

SCHOOL CHOICE MATTERS

Alabama Policy Report

Introduction

PURPOSE

A combination of well-designed policies give all students access to the broadest range of educational opportunities, including key core policies and helpful policy enhancers. The purpose of this document is to provide insight to how well your state is doing at implementing the Ecosystem of School Choice Policies. This state report summarizes evidence across the seven policy buckets, with each policy component detailed in individual cells.

CORE POLICIES

Key policies expand student opportunities.



[Open Enrollment](#)



[Charter Schools](#)



[Private School Choice](#)



[Homeschooling](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS

Supporting policies enhance those opportunities.



[Part-time Enrollment/Course Access](#)



[Learn Everywhere](#)



[Transportation](#)

CORE POLICIES



Open Enrollment in Alabama

| POLICY | RATING | POLICY OVERVIEW |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Transfers Between Districts | NO No policy or policy based on ad hoc agreements | Alabama does not provide for open enrollment for students attending school outside their district of residence. |
| Transfers Within Districts | NO No policy | Alabama does not provide for intradistrict open enrollment for all students. Under the Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits, students may transfer from a priority school to a qualifying public school or nonpublic school of the parent’s choice. (Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account) |
| Year-round Transfer Window | NO No policy | |
| Tuition-Free Public Schools | NO No program | |

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| School Capacity Transparency | NO No transparency policy | |
| Transfer Data Transparency | NO No transparency in data reporting | |
| Transparent Appeal Process | NO | |

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account](#)



Charter Schools in Alabama

| POLICY | RATING | POLICY OVERVIEW |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Multiple Charter Authorizers | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>No real authorizer options</p> | <p>Alabama Code provides for the following authorizers of charter schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local school boards, for those schools within the boundaries of the school system under its jurisdiction The Alabama Public Charter School Commission <p>(Ala. Code 16-6F-6 Authorization of Establishment; Alabama Public Charter School Commission; Registration Requirements; Powers and Duties of Authorizers)</p> |
| Charter Appeal Process | <p>YES</p> <p>Independent appeals process</p> | <p>A decision to deny an application for a charter school by the local school board is subject to appeal to the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6F-6 Authorization of Establishment; Alabama Public Charter School Commission; Registration Requirements; Powers and Duties of Authorizers)</p> |
| Charter Regulatory Flexibility | <p>YES</p> <p>Automatic exemption from most state and local regulations</p> | <p>According to Alabama Code, unless otherwise provided in the charter school statute, public charter schools are not subject to the state’s education statutes or any state or local rule, regulation, policy, or procedure relating to non-charter public schools – this is regardless of whether the rules, regulations, policies, or procedures are established by the local school board, the State Board of Education, or the State Department of Education.</p> <p>Public charter schools must comply with federal laws, rules, and regulations relating to the qualification of teachers and other instructional staff. Teachers in charter schools, however, are exempt from state teacher certification requirements.</p> |
| Equitable Charter Funding | <p>YES</p> <p>Students are funded as in a traditional district school</p> | <p>Alabama Code provides that start-up public charter schools are provided with Foundation Program funding. Conversion charter schools are funded at the same level as the school was before its conversion.</p> <p>All start-up charters also participate in other Education Trust Fund and Public School Fund appropriations in the same manner as any other non-charter public school system. Conversion public schools must receive from the local school board a pro rata share of other Education Trust Fund appropriations.</p> |

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| | | <p>Charter schools must receive the same amount of state funds, including funds earmarked for the Foundation Program transportation, school nurses, technology coordinators, and other line items that may be included in the appropriation for the Foundation Program Fund.</p> <p>For each student, charters receive the same amount of local tax revenue.</p> <p>Alabama Code also provides that charters must receive the proportionate share of monies generated under federal and state categorical aid programs serving students eligible for the aid.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6F-10 Reporting of Enrollment, Attendance, Etc.; Funding)</p> |
| <p>Charter Facilities Funding</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>Charter schools have equal access to facility funding streams</p> | <p>Public charter schools have the same rights and access to the Alabama Public School and College Authority Funds as non-charter public schools. Alabama Code provides that the PSCA and the Department must adopt and maintain a policy to ensure that public charter schools receive access to equitable facilities funding.</p> <p>Charter schools receive the right of first refusal to purchase or lease a closed or unused public school facility or property.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6F-11 Public School and College Authority Funding; Local School System Facilities and Land)</p> |
| <p>Options for High-Performing Charters</p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>No opportunities for high-performing charter schools</p> | <p>Alabama does not provide favorable environments for high-performing charter schools.</p> |
| <p>Charter Zoning Exemptions</p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Less than full protections</p> | <p>It is not clear that charter schools have the same exemptions from local zoning and ordinances as other traditional public schools.</p> |

