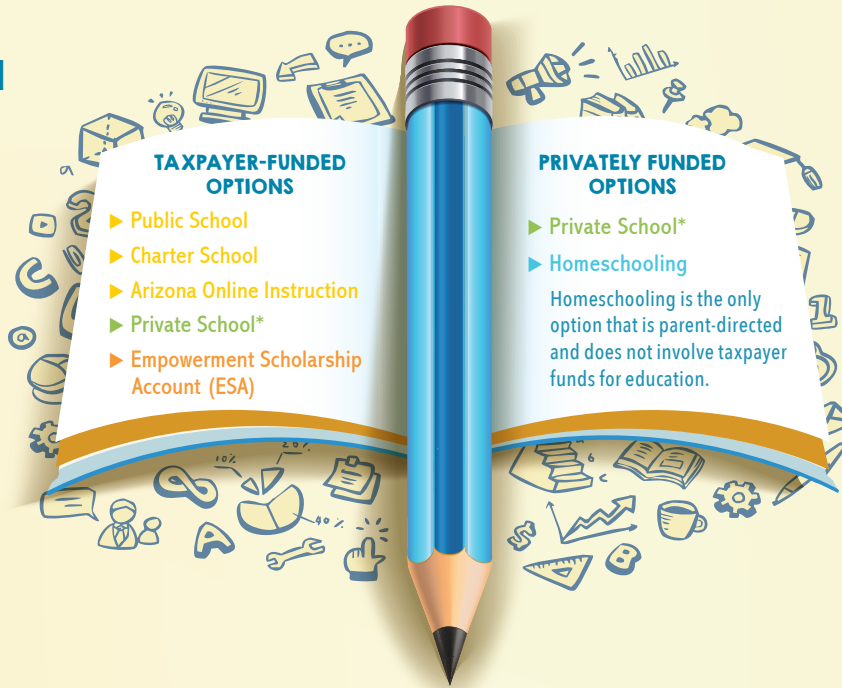


ARIZONA EDUCATION OPTIONS

STUDENT CLASSIFICATIONS IN ARIZONA

ARIZONA ON EDUCATION

Arizona Revised Statutes §15-802(A) states: "Every child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall attend a school and shall be provided instruction in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science. The person who has custody of the child shall choose a public, private or charter school or a homeschool as defined in this section to provide instruction or shall sign a contract to participate in an Arizona empowerment scholarship account pursuant to section 15-2402."



HOMESCHOOL IS DISTINCT

AFHE fully endorses a parent's right and responsibility to choose the education option that is best for each of their children. Understanding the clear legal distinction between homeschooling and other at-home education options in Arizona is crucial. Independence from the public education system is one of the greatest strengths of homeschooling, allowing families to maintain the utmost independence, flexibility, and personal discretion in their educational methods, priorities, and choices. Only one option is defined by the state of Arizona as homeschooling, although there are other home-based education options.

1 ► PUBLIC SCHOOL

Tuition-free schools funded by the state and managed through school districts. Enrolled students are public school students and attend school outside of the home.

2 ► CHARTER SCHOOL

Tuition-free schools funded by the state and operated independent of school districts by either non-profit or for-profit entities. Enrolled students are public school students.

3 ► ARIZONA ONLINE INSTRUCTION

Tuition-free online schools funded by the state that take place in the home. This option includes public school at home and charter school at home. Instruction is provided and directed by the public or charter school. Enrolled students are public school students.

4 ► PRIVATE SCHOOL

A nonpublic school other than the child's home. Tuition is paid by the family, through an Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA), or through a tax credit scholarship. Private schools meet the same number of days and hours as the public school. Students enrolled file a private school affidavit.

*Some private schools receive taxpayer funds.

5 ► EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT (ESA)

The Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) is a taxpayer-funded program created by the Arizona State Legislature in 2011 to broaden educational opportunities for children with special needs and other specific populations. In 2022, eligibility for the ESA program expanded to all K-12 students in the state. ESA contract students may enroll in a private school or instruction may be provided by parents or tutors. This legal classification is separate from the statutory definition of a homeschool. ARS §15-2402(B)(5) specifies that ESA contract students must agree not to file an Affidavit of Intent to Homeschool.

6 ► HOMESCHOOLING

Arizona Revised Statutes §15-802(G)(2) defines a homeschool as "a nonpublic school conducted primarily by the parent, guardian, or other person who has custody of the child, or nonpublic instruction provided in the child's home." The parent is required to file an Affidavit of Intent to Homeschool for children ages 6 to 16. A homeschooling parent takes full responsibility for their child's education, including the financial responsibility. A homeschooled student is exempt from standardized testing requirements. There are no reporting requirements for homeschooled students and the parent does not need to be a certified teacher. The parent creates the high school transcript and issues a diploma to their child.



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ARIZONA FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION

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