

# SCHOOL CHOICE IN IDAHO

OPTIONS TO THE TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Homeschooling / Charter Schools / Magnet Schools / Alternative Schools



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## INTRODUCTION

**School choice** allows parents and families the freedom to choose the method of education that will work best for their children. It allows for meaningful decisions regarding how and where the children will receive their education, whether in the public system or not. It is based on the idea that all children do not learn the same way and may have different needs and interests that need to be developed.

In Idaho, Public School Choice includes charter, magnet, alternative, and virtual schools, in addition to the traditional public school. Additionally, Idaho's legislature has allowed for home-schooling that is not regulated by the state in any fashion. Finally, private schools are also an option for choice. They are not included in this document.

## HOMESCHOOLING

### IDAHO DOES NOT REGULATE OR MONITOR HOMESCHOOL EDUCATION

**What does this mean? Homeschool education is directed solely by the parent/guardian.**

- No registration or sign up procedure
- Parents research and select the curriculum they wish to use
- A “packaged” curriculum is NOT provided by the State.  
(See list of organizations included to help with this process.)
- All costs associated with homeschool are the responsibility of the parent/guardian (textbooks, supplies, etc.)
- State funding is not available to provide assistance for homeschool

By law (Idaho Code 33-202), the parent or guardian is required to provide educational instruction in a private school, in a public school, in a public charter school or at home to any child resident between the ages of 7 – 16.

As a parent/guardian considering homeschooling, you are encouraged to contact the homeschool organizations and/or the public virtual education programs listed in this document for assistance.

Idaho’s statutes (laws) are also provided pertaining to school age, compulsory education, dual enrollment options, and proceedings against parents/guardians found to be negligent under the laws.

If, after reviewing the information provided, you still have questions, please contact the State Department of Education at (208) 332-6800.

#### **Important note regarding public high school diplomas:**

Completion of distance education coursework, while meeting the intent of state law, does not necessarily entitle a homeschooled student to a high school diploma from a local public school. Should a parent/guardian decide to enroll or re-enroll their child in a public school to pursue a

high school diploma, credits earned from Northwest Accreditation Commission/Advanced Ed (NWAC), or another regional accrediting association, are accepted by NWAC-accredited Idaho high schools. However, school districts have local policies concerning how their schools might recognize credits earned through distance education. For example, a school might recognize only a designated number of credits towards a high school diploma but may show all credits on the transcript. Parents utilizing these distance education programs should check with their local public school districts, in advance if possible, if they intend to request recognition of credit towards a public high school diploma.

## Homeschool Organizations and Information Links

The State Department of Education provides the following information as a service to help families exploring the home school option. The Department does not endorse or have any direct affiliation with these individuals, organizations or websites.

[Idaho Coalition of Home Educators webpage](#)

[Homeschooling in Idaho webpage](#)

[Homeschool World - Idaho webpage](#)

[Homeschool Legal Defense Association webpage](#)

[Homeschooling Information from About.com webpage](#)

[National Homeschool Organizations webpage](#)

## Home Schooling Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. How and where does Idaho law address education?**

Idaho Constitution, Article 9, Section 1 requires the state legislature to establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free, common schools. Idaho's education laws are found in [Title 33 of the Idaho Code](http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title33/T33.htm) (<http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title33/T33.htm>).

### **2. Who is responsible for the education of a child in Idaho?**

Parents are responsible for providing for their children's education.

Idaho Code, Title 33, Section 202: The parent or guardian of any child resident in this state who has attained the age of (7) years at the time of the commencement of school in his district, but not the age of sixteen (16) years, shall cause the child to be instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the public schools of the state of Idaho.

### **3. What choices do parents or guardians have under the law regarding their child's education?**

Parents may send their child to a public, private or parochial school or they can provide education at home. (See Idaho Code 33-202 in this packet)

### **4. What action can be taken against parents or guardians who might appear not to be providing educational instruction and are in violation of the Compulsory School Attendance mandate identified in Idaho Code 33-202?**

Proceedings may be brought against such parent or guardian under the provisions of the juvenile corrections act 20-510 and 20-522.