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Ala. Code 16-6F Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act](#)

[Ala. Code 16-6F-5 Enrollment; Credits; Student Capacity; Records](#)

[Ala. Code 16-6F-6 Authorization of Establishment; Alabama Public Charter School Commission; Registration Requirements; Powers and Duties of Authorizers](#)

[Ala. Code 16-6F-9 Legal Status and Powers of Public Charter Schools; Employees](#)

[Ala. Code 16-6F-10 Reporting of Enrollment, Attendance, Etc.; Funding](#)

[Ala. Code 16-6F-11 Public School and College Authority Funding; Local School System Facilities and Land](#)

Administrative Code

[Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-6 Charter Schools](#)

State Department of Education

[Ala. Dept of Education, Charter Schools](#)

[Ala. Dept of Education, Guidelines for Alabama Public Charter Schools](#)



Private School Choice in Alabama

| POLICY | OVERALL RATING | PROGRAM OVERVIEW | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Universal Eligibility</p> | <p>YES</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off % of all students served</i></p> | <p>LIMITED</p> | <p>Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits</p> <p>The Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits provides an income tax credit to parents of students enrolled in or assigned to attend a priority school to help offset the cost of transferring the student to a qualifying public school or nonpublic school of the parent’s choice.</p> <p>To be eligible, a student must transfer from priority public schools to qualifying public or accredited private schools.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account)</p> <p>Alabama Code defines “priority school” to mean a public K-12 school that is either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> designated as a priority school by the State Superintendent of Education; or does not exclusively serve a special population of students and has received a D or an F on the most recent state report card. <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-4 Definitions)</p> <p>Guidance from the Department of Revenue makes clear that parents of private school students, even those who live in an area zoned for a public school designated as failing, would not qualify for this tax credit.</p> <p>(Ala. Dept of Revenue, Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 Section 8 Refundable Tax Credits)</p> |
| | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024</p> <p>In 2024, the Governor of Alabama signed the CHOOSE Act into law. This new law creates education savings accounts for eligible students.</p> |

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| | | | <p>The new law defines “eligible student” to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a child ages 5-19 who resides in the state and has not yet graduated high school or a child ages 5-21 who resides in the state and qualifies for services under the IDEA; • students who are receiving scholarship funds or a tax credit under the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013, Chapter 6D of Title 16 are not included in this definition. • students must be lawfully present in the United States. <p>For the 2025 and 2026 years, the credit will be available to parents of eligible students whose families have an adjusted gross income not exceeding 300% of the federal poverty level for the preceding tax year.</p> <p>Beginning on or after January 1, 2027, the credit is available to any parent of an eligible student.</p> <p>The first 500 tax credits are reserved for eligible students who are special-needs students.</p> <p>(House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> |
| | | <p>LIMITED</p> | <p>Education Scholarship Program</p> <p>The Education Scholarship Program established in statute provides tax credits to taxpayers who donate to nonprofit scholarship-granting organizations.</p> <p>Eligible students include students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are members of a family whose total annual income the calendar year before does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty level; • was eligible to attend a public school in the preceding semester or is starting school in Alabama for the first time; and • resides in the state. <p>Note that eligibility is determined every other academic year – if at a certain point, the family’s annual income exceeds 250%, the existing student continues to remain eligible until the annual income of the family of the student exceeds 350%.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-4 Definitions)</p> |

