

K-12 CHOICES IN PENNSYLVANIA

**PA Education Policy Fellowship Program
EPLC**

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Compulsory Education Law

In Pennsylvania, compulsory school age is defined as 8 years of age until the age of 17 years and includes migratory children; except for the Philadelphia School District where parents must provide for a child's education beginning at age 6. It does not include any child who has a certificate of graduation from an accredited senior high school.

Home Education

- Section 1372.1 of School Code provides for documentation to be kept and submitted to the superintendent of the school district of residence which shows that an appropriate education is occurring in the home education program. A hearing process and appeals process are contained in this section.
- At request, the school district of residence shall lend to the home education program copies of planned courses, textbooks and other curriculum materials.
- No state financial support.
- More than 20,000 students are home schooled in PA.

Private Tutoring

The School Code defines “properly qualified private tutor” as a “...person who is certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to teach in the public schools of Pennsylvania; who is teaching one or more children who are members of a single family; who provides the majority of the instruction to such child or children; and who is receiving a fee or other consideration for such instructional services.

Non-Public Schools

- **School districts provide transportation in some cases.**
- **State funding support for Transportation; Textbooks; Materials and Equipment; and Auxiliary Services Vouchers.**
- **Educational Improvement Tax Credits for corporate contributions to “scholarship organizations”.**

Dual Enrollment

No pupil shall be refused admission to the courses in these additional schools or departments, by reason of the fact that his elementary or academic education is being or has been received in a school other than a public school.

Non-Resident

- **Section 1316 permits attendance of non-resident pupils.**
- **Allows the board of school directors of any school district to permit any non-resident pupil to attend the public schools of the district.**
- **Terms for such admittance and tuition shall be set by the board of school directors subject to the provisions of the Public School Code of 1949.**

Charter Schools

- **Brick-and-mortar Charters**
 - **Cyber Charters**

Concurrent Enrollment

Article XVI-B. Opportunities for Educational Excellence.

A student who is enrolled in a school district, a charter school, an area vocational-technical school, a nonpublic school, a private school or a home education program is eligible to participate in a Concurrent Enrollment Program.

Concurrent Enrollment Program is defined as “A program administered and developed by a school entity and an eligible postsecondary institution that allows students to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses and to receive both secondary and postsecondary credit for that coursework. The term includes an early college high school program, a gateway to college program or a middle college high school program.”

Other Public School Choices

- **Magnet Schools**
- **Career-Technical**
- **“Academies”**
- **IU operated cyber programs**
- **Blended programs in districts**
- **Dual Enrollment**
- **What else?**