### **5. Must parents or guardians be certified teachers or meet other qualifications in order to teach their child at home?**

No. Idaho has no teacher certification requirement for a parent/guardian who chooses to provide an education for his/her child at home.

### **6. Are parents or guardians obligated to report attendance and/or grades to the local school district office or to a state agency?**

No. It is the sole responsibility of parents or guardians to monitor their child's progress and attendance in a homeschool.

### **7. Is there a requirement to conduct homeschool instruction on the exact same days the public schools are open?**

No. A parent or guardian has the responsibility of setting hours of instruction per day and deciding what days of the week instruction occurs. Parents should be aware of the instructional time requirements for public schools:

- Kindergarten, four hundred fifty (450) hours per year;
- Grades one through three (1-3), eight hundred ten (810) hours per year;
- Grades four through eight (4-8), nine hundred (900) hours per year; and
- Grades nine through twelve (9-12), nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year.
- Grades nine through twelve (9-12), 60 hours of total instruction per credit.

**8. What subjects must parents or guardians include in their child’s education in order to be in compliance?**

The State Board of Education’s Administrative Rules list core instructional requirements for public schools:

- Language Arts and Communication
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- And a variety of other subjects such as fine arts, health, and physical education.

To review this rule in its entirety, please visit Idaho [Rules Governing Thoroughness - Basic Curriculum](https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/08/0203.pdf) (https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/08/0203.pdf select 100-Basic Curriculum).

The State Department of Education has developed the Idaho Content Standards, which fully outlines the knowledge, skills and abilities expected of Idaho students by grade level and course subject. This is a resource that can be used to measure a student’s academic development. They can be found on the [Idaho State Department of Education Academic Standards webpage](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/standards/) (http://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/standards/).

**9. How does a parent determine the content of age or grade level appropriate curriculum?**

At this time, the State of Idaho does not have state-mandated curricula for the public schools. Each public school district in Idaho develops district standards that align with the state content standards and appropriate curricula for that district. Most schools (and school districts) will share their grade-level standards and curricula with homeschool instructors upon request.

**10. Where can a parent or guardian get the material/textbooks for homeschooling?**

Curriculum material/textbooks are available at school supply stores located throughout the state. There are also mail order companies that specialize in homeschool curricula. The specific homeschooling you choose will have recommendations.

**11. Who is responsible for costs associated with homeschooling?**

The parent or guardian is responsible for all costs associated with homeschooling. The Idaho State Department of Education does not provide funds or materials for homeschools.

**12. Is it possible for a homeschooled child to participate in public school classes or extra-curricular activities?**

Yes. Idaho Code, Section 33-203 (commonly known as the Dual Enrollment Law): The parent or guardian of a child of school age who is enrolled in a nonpublic school or public charter school shall be allowed to enroll the student in a public school for dual enrollment purposes. Contact the school or district for more information on enrollment and policies.

**13. May a home-schooled child participate in statewide tests or assessments?**

Yes. Home-schooled students may participate in statewide achievement tests (ISAT, SBAC) along with public school students. If parents or guardians wish their home-schooled child to participate in the testing, the parent or guardian must notify the public school at the beginning of the school year. (The public school will include the child in the number provided to the state when ordering test materials.) Test results will be available from the school. Parents are required to pay for the tests their students take.

**14. Who is responsible for determining the placement (grade-level) of a student transferring from homeschool to public school?**

It is the responsibility of the school (or district) to place transferred students in an appropriate grade. The Idaho State Department of Education does not dictate policy to school districts regarding the placement of students. Examples of what a district may use for determining placement include testing, review of homeschool coursework and/or records, or provisional placement in an age-level grade.