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| Comparable Student Funding | LIMITED Funding below 90% <i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Education Scholarship Program)</i> | LIMITED | Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits Alabama Code provides that the income tax credit is equal to 80% of the average annual state cost of attendance for a public K-12 student during that tax year, or the actual cost of attending a qualifying public school or nonpublic school, whichever is less. (Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account) |
| | | LIMITED | The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 For participating students enrolled in a participating school, the annual amount of the credit totals \$7,000 or the actual cost of the qualifying educational expenses, whichever is less. For participating students not enrolled in a participating school, the annual amount of the credit will be \$2,000 or the actual cost of the qualifying educational expenses, whichever is less – the aggregate amount of all credits awarded for these students must not exceed \$4,000. A series of 2025 legislative appropriations provided \$231 million in CHOOSE Act funding for the 2025-26 school year. (House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024)) |
| | | LIMITED | Education Scholarship Program This program provides scholarships for eligible students to cover all or part of the tuition and mandatory fees for one academic year charged by a qualifying school – the educational scholarship may not be more than \$10,000. (Ala. Code 16-6D-4 Definitions) |
| Uncapped Student Access | LIMITED Funding or enrollment cap <i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students</i> | YES | Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits Alabama Code does not provide funding or enrollment caps for this tax credit program. |
| | | LIMITED | The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 There are no enrollment caps in this program. Participation is limited by funding caps – this act is funded through an appropriation to the CHOOSE Act Fund – beginning with appropriations made for the fiscal year ending September 40, 2026, the legislature must appropriate not less than \$100 million which will continue annually after this. |

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| | <p><i>(Education Scholarship Program)</i></p> | | <p>The statute specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature that the appropriations increase if the Commissioner of Revenue certifies that increased appropriations are necessary to satisfy consumer demands.</p> <p>(House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> |
| | | <p>LIMITED</p> | <p>Education Scholarship Program The cumulative amount of tax credits that may be issued must not exceed \$40,000,000 annually. This may be increased in increments of \$10,000,000 if the cumulative amount of tax credits issued exceeds 90% of the set cap for three out of four consecutive years, until the cumulative amount of tax credits reaches \$60,000,000.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-9 Tax Credit Claims; Administrative Accountability; Verification of Requirements; Rules and Procedures)</p> |
| <p>Extended Application Window</p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Application period or periods</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Education Scholarship Program)</i></p> | <p>LIMITED</p> | <p>Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits To apply for this tax credit, a parent must certify the student was enrolled in or assigned to attend a priority school, certify that the student was transferred to, and was enrolled and attended, a qualifying public school or nonpublic school of the parent’s choice, and proof of the actual cost of attendance for the student at the qualifying public school or nonpublic school.</p> <p>Alabama Code provides that the application for the income tax credit must be filed with the Department of Revenue “within the time prescribed for filing petitions for refund.”</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account)</p> |
| | | <p>N/A</p> | <p>The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 Information on application periods is not yet available. Alabama Code provides that the Department of Education must create and disseminate a standard application form to be used for parents to apply and establish and publicize a deadline by which the applications must be submitted.</p> <p>(House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> |

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| | | | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Education Scholarship Program Students must apply through scholarship granting organizations – application periods are not addressed in Alabama policy.</p> |
| <p>Student Testing Options</p> | <p>YES</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Education Scholarship Program)</i></p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits Alabama Code requires all students in a local school system who participate in the program to provide locations and times to take all statewide assessments required by law. (Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account)</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 Alabama Code requires all participating students receiving funds to take a standardized assessment that is aligned to the curricula of the participating school, a nationally norm-referenced achievement assessment, or a nationally recognized aptitude assessment. (House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> |
| | | <p>YES</p> <p>Education Scholarship Program Scholarship granting organizations must ensure that qualifying schools annually administer either the state achievement tests or nationally recognized norm-referenced tests to measure learning gains in math and language arts to all students receiving g the educational scholarships in grades that require testing under the laws of Alabama. (Ala. Code 16-6D-9 Tax Credit Claims; Administrative Accountability; Verification of Requirements; Rules and Procedures)</p> | |

