

SCHOOL CHOICE MATTERS

# Michigan 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 Michigan

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Transfers Between Districts</p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Sending and/or receiving districts have discretion over transfers</p>	<p>Districts have discretion to accept applications for enrollment by nonresident applicants residing within the same intermediate school district.</p> <p>Districts that choose to accept applications from nonresident applicants may establish a limit on the number of students they will accept in a grade, school, or program and then may use that limit as the reason for refusal to enroll an applicant.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1705 Counting nonresident pupils in membership; application for enrollment; procedures)</a></p> <p>Districts also have discretion to accept applications for enrollment by nonresident applicants residing in a district located in a contiguous intermediate district.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1705c Enrollment by nonresident applicants residing in district located in a contiguous intermediate district)</a></p> <p>Other Code sections confirm that districts can admit nonresident students to the schools of a district, provided they pay tuition.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380-1401 Admission of nonresident pupils; determination of tuition rates; collection of tuition; limitations on tuition)</a></p> <p>If a district fails to comply with the requirements under MCL 388.1705, the district forfeits 5% of the total state aid allocation provided to the district.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1705 Counting nonresident pupils in membership; application for enrollment; procedures)</a></p>

<p>Transfers Within Districts</p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>School officials can block transfers</p>	<p>Michigan Code relating to accreditation provides that for students attending schools that have been unaccredited for 3 consecutive years, parents may send their child to an accredited public school with an appropriate grade level within the same school district.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.1280 Accreditation)</a></p>
<p>Year-round Transfer Window</p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Restricted transfer window</p>	<p>Where the district has a limited number of positions available for nonresident students, the district will give students 30 days to submit an application – the district must provide notice of the application period.</p> <p>Where the district has an unlimited number of positions available for nonresident students, parents will have until the end of the first week of school.</p> <p>Districts may also continue to accept and enroll nonresident students if capacity exists throughout the year.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1705 Counting nonresident pupils in membership; application for enrollment; procedures)</a></p> <p>Michigan has also created transfer windows for nonresident students transferring into a contiguous intermediate school district.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1705c Enrollment by nonresident applicants residing in district located in a contiguous intermediate district)</a></p>
<p>Tuition-Free Public Schools</p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Tuition can be charged</p>	<p>Michigan Code provides that where school districts use their discretion to admit nonresident students to the schools of the district, the Board must determine the rates of tuition of nonresident students and must collect tuition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition for K-6 must not exceed 25% more than the operation cost per capita for the number of students in membership in grades K-12;</li> <li>• Tuition for 7-12 must not exceed 12.5% more than 115% of the operation cost per capita for the number of students in membership in grades K-12;</li> <li>• If a school district does not maintain grades above grade 8, the tuition must not exceed 25% more than the operation cost per capita for the number of students in membership in grades K-8.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.1401 Admission of nonresident pupils; determination of tuition rates; collection of tuition; limitations on tuition)</a></p>

<p>School Capacity Transparency</p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b> Only some information reported</p>	<p>If a district decides to accept applications for enrollment, the district must publish the grades, schools, and special programs for which enrollment may be available.   <a href="#">(MCL 388.1705 Counting nonresident pupils in membership; application for enrollment; procedures; MCL 388.1705c Enrollment by nonresident applicants residing in district located in a contiguous intermediate district)</a></p>
<p>Transfer Data Transparency</p>	<p><b>NO</b> No transparency in data reporting</p>	<p>Michigan does not require the state to collect and publicly report district-level open enrollment data.</p>
<p>Transparent Appeal Process</p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p>Michigan policies do not provide for an appeals process for the denial of transfer.</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

**Statutes**

[MCL 380.1280 Accreditation](#)

[MCL 380-1401 Admission of nonresident pupils; determination of tuition rates; collection of tuition; limitations on tuition](#)

[MCL 388.1705 Counting nonresident pupils in membership; application for enrollment; procedures](#)

[MCL 388.1705c Enrollment by nonresident applicants residing in district located in a contiguous intermediate district](#)

**State Department of Education**

[Michigan Dept of Education, Section 105/105c – Schools of Choice Definitions and Deadlines](#)