**15. If parents decide to homeschool their child, how do they withdraw their child from a public school?**

Parents should contact the school office, in person and/or in writing, to let the school know that the child will be instructed at home and is being withdrawn from public school. The school may have a withdrawal form to be completed by the parent or guardian. If a parent does not withdraw the child, the child may remain on the school attendance list and may be considered truant.

**16. Can a home-schooled student receive a high school diploma from the state or from a public school?**

No. Idaho does not have a state diploma, and school districts issue diplomas for students who have taken their course work in that school system and completed the district's requirements for graduation. Parents or guardians can learn more about specific school district policies on home instruction by contacting the district in which they reside.

**17. What is the obligation of the school district in providing credit for home-schooled students?**

Districts have no obligation to acknowledge or accept credit from any non-accredited educational agency or from a homeschool transcript.

High schools accredited through the AdvancEd/ Northwest Accreditation Committee (NWAC) accept credits earned from those distance-learning programs and other educational agencies accredited through AdvancEd or any of the other five regional accrediting associations. However, school districts have considerable flexibility in developing local policy concerning the number of distance education credits that can be recognized towards the awarding of a diploma from their high schools.

Providing portfolios of student work, course syllabus, and measurement tools used during the home school instruction may help increase the likelihood the student will earn credit for their prior work when enrolling in a public school.

**18. If I choose to use my own curricular materials in instructing my child at home rather than utilize an accredited distance education program, is there a way that my students could get a high school diploma if they enter the high school at a later date, i.e. their junior or senior year?**

If the curriculum being used is not from an accredited school, School Districts are under no obligation to accept the completed course work of a homeschool student.

However, Districts may, but are not obligated to, use proficiency tests in selected subject areas to accommodate students who have been homeschooled. In these situations a homeschooled student could challenge the content of the course by passing the test and be given credit. District policy determines which courses can be challenged and the extent to which such credit earned might be recognized towards a high school diploma. Parents should check with the local school district concerning their policy in recognizing or awarding credit earned through non-accredited programs or homeschools before enrolling their student.

**19. Does the state pay for home-schooled students SAT tests?**

No, the SAT tests administered to juniors by the public schools and paid for by the state are only available for students enrolled part- or full-time in the public schools.

**20. Are other options available to homeschooled students who have completed their education?**

At the age of eighteen a student may take the General Education Development (GED) test and, upon successful completion of all requirements, may apply for a GED Certificate or an Idaho High School Equivalency Certificate. There are exceptions to the age criteria. More

information regarding the GED is available through [Idaho Career and Technical Education GED website](https://cte.idaho.gov/students/ged/) (https://cte.idaho.gov/students/ged/).

**21. If a child does not graduate from an accredited high school, can he or she attend a public college or university in Idaho?**

Yes, a homeschooled student may attend an Idaho college or university after attaining a satisfactory score on an entrance examination or passing a GED examination. The student may be enrolled on a provisional basis that could change to regular enrollment status after successfully completing a number of semesters. Contact the college or university admissions office for specific enrollment requirements.

**22. How does a homeschool student obtain their driver's license?**

To obtain a driver's permit and license, a homeschool student will need to go to their local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The DMV office will have the appropriate paperwork needed for the homeschool student. For questions, it would be best to contact your local DMV or the Idaho Transportation Department at (208) 334-8735.

## **Idaho Statutes Related to Home Schooling**

### **Idaho Code 33-201. School Age**

The services of the public schools of this state are extended to any acceptable person of school age. "School age" is defined as including all persons resident of the state, between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21) years. For the purposes of this section, the age of five (5) years shall be attained when the fifth anniversary of birth occurs on or before the first day of September of the school year in which the child is to enroll in kindergarten. For a child enrolling in the first grade, the age of six (6) years must be reached on or before the first day of September of the school year in which the child is to enroll. Any child of the age of five (5) years who has completed a private or public out-of-state kindergarten for the required four hundred fifty (450) hours but has not reached the "school age" requirement in Idaho shall be allowed to enter the first grade.