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| <p>School Autonomy</p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Silent language or adverse regulations</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Education Scholarship Program)</i></p> | <p>LIMITED</p> | <p>Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits Alabama Code is generally silent on private school autonomy; however, the Accountability Act provides that this law does not “force any public school, school system, or school district or any nonpublic school, school system, or school district to enroll any student.”</p> <p>Schools have the discretion to determine terms and conditions to allow a student whose parent receives an income tax credit to be enrolled, but they may not discriminate based on race, gender, religion, color, disability status, or ethnicity of the student or their parents.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account)</p> |
| | <p>YES</p> | <p>The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 The newly enacted law does provide that this shall not be construed to require any public school, school system, or school district or any nonpublic school, school system, or school district to enroll any student.</p> <p>Alabama Code specifically provides that education service providers, and participating schools, must be given the “maximum freedom possible to provide for the educational needs of students.” Further, the Code provides that “no provision of this act shall be construed to limit the independent or autonomy of any education service provider; to act as a restriction, direction, or mandate regarding instructional content or curriculum provided by any education service provider; to require an education service provider to alter its creed, practices, admissions policies, hiring policies, codes of conduct for employees or students, tuition, or fees; to expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers, or any school district; or to otherwise deprive or diminish the protections for nonpublic schools, including nonpublic schools with a religious affiliation, available under any source of existing law.”</p> <p>(House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> | |

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| | | <p>LIMITED</p> | <p>Education Scholarship Program Alabama Code is generally silent on private school autonomy; however, the Accountability Act provides that this law does not “force any public school, school system, or school district or any nonpublic school, school system, or school district to enroll any student.” Schools have discretion to develop the terms and conditions to allow students who receive scholarships to be enrolled.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-9 Tax Credit Claims; Administrative Accountability; Verification of Requirements; Rules and Procedures)</p> |
| <p>Accessible School Participation</p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Accreditation requirement</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Education Scholarship Program)</i></p> | <p>LIMITED</p> | <p>Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits The Alabama Accountability Act of 2013, as amended, defines “qualifying school” to mean a public school outside of the resident school district that is not considered a priority school or any nonpublic school that satisfies this section of the law. Qualifying nonpublic schools must be accredited by one of six regional accrediting agencies or the National Council for Private School Accreditation, AdvancEd (now Cognia), the American Association of Christian Schools, or one of their partner accrediting agencies. Nonpublic schools have 3 years from the nonpublic school notifying the Department of Revenue of an intent to participate in the scholarship program to obtain the required accreditation. During the three years to get to accreditation, nonpublic schools must meet specific criteria identified in the Code.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-4 Definitions)</p> |
| | | <p>LIMITED</p> | <p>The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 The CHOOSE Act defines “participating school” to include an Alabama education service provider that is an accredited public K-12 school or an accredited private school, including church, parochial, or religious schools, that provide education to K-12 students and that is approved by the Department. This Code section makes clear that schools must be accredited, or in the process of obtaining accreditation. Schools must be accredited by one of the six regional accrediting agencies and/or the National Council for Private School Accreditation, Cognia, the American Association of Christian Schools, the Alabama Christian Education Association, the Alabama Independent School Association, or one of their partner accrediting agencies.</p> <p>(House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> |

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| | | LIMITED | <p>Education Scholarship Program</p> <p>The Alabama Accountability Act of 2013, as amended, defines “qualifying school” to mean a public school outside of the resident school district that is not considered a priority school or any nonpublic school that satisfies this section of the law. Qualifying nonpublic schools must be accredited by one of six regional accrediting agencies or the National Council for Private School Accreditation, AdvancEd (now Cognia), the American Association of Christian Schools, or one of their partner accrediting agencies. Nonpublic schools have 3 years from the nonpublic school notifying the Department of Revenue of an intent to participate in the scholarship program to obtain the required accreditation. During the three years to get to accreditation, nonpublic schools must meet specific criteria identified in the Code.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-4 Definitions)</p> |
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ESAs and Parent-Directed Spending