## Charter Schools in Michigan

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Multiple Charter Authorizers	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p>Multiple authorizers</p>	<p>Michigan Code for public school academies (the state’s formal designation for charter schools) provides for the following “authorizing bodies”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board of a school district;</li> <li>• An intermediate school board;</li> <li>• The board of a community college;</li> <li>• The governing board of a state public university;</li> <li>• Two or more of these public agencies acting under an interlocal agreement.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.501 Public school academy; scope; powers; definitions)</a></p>
Charter Appeal Process	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No appeals process</p>	<p>Michigan provides that the authorizing body’s decision to issue, not issue, or reconstitute a contract, or to terminate or revoke a contract is solely within the discretion of the authorizing body – this is a final decision and is not subject to review by a court or any state agency.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.507 Authorizing body; duties; powers; fiscal agent...)</a></p>
Charter Regulatory Flexibility	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Some or no exemptions</p>	<p>Michigan Code requires public school academies to comply with all applicable laws, including the open meetings act, the freedom of information act, laws concerning participation in state assessments, state accountability and accreditation systems, and other laws enumerated in Code.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.503 Public school academy; issue of contract...)</a></p> <p>Michigan requires public school academies to use certificated teachers according to state board rule.</p> <p>For public school academies authorized by state public universities or community colleges, a faculty member who is employed full-time by the state public university and has been granted institutional tenure, or designated to be on a tenure track may be used to teach. Further, for those authorized by a community college, the</p>

		<p>academy may use a full-time member of the community college faculty who has at least 5 years’ experience teaching the subject matter that they would be teaching at the public school academy as a teacher.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.505 Use of certificated teachers...)</a></p>
Equitable Charter Funding	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Disparities exist</p>	<p>The Michigan State School Aid Act provides for allocations to eligible districts and public school academies for the purposes of ensuring that students are proficient in English language arts, math, attending school regularly, and that high school graduates are career and college ready. This includes funding for public school academies enrolling economically disadvantaged pupils,</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1631a Allocations to eligible districts and eligible public school academies...)</a></p>
Charter Facilities Funding	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Some or no facilities funding</p>	<p>Michigan Code provides that public school academies are exempt from all taxation on earnings and property.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.503 Public school academy; issue of contract...)</a></p> <p>Further, public school academies may levy taxes – revenue from the taxes levied or bonds issued may be used to support the operation or facilities of a public school academy.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.503a Public school academy; power of school or intermediate school district to levy taxes; use of revenues)</a></p>
Options for High-Performing Charters	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>No opportunities for high-performing charter schools</p>	<p>Michigan Code for public school academies finds that in order to issue a contract, the authorizing body must consider certain factors, which include the “applicant’s track record, if any, in organizing public school academies or other public schools.”</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.503 Public school academy; issue of contract...)</a></p>
Charter Zoning Exemptions	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Less than full protections</p>	<p>No information found on charter school exemptions from local zoning and ordinances.</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

**Statutes**

[MCL 380.501 Public school academy; scope; powers; definitions](#)

[MCL 380.503 Public school academy; issue of contract...](#)

[MCL 388.1631a Allocations to eligible districts and eligible public school academies...](#)

[MCL 380.503a Public school academy; power of school or intermediate school district to levy taxes; use of revenues](#)

[MCL 380.505 Use of certificated teachers...](#)

[MCL 380.507 Authorizing body; duties; powers; fiscal agent...](#)

**State Department of Education**

[Michigan Dept of Education, Charter Public Schools](#)



## Private School Choice in Michigan

POLICY	OVERALL RATING	PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Universal Eligibility	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No choice program</p>	Michigan does not have a private school choice program.
Comparable Student Funding	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No choice program</p>	
Uncapped Student Access	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No choice program</p>	
Extended Application Window	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No choice program</p>	
Student Testing Options	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No choice program</p>	
School Autonomy	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No choice program</p>	

Accessible School Participation	<b>NO</b> No choice program	
<b>ESAs and Parent-Directed Spending</b>		
Freedom to Customize	<b>NO</b> No ESA or microgrant program	Michigan does not have an education scholarship account or microgrant program.
Freedom to Access	<b>NO</b> No ESA or microgrant program	
Carry-Over Funding	<b>NO</b> No ESA or microgrant program	
<b>Tax Credits</b>		
Full Tax Credit	<b>NO</b> No choice program	Michigan does not have an education tax credit program.



