



# Education Freedom Resources

*Parents deserve the freedom to choose the learning environment that best serves their children.*

## Why Education Freedom Matters

Every child is unique. Some thrive in traditional public schools, while others do better in charter schools, private schools, or at home. Education freedom gives parents the ability to choose the setting that best matches their child's needs and their family's values—without being restricted by zip code or income.

## School Choice Options in New Mexico



### Public School Transfers (Open Enrollment)

- New Mexico allows students to transfer between public schools, even across district lines, if space is available.
- Parents can apply directly to the receiving district.



### Charter Schools

- Publicly funded but independently operated, offering innovative approaches to learning.
- Open to all students, regardless of home district.
- Popular options in New Mexico include STEM-focused, arts-integrated, and online charter schools.



### Magnet & Specialty Programs

- Certain public schools offer magnet programs with emphasis on science, technology, the arts, or bilingual education.
- Often open through application or lottery.



### Online Schools

- New Mexico offers full-time online public schools like New Mexico Connections Academy and Pecos Cyber Academy.
- Families seeking flexible schedules or specialized programs may benefit.



### Homeschooling

- Fully legal in New Mexico with notification to the Public Education Department.
- Parents must teach core subjects but have wide flexibility in choosing curriculum.
- Standardized testing is not required.



# Education Freedom Resources

*Parents deserve the freedom to choose the learning environment that best serves their children.*

## Funding & Scholarships

### 529 Education Savings Plans (The Education Plan)

- Tax-advantaged savings that can be used for K-12 tuition, apprenticeships, and college costs.
- Parents control how and when the funds are spent.

### Proposed Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs)

- EFAs would allow parents to use state-allocated education dollars for private school tuition, tutoring, or homeschool expenses.
- Currently not available in New Mexico but continually introduced in legislation.

### Private Scholarships

- Many private and faith-based schools in New Mexico offer tuition assistance.
- National organizations like ACE Scholarships also provide help for qualifying families.

## How to Start Exploring Options

1. Identify Priorities – What matters most to your family: safety, academics, values, flexibility, or special programs?
2. Research Local Options – Visit district websites, charter school listings, and private school directories.
3. Ask Questions – What curriculum is used? How are parents involved? What support systems exist?
4. Visit Schools – Request tours, meet teachers, and talk to other parents.
5. Compare Costs & Funding – Consider scholarships, tuition assistance, and 529 savings.

## Additional Resources

- New Mexico Public Education Department – Charter Schools Directory
- The Education Plan – New Mexico's 529 Savings Program
- EdChoice: School Choice in New Mexico
- ACE Scholarships – New Mexico

## Bottom Line

Education freedom means putting families—not the government—in charge of where and how children learn. Every parent deserves the right to choose the school that helps their child thrive.

Because when it comes to your child's education—My Kid. My Choice.