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| <p>Freedom to Customize</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024</p> <p>Alabama Code defines “qualifying educational expenses” to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tuition and fees at a participating school; • textbooks; • Fees for after-school or summer education programs provided by a participating school; • private tutoring; • curricula or instructional materials; • tuition and fees for nonpublic online learning programs; • educational software and applications; • fees for standardized and nationally recognized assessments; • education services for students with disabilities from a licensed or accredited practitioner or education service provider; and • contracted services provided by a public school district including specific classroom instruction. <p>(House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> |
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| <p>Freedom to Access</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 Alabama Code defines “qualifying educational expenses” to include tuition and fees at participating schools, as well as tuition and fees for nonpublic online learning programs.</p> <p>(House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> | |
| <p>Carry-Over Funding</p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Most or all unused funds revert to the state</p> | <p>The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 Alabama Code provides that at the expiration of an academic year, unused ESA funds must be remitted to the CHOOSE Act Fund.</p> <p>(House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature (2024))</p> | |
| <p>Tax Credits</p> | | | |
| <p>Full Tax Credit</p> | <p>YES</p> <p><i>Scoring is calculated based off program with largest number of students (Education Scholarship Program)</i></p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits Alabama Code provides that parents will receive a credit against income tax for each taxable year – if income taxes owed by the parent are less than the total credit allowed, the taxpayer will be entitled to a refund or rebate equal to the balance of the unused credit for that taxable year.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account)</p> |
| | | <p>YES</p> | <p>Education Scholarship Program The tax credit for the Education Scholarship Program is equal to 100% of the total contributions the taxpayer made to the scholarship granting organization for educational scholarships during the taxable year for which the credit is claimed. This is up to 100% of the tax liability of the individual taxpayer, but not to exceed \$100,000 per individual taxpayer or married couple filing jointly.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-9 Tax Credit Claims; Administrative Accountability; Verification of Requirements; Rules and Procedures)</p> |

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Ala. Code 16-6D-4 Definitions](#)

[Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account](#)

[Ala. Code 16-6D-9 Tax Credit Claims; Administrative Accountability; Verification of Requirements; Rules and Procedures](#)

[House Bill 129, Alabama Legislature \(2024\)](#)

Administrative Code

[Alabama Department of Revenue, Administrative Code Sections Relevant to Alabama Accountability Act](#)

Other Resources

[Ala. Dept of Revenue, Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 Section 8 Refundable Tax Credits](#)

[Ala. Dept of Revenue, Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education Act of 2024 – The CHOOSE Act](#)

[EdChoice, The ABCs of School Choice: Alabama \(2024 Edition\)](#)



Homeschooling in Alabama

| POLICY | RATING | POLICY OVERVIEW |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Homeschool without Prior Approval</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>No permission required</p> | <p>Parents in Alabama have 3 options for homeschooling their children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Homeschooling with a church school; (2) Homeschooling with a private school; or (3) Homeschooling using a private tutor. <p>(Ala. Code 16-28 School Attendance)</p> <p>In all three options, parents are not required to receive permission from the local school board or other administrative body to start homeschooling.</p> |
| <p>No Extra Homeschool Notifications</p> | <p>NO</p> <p>Annual notification</p> | <p>Church School Parents are required to report the enrollment and attendance of a student attending a church school to the public school superintendent.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-28-7 Report of Enrollment)</p> <p>Private School Principals of each private school are required to report enrollment to the county superintendent of education “at the end of the fifth day from the opening of the public school”</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-28-7 Report of Enrollment)</p> <p>Private Tutor Prior to beginning instruction, the private tutor must file a statement to the county Superintendent of Education, which includes the name of the child or children to be instructed, the subjects that will be taught, and the period of time the instruction will be given.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-28-5 Private Tutor)</p> |

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| | | <p>Private tutors are required to report enrollment to the county superintendent of education “at the end of the fifth day from the opening of the public school”</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-28-7 Report of Enrollment)</p> |
| <p>No Certification to Homeschool</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>No certification requirement</p> | <p>Church School Policies relating to teacher qualification for parents homeschooling their children through a church school will be established by the church school in which the student is enrolled.</p> <p>Private School Policies relating to home instruction through private schools do not require parents to possess teacher certifications.</p> <p>Private Tutor Parents who choose to homeschool their students using a private tutor must provide a tutor who holds a certificate issued by the State Superintendent of Education and the tutor must provide instruction in specific courses of instruction, for at least 3 hours a day for 140 days each calendar year.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-28-5 Private Tutor)</p> |
| <p>Flexible Assessment Options</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>Flexible academic accountability</p> | <p>Alabama policy does not provide information on assessments for homeschool students.</p> |

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

- [Ala. Code 16-28 School Attendance](#)
- [Ala. Code 16-28-5 Private Tutor](#)
- [Ala. Code 16-28-7 Report of Enrollment](#)

State Department of Education

- [Ala. Dept of Education, Homeschool](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS



