

Educational Options in Colorado

| | Public School | Public Charter School | Public School at Home | Part-time Public School | Private School | Independent Private Homeschool |
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| Policy | It is the right of the state of Colorado to choose the proper education and training for the children under its care and supervision. | It is the right of the state of Colorado , along with some input from a parental board, to choose the proper education and training for the children under its care and supervision. | It is the right of the state of Colorado to choose the proper education and training for the children under its care and supervision. | It is the right of the state of Colorado to choose the proper education and training for the children under its care and supervision. | It is the right of the private school's board (in some cases, along with the parent) to choose the proper education and training for the children under its care and supervision. | It is the primary right and obligation of the parents to choose the proper education and training for the children under their care and supervision. ** |
| Parent's Time Required | Parents are asked to help in classrooms plus may need to help child with homework . May also need to deliver and pick up children . | Parents may be required to help in school plus may need to help child with homework . May also need to deliver and pick up children . | Parents act as coach, overseeing student class work according to program schedule. Various amounts of grading and record keeping are also included. May be more class hours than homeschooling . | Varies, depending on number of hours spent at public school. Homeschool teaching and planning time is in addition to public school hours. May also need to deliver and pick up children . | Parents may be asked to help in classroom plus may need to help with homework. May also need to deliver and pick up children . | Teaching time plus planning, grading and recordkeeping . (Depending on curriculum, it may add a few to many hours a week in planning.) |
| Child's Time Required | 6-7 hrs per day plus 1 to 4 hrs of homework/day. | 6-8 hrs per day plus 1 to 4 hrs of homework/day. | About 6-7 hrs per day plus additional time if needed. | Public school hours plus homework assignments and homeschool hours . | 6-7 hrs per day plus 1 to 4 hrs of homework/day. | Child must receive instructional contact an average of 4 hrs/day for 172 days/year. |
| Control Over Schedule | Lowest ; government/school board sets all aspects of schedule. | Lowest ; government/charter school board sets all aspects of schedule. | Medium ; assignments must be done on time, but parent can usually decide daily schedule. | Medium low ; parent must plan day around public school hours to fit in home teaching time. | Low ; private schools have differing policies but it is still set by the school. | High ; outside of the number of days and hours the child must work, parent is in full control of the schedule. |
| Costs per Child | \$0 to parent, however school collects at least \$5500 , plus capital construction dollars, for each child from public taxes. | \$0 to parent, however the school collects at least \$5500 , for each child from public taxes. NOTE: charter schools don't get the capital construction \$\$ that regular public schools get. | \$0 to parent, however the school collects at least \$5500 , for each child from public taxes. Families may receive on loan computers, internet access, free material, and/or reimbursement for some expenses. NOTE: sometimes the computers only work for the particular program. | Amount school gets will vary. If child is in school more than 50% of day, school gets minimum of \$5500 , plus capital construction dollars. | \$1000 - \$10,000 per year , per child, paid by parent. | Average \$400 per year , per child, paid by parent. |

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| Safety of Child | Low ; most incidents of violence against school age children have happened in or around public schools. | Low to Medium , most charter schools have fewer incidents of crimes than public schools. | High ; children are with parents during the day. | Mixed ; low while child is at public school, high while at home. (See public school safety.) | Low to Medium ; most private schools have fewer incidents of crimes than public schools. | High ; children are with parents during the day. |
| Testing / Advancement | The state mandates that CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Test) is given to each child. Advancement determined by school. | The state mandates that CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Test) is given to each child. Other standardized tests, may also be used. Advancement is determined by school. | The state mandates that CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Test) is given to each child. Other standardized tests may be added. Advancement determined by school. | Testing may vary, however, pressure is being applied to make students take CSAP test to be in program. | Testing is subject to each school. Advancement determined by teacher and/or board. | Standardized test given every odd year to satisfy the state or receive a professional evaluation to indicate progress. Parent decides the pace of advancement for each child. |
| Parental Control over Curriculum | None ; school board has great influence, which parents may run for, but school is under government control. | Very low ; parents may be part of charter school board to help select curriculum but school is under the “charter” thereafter. | Very low ; curriculum choice limited to options offered through chosen school. | Medium ; parent may be able to select classes for their child of the ones offered. All home curriculum is same as homeschool. | Medium ; varies with chosen school. Private school board chooses curriculum. | High ; parents may choose material as long as certain subjects are covered. |
| Freedom from Government Control over Curriculum | None ; all aspects are controlled by school board, local, state, and federal government. | Low ; local, state, and federal governments have full control but allow more input from parents and school board. | Low ; curriculum chosen with full government/ school board approval but it may be added to. Individual school districts may change requirements and control. | Mixed ; low for classes at the public school, high for classes at home. | High ; private schools have a great deal of flexibility in what and how they teach. | Highest ; parents have the most freedom from government control when they teach their own child. |
| Religious Content/ Worldview | No Biblical worldview teaching allowed, however other beliefs are brought in through school material, teachers and other children. Public schools are becoming increasingly anti-Christian in their worldview and presentation of history. | No Biblical worldview teaching allowed, however, depending on the type of charter school, the school can be more “faith friendly”. | No Biblical worldview teaching allowed, however other beliefs are brought in through school material. Parents may add their own religious material but may not remove any material in lesson plan. | No Biblical worldview teaching allowed in public school. Other beliefs are brought in through school material, teachers and other children. Parents may add their own religious material. | Varied ; depends on the school chosen. The school controls religious teaching. | Greatest freedom ; parents may incorporate their own Biblical worldview. Bible may be made center of curriculum. |
| Family Involvement | Low ; parents may be involved in classroom but teacher/school controls involvement. In | Low ; parents may be involved in classroom but teacher/school controls involvement. In | Medium High ; whole family can learn together and some classes can be taught together. | Mixed ; depending on number of hours in public school. (See Public School and | Low ; parents may be involved in classroom but teacher/school controls involvement. In | Highest ; classes can be set up for whole family. Older children can help work with younger |

Educational Options in Colorado

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| | most cases no other family members are included. | most cases no other family members are included. | | Independent Private Homeschool boxes.) | most cases, no other family members are included. | children and extended family members can be included |
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Additional comments on Charter Schools: There is a wide variety of charter schools, from very liberal to very conservative, with the accompanying type of parents & children bringing their philosophies and attitudes. More importantly, the Board and Principal hire the teachers so find out what their views are before getting involved. Also check out the policies and procedures that are defined in the Charter. Some of the more conservative charter schools were started by Christians who can't home school and who can't afford private schools and thus will be much more family and faith friendly than all public schools and most other charter schools. NOTE: any group of people can start a charter school. While most are just a group of parents wanting more choice in education, some were started by groups of Christians who want better education and a better environment. While there is no such thing as a "Christian Charter School", some are decidedly more "Christian" than others. Note however that some non-Christian groups, most notably Mormons, started some charter schools. When getting involved with any public school, know the devil you are dealing with before getting involved.

** From CRS 22-33-104.5