



# Choices in Education: Bend, Oregon

Choosing the right school for your child is an important decision for your family. Here is a guide to help you understand the school options offered in Bend, Oregon.

## Public Schools

- Traditional schools with educational standards set by state
- Funded and controlled by government at the local (school district), State (Oregon Department of Education), and Federal (U.S. Department of Education) levels
- Available at no cost to all students who live within districts
- Reliant on tax dollars and susceptible to funding cuts
- Required to follow State teaching and evaluation guidelines
- Required to offer special education programs
- Generally larger class sizes
- No application or tuition fees



## Charter Schools

- Public schools independently operated with support from a group of parents, teachers, community organizations, and for-profit companies
- Funded with tax dollars and private fundraising
- Must follow basic curricular requirements
- Not governed by school boards or government authorities
- All students who live within districts are eligible (lottery system is required)
- Some specialize in specific areas (technology, arts...etc) and/or target gifted or high-risk students
- Application and acceptance required for admission
- No tuition fees



## Private Schools

- Private, not-for-profit schools that are financially and academically autonomous
- Funded with tuition, grants, donations and endowments
- Flexibility with curriculum
- Often parochial (associated with a religious organization but students do not have to be religious to attend)
- Required religious education classes and prayer services
- Generally smaller class sizes and academic rigor
- Application and acceptance required for admission
- Tuition fees (financial support is generally available)



## Magnet / Focus Schools

- Public schools often with a special curricular focus (science, technology, arts, etc.)
- Funded with tax dollars; may also receive additional federal funding
- Governed by local school district
- Lottery application process
- No tuition fees



## Independent Schools

- Private, not-for-profit schools that are financially and academically autonomous
- Funded with tuition payments, charitable contributions, and endowments (vs. taxes and church funds)
- Flexibility with curriculum
- Not bound to state test standards
- Governed by boards of trustees who define their missions
- Generally smaller class sizes and academic rigor
- Application and acceptance required for admission
- Tuition fees (financial support is generally available)



## Home Schools

- Parents who chose to educate their children at home instead of sending them to a public, private or independent school have the option of home schooling
- Legal requirements for home schooling in the U.S. vary from place to place
- In Central Oregon, students register for home school through the High Desert Education Service District



## Additional Information

- Find out more about the **Bend-La Pine School District**.
- Find out more about **Home School**.