For resident children with disabilities who qualify for special education and related services under the federal individuals with disabilities education act (IDEA) and subsequent amendments thereto, and applicable state and federal regulations, "school age" shall begin at the attainment of age three (3) and shall continue through the semester of school in which the student attains the age of twenty-one (21) years.

### **Idaho Code 33-202. School Attendance Compulsory.**

The parent or guardian of any child resident in this state who has attained the age of seven (7) years at the time of the commencement of school in his district, but not the age of sixteen (16) years, shall cause the child to be instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the

public schools of the state of Idaho. To accomplish this, a parent or guardian shall either cause the child to be privately instructed by, or at the direction of, his parent or guardian; or enrolled in a public school or public charter school, including an on-line or virtual charter school or private or parochial school during a period in each year equal to that in which the public schools are in session; there to conform to the attendance policies and regulations established by the board of trustees, or other governing body, operating the school attended.

#### **Idaho Code 33-203. Dual Enrollment.**

1. The parent or guardian of a child of school age who is enrolled in a nonpublic school or a public charter school shall be allowed to enroll the student in a public school for dual enrollment purposes. The board of trustees of the school district shall adopt procedures governing enrollment pursuant to this section. If enrollment in a specific program reaches the maximum for the program, priority for enrollment shall be given to a student who is enrolled full time in the public non-charter school.
2. Any student participating in dual enrollment may enter into any program in the public school available to other students subject to compliance with the eligibility requirements herein and the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance that apply to any student's participation in the activity, except that the academic eligibility requirements for participation in nonacademic activities are as provided herein.
3. Any school district shall be allowed to include dual-enrolled nonpublic school and public charter school students for the purposes of state funding only to the extent of the student's participation in the public school programs.
4. Oversight of academic standards relating to participation in nonacademic public school activities shall be the responsibility of the primary educational provider for that student. In order for any nonpublic school student or public charter school student to participate in nonacademic public school activities for which public school students must demonstrate academic proficiency or eligibility, the nonpublic school or public charter school student shall demonstrate composite grade-level academic proficiency on any state board of education recognized achievement test, portfolio, or other mechanism as provided for in state board of education rules. Additionally, a student shall be eligible if he achieves a minimum composite, core or survey test score with the average or higher than average range as established by the test service utilized on any nationally-normed test. Demonstrated proficiency shall be used to determine eligibility for the current and next following school years. School districts shall provide to nonpublic students who wish to participate in dual enrollment activities the opportunity to take state tests or other standardized tests given to all regularly enrolled public school students.
5. A public school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility is ineligible to participate in nonacademic public school activities as a nonpublic school or public charter school student for the duration of the school year in which the student becomes academically ineligible and for the following academic year.

6. A nonpublic school or public charter school student participating in nonacademic public school activities must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school for which the student participates.
7. Dual enrollment shall include the option of joint enrollment in a regular public school and an alternative public school program. The state board of education shall establish rules that provide funding to school districts for each student who participates in both a regular public school program and an alternative public school program.
8. Dual enrollment shall include the option of enrollment in a post-secondary institution. Any credits earned from an accredited post-secondary institution shall be credited toward state board of education high school graduation requirements.
9. A nonpublic student is any student who receives educational instruction outside a public school classroom and such instruction can include, but is not limited to, a private school or a homeschool.

#### **Idaho Code 33-206. Habitual truant defined.**

1. An habitual truant is:
  - a) any public school pupil who, in the judgment of the board of trustees, repeatedly has violated the attendance regulations established by the board; or
  - b) any child whose parents or guardians, or any of them, have failed or refused to cause such child to be instructed as provided in section 33-202, Idaho Code.
2. A child who is a habitual truant shall come under the purview of the juvenile corrections act if he or she is within the age of compulsory attendance.