Part-time Enrollment in Alabama

| POLICY | RATING | POLICY OVERVIEW |
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| Resident Course Access | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>By type of student, type of course, or district policy</p> | Alabama policy does not provide homeschool student or nonpublic school student access to individual courses within the local school district – this may be done through local districts, at their discretion. |
| Nonresident Course Access | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Districts only serve resident students or can impose other restrictions</p> | Alabama does not offer part-time enrollment for students in the state. |
| Virtual Course Access | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p> | <p>Alabama has created the ACCESS Virtual Learning Program (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators & Students Statewide). Public high school students in the state can take courses through ACCESS to which they might not be able to access. Nonpublic school students have the same access, so long as the nonpublic school registers the student.</p> <p>(Ala. Dept of Education, ACCESS Virtual Learning)</p> |

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| <p>Extracurricular Access</p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p> | <p>Through the Alabama High School Athletic Association, non-traditional students, including homeschool and charter school students, may participate in interscholastic programs at public schools, provided certain requirements are met.</p> |
| <p>SOURCE CITATIONS</p> | | |
| <p>State Department of Education</p> <p>Ala. Dept of Education, ACCESS Virtual Learning</p> | <p>Other Resources</p> <p>Alabama High School Athletic Association</p> | |



Learn Everywhere in Alabama

| POLICY | RATING | POLICY OVERVIEW |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Provider Qualification Standard | NO No program | Alabama has not established a Learn Everywhere program. |
| Course Credit Standard | NO No program | |
| Core Course Opportunities | NO No program | |
| Central State List | NO No program | |



Transportation in Alabama

| POLICY | RATING | POLICY OVERVIEW |
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| <p>Open Enrollment Transit</p> | <p>NO</p> | <p>Alabama does not offer an open enrollment program.</p> <p>Under the Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits, students may transfer from a priority school to a qualifying public school or nonpublic school of the parent’s choice. If a parent enrolls a student in a qualifying public school within the same local school system and that system provides transportation services for other enrolled students, transportation costs to the qualifying public school will be the responsibility of the local school system. If a parent enrolls a student in a nonpublic school or in a qualifying public school within another local school system, regardless of whether that system provides transportation services for other enrolled students, transportation is the responsibility of the parent.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account)</p> |
| <p>Fair Transportation Access</p> | <p>LIMITED</p> <p>Equitable transportation offered to some charter OR private students</p> | <p>Charter School Students Alabama Code provides that charter schools receive transportation funding on the same basis and in the same manner as what is paid to public school systems.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6F-10 Reporting of Enrollment, Attendance, Etc.; Funding)</p> <p>Private School Students Under the Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits, students may transfer from a priority school to a qualifying public school or nonpublic school of the parent’s choice. If a parent enrolls a student in a nonpublic school or in a qualifying public school within another local school system, regardless of whether that system provides transportation services for other enrolled students, transportation is the responsibility of the parent.</p> <p>This seems to indicate that parents of nonpublic school students would be responsible for paying for transportation of their student to that nonpublic school.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account)</p> |

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| <p>Vehicle Flexibility</p> | <p>NO</p> <p>Strict vehicle requirements</p> | <p>Alabama Code provides that the State Board must adopt minimum standards to govern the specifications of all new school buses.</p> <p>(Ala. Code 32-5-8 School Bus Specifications and Operations)</p> <p>State Board Rule provides that school bus specifications must meet all federal standards of construction and Alabama Minimum Specifications for School Buses.</p> <p>(Ala. Admin. Code 290-2-4-.02 School Bus Specifications)</p> <p>The Alabama Department of Education issued guidance relating to 15-passenger vans, making clear that these vans do not meet school bus standards and may not be used to carry students.</p> <p>(Use of Passenger Vans in Transporting Students, Alabama State Department of Education, Pupil Transportation Section – Safety Statement (2015))</p> |
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SOURCE CITATIONS

| Statutes | Administrative Code | State Department of Education |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Ala. Code 16-6D-8 Tax Credits; Priority Schools Income Tax Credit Account</p> <p>Ala. Code 16-6F-10 Reporting of Enrollment, Attendance, Etc.; Funding</p> <p>Ala. Code 32-5-8 School Bus Specifications and Operations</p> | <p>Ala. Admin. Code 290-2-4-.02 School Bus Specifications</p> | <p>Alabama Department of Education, Transportation</p> <p>Use of Passenger Vans in Transporting Students, Alabama State Department of Education, Pupil Transportation Section – Safety Statement (2015)</p> |