## Homeschooling in Michigan

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Homeschool without Prior Approval</p>	<p><b>YES</b> No permission required</p>	<p>Michigan Code explains that children are not required to attend a public school when the child is “being educated at the child’s 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.”</p> <p>Code further provides that students are exempt from attendance for homeschooling where the child is attending regularly and being taught in a state approved nonpublic school, which teaches subjects comparable to those taught in the public schools to children of corresponding age and grade, as determined by the course of study for the public schools of the district within which the nonpublic school is located.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.1561 Compulsory attendance at public school; enrollment dates; exceptions)</a></p> <p>Michigan does not require parents to receive permission from a local school board or other administrative body to start homeschooling.</p>
<p>No Extra Homeschool Notifications</p>	<p><b>YES</b> One-time or no notification</p>	<p>Michigan does not require that families notify local or state officials; however, the state encourages parents to notify the current school of their intent to homeschool.</p> <p>Parents need to register and receive approval of the homeschool site if the student wants to participate in public school programming, including enrollment in non-essential or dual enrollment courses with a public school.</p> <p><a href="#">(Michigan Dept of Education, Homeschooling Options in Michigan; Michigan Dept of Education, Home Schooling in Michigan)</a></p>
<p>No Certification to Homeschool</p>	<p><b>YES</b> No certification requirement</p>	<p>Michigan does not require parents to possess teacher certification.</p>

<p><b>Flexible Assessment Options</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p>Flexible academic accountability</p>	<p>Michigan is silent regarding measuring student academic progress in homeschools; however, the compulsory attendance law requires the parent to provide an “organized educational program in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar.”</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.1561 Compulsory attendance at public school; enrollment dates; exceptions)</a></p> <p>In Michigan, parents have the discretion to permit their child to participate in standardized testing.</p> <p><a href="#">(Michigan Dept of Education, Homeschooling Options in Michigan)</a></p>
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**SOURCE CITATIONS**

<p><b>Statutes</b></p> <p><a href="#">MCL 380.1561 Compulsory attendance at public school; enrollment dates; exceptions</a></p>	<p><b>State Department of Education</b></p> <p><a href="#">Michigan Dept of Education, Nonpublic &amp; Home Schools</a></p> <p><a href="#">Michigan Dept of Education, Homeschooling Options in Michigan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Michigan Dept of Education, Home Schooling in Michigan</a></p>
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POLICY ENHANCERS



## Part-time Enrollment in Michigan

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Resident Course Access</p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>By type of student, type of course, or district policy</p>	<p>Michigan Code allows students enrolled in K-12 in a nonpublic school or homeschooled students to enroll in a district, public school academy, or intermediate district in any curricular offering that is provided and is available to students who are the minor’s grade level or age group.</p> <p>The Code does provide, however, that state school aid will only be provided for these students who are participating in a curricular offering that is restricted to nonessential elective courses and is available to full-time students in the minor’s grade level or age group.</p> <p>This Code section also allows homeschool students to enroll part-time in nonpublic schools for nonessential elective curricular offerings, provided certain requirements are met.</p> <p>Nonessential courses in grades 1-8 are those other than mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts required for grade progression.</p> <p>Nonessential courses in grades 9-12 are those other than algebra 1, algebra 2, English 9-12, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, economics, geography, American history, world history, the Constitution, government, and civics, or courses that fulfill the same credit requirement as these courses. Nonessential elective courses also include courses offered for high school credit that can also generate postsecondary credit.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1766b Minor enrolled in nonpublic school or home school...)</a></p> <p>Parents need to register and receive approval of the homeschool site if the student wants to participate in public school programming, including enrollment in non-essential or dual enrollment courses with a public school.</p> <p><a href="#">(Michigan Dept of Education, Homeschooling Options in Michigan)</a></p>

