for high schools.	Required to measure student achievement on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) for elementary and middle schools, or the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) for high schools.	All nonpublic schools can elect to administer the MEAP assessments to their students.  Juniors and eligible seniors currently may take the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) in March.	There are no required tests for a home school student. The parent is responsible for administering any tests based upon the curriculum they use. Although not required, home school students may participate in the MEAP and MME exams at their local public school. These tests are managed by MDE and are administered at no cost to a home school student.
<b>Special Education</b>	Each school, in conjunction with any other applicable public agencies, shall provide special education and related services to a student in accordance with the student's individualized education program (IEP).	Must provide special education programs and services for each student for whom an appropriate educational or training program can be provided in accordance with the intermediate school district special education plan.	Must provide special education programs and services for each student for whom an appropriate educational or training program can be provided in accordance with the intermediate school district special education plan.	To receive special education or a related service, the nonpublic school student must be determined eligible for special education services by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team.  The student should be referred for an evaluation through the Child Find process of the local public school district in which that nonpublic school is located. Services are provided through the local school district.	To receive special education or a related service, the nonpublic school student must be determined eligible for special education services by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team.  The student should be referred for an evaluation through the Child Find process of the local public school district in which the child resides. Services are provided through the local school district.
<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	Extracurricular activities offered vary by school.	Extracurricular activities offered vary by school.	Offers a wide variety of clubs, activities, events and field trips both online and in the community with other students and their families.	In order to participate in public school extracurricular activities, a student should be enrolled part-time in the public school.	In order to participate in public school extracurricular activities, a student should be enrolled part time in the public school.
<b>Athletics</b>	The supervision and control of interscholastic athletics are the responsibility of each local board of education. Most local boards have adopted policies as proposed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.	Athletic programs offered varies by school.	No organized sports through the school. Students can participate in local sports programs or clubs.	Non-public school parents may contact their local public school board if they are interesting in having their children participate in interscholastic athletics.	Home-school parents may contact their local public school board if they are interesting in having their children participate in interscholastic athletics.