<p><b>Nonresident Course Access</b></p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Districts only serve resident students or can impose other restrictions</p>	<p>Michigan policy does not address part-time enrollment in courses in schools outside of a students’ district of residence.</p>
<p><b>Virtual Course Access</b></p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p>	<p>Michigan Code creates the Michigan Virtual University – this entity is required to operate the Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute. One task of this institute is to create and maintain a public statewide catalog of virtual courses being offered by all public schools in the state.</p> <p>Michigan Virtual University also operates the Michigan Virtual School, which provides virtual and blended learning solutions for Michigan schools. Code provides that if a home-schooled or nonpublic school student is a resident of a district that subscribes to services provided by the Virtual School, these students may then use the services without charge to the student beyond what is charged to a district student using the same services.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1698 Michigan Virtual University; Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute; Michigan Virtual School...; see Michigan Virtual)</a></p>
<p><b>Extracurricular Access</b></p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p>	<p>Michigan allows local districts to decide whether homeschool students may participate in interscholastic activities.</p> <p>Michigan allows nonpublic school students and students from public school academies to participate on a sports team at a high school if that student is taking and passes at least 66% of full credit load potential for a full-time student (4-5 full subjects) at the high school to be represented.</p> <p><a href="#">(MHSAA, A Guide to Non-Traditional Schools &amp; Students)</a></p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

**Statutes**

[MCL 388.1698 Michigan Virtual University; Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute; Michigan Virtual School...](#)

[MCL 388.1766b Minor enrolled in nonpublic school or home school...](#)

**State Department of Education**

[Michigan Dept of Education, Homeschooling Options in Michigan](#)

**Other Resources**

[Michigan Virtual](#)

[MHSAA, A Guide to Non-Traditional Schools & Students](#)



## Learn Everywhere in Michigan

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Provider Qualification Standard	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No program</p>	Michigan has not established a Learn Everywhere program.
Course Credit Standard	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No program</p>	
Core Course Opportunities	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No program</p>	
Central State List	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>No program</p>	



## Transportation in Michigan

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Open Enrollment Transit</p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p>Michigan’s open enrollment laws provide that districts are not required to provide transportation for nonresident students enrolled in the district or for a resident student enrolled in another district. The district is only required to provide information to the family relating to available transportation when the student enrolls in the district.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 388.1705 Counting nonresident pupils in membership; application for enrollment; procedures; MCL 388.1705c Enrollment by nonresident applicants residing in district located in a contiguous intermediate district)</a></p>
<p>Fair Transportation Access</p>	<p><b>LIMITED</b></p> <p>Equitable transportation offered to some charter OR private students</p>	<p>Michigan Code provides that districts must provide transportation to and from school for each resident public or nonpublic school student, provided the following requirements are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student attends either the public or the nearest state approved nonpublic school in the district to which the student is eligible to be admitted; and</li> <li>• The school district provides transportation for the elementary school level, middle or junior high school level, or high school level in which the student is enrolled.</li> </ul> <p>Districts are not required to transport nonpublic students to schools outside the district, unless the school also transports some resident students to public schools outside the district.</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 380.1321 Transportation for pupils; requirements; payment)</a></p>

<p><b>Vehicle Flexibility</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	<p>Michigan Code relating to student transportation defines “school bus” to mean a “motor vehicle with a manufacturer’s rated seating capacity of 11 or more passengers, including the driver, used for the transportation of preprimary, primary or secondary school pupils to or from school or school-related events or a multifunction school activity bus...”</p> <p><a href="#">(MCL 257.1807 Pupil Transportation Act - Definitions; S, T)</a></p> <p>Michigan guidance relating to school buses allows districts to use various options, including vehicles with capacities of 10 or fewer students, provided certain requirements are met to ensure student safety.</p> <p><a href="#">(Michigan Dept of Education, Considerations Before Contracting or Using School Owned Vehicles with Capacities of Ten or Fewer for Pupil Transportation)</a></p>
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**SOURCE CITATIONS**

<p><b>Statutes</b></p> <p><a href="#">MCL 257.1807 Pupil Transportation Act - Definitions; S, T</a></p> <p><a href="#">MCL 380.1321 Transportation for pupils; requirements; payment</a></p> <p><a href="#">MCL 388.1705 Counting nonresident pupils in membership; application for enrollment; procedures</a></p>	<p><b>State Department of Education</b></p> <p><a href="#">Michigan Dept of Education, Pupil Transportation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Michigan Dept of Education, Considerations Before Contracting or Using School Owned Vehicles with Capacities of Ten or Fewer for Pupil Transportation</a></p>
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