#### **Idaho Code 33-207. Proceedings Against Parents or Guardians.**

1. Whenever the parents or guardians of any child between the ages of seven (7) years, as qualified in section 33-202, Idaho Code, and sixteen (16) years, have failed, neglected or refused to place the child in school as provided in this chapter or to have the child instructed as defined in section 33-202, Idaho Code, or knowingly have allowed a pupil to become an habitual truant, proceedings shall be brought against such parent or guardian under the provisions of the juvenile corrections act or as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section.
2. Whenever it is determined by the board of trustees of any school district that a child enrolled in public school is a habitual truant, as defined in section 33-206, Idaho Code, an authorized representative of the board shall notify in writing the prosecuting attorney in the county of the child's residence. Proceedings may be brought directly against any parent or guardian of a public school pupil who is found to have knowingly allowed such pupil to become an habitual truant, and such parent or guardian shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
3. Whenever it is determined by the board under provisions providing due process of law for the student and his or her parents that the parents or guardians of any child not enrolled in a

public school are failing to meet the requirements of section 33-202, Idaho Code, an authorized representative of the board shall notify in writing the prosecuting attorney in the county of the pupil's residence and recommend that a petition shall be filed in the magistrates division of the district court of the county of the pupil's residence, in such form as the court may require under the provisions of section 20-510, Idaho Code.

#### **Idaho Code 20-510. Information -- Investigation -- Petition.**

Any peace officer, any prosecuting attorney, or any authorized representative of the board of trustees of a school district of this state, having knowledge of a juvenile who is within the purview of this act may file a petition with the court in such form as may be required by the court, except a peace officer may also issue a citation for a curfew violation pursuant to section 20-549, Idaho Code. Said individual or agency shall be responsible for providing the evidence to support the allegations made in the petition, provided this in no way shall relieve peace officers from enforcement of the law as set forth in section 31-2227, Idaho Code, Enforcement of Penal Laws. The court shall make a preliminary inquiry to determine whether the interests of the public or of the juvenile require that further action be taken.

Such inquiry may be made through the county probation officer or such other agent or investigation officer designated by the court. Thereupon, the court may make such informal adjustment as is practicable, or dismiss the petition, or set the matter for hearing. If an informal adjustment is made, it shall provide for full or partial restitution in the manner and form prescribed by the court when the offense involves loss or damage of property of another. A probation officer shall not file a petition unless the juvenile has previously been under the jurisdiction of the court. The petition and all subsequent court documents shall be entitled "In the interest of ..., a juvenile under eighteen (18) years of age." The petition may be made upon information and belief but it shall be made under oath. It shall set forth plainly: (1) the facts which bring the juvenile within the purview of this act; (2) the name, age, and residence of the juvenile; (3) the names and residences of his parents and spouse, if any; (4) the name and residence of his legal guardian, if there be one, or the person or persons having custody or control of the juvenile, or of the nearest known relative if no parent or guardian can be found. If any of the facts herein required are not known by the petitioner the petition shall so state.

Service of a petition upon the parents, legal guardian or person or persons having custody or control of the juvenile shall subject the parents, legal guardian or person or persons having custody or control of the juvenile to the provisions of this chapter. The petition shall inform the parents, legal guardian or other person legally obligated to care for and support the juvenile that service of the petition upon them shall make them subject to the provisions of this chapter.

### **Idaho Code, Title 49, Section 303A. Motor Vehicle Driver's Licenses**

Driver's license or permits issued to certain persons under the age of eighteen years. (1) Attendance requirements. The department may issue a driver's license, a class D driver's training instruction permit, a class D supervised instruction permit, or a class D instruction permit to a minor younger than eighteen (18) years of age if, at the time of application, the minor:

- (a) Has received a high school diploma, a high school equivalency diploma, a special diploma or a certificate of high school completion;
- (b) Is enrolled in a public or private school and satisfies relevant attendance requirements;
- (c) Is enrolled in a study course in preparation for a test of general educational development and satisfies relevant attendance requirements;
- (d) Is enrolled in a home education program and satisfies the requirements of rules of the state board of education and the state department of education for such programs; provided that students shall be in compliance with the requirements and have been enrolled in the home education program for at least one (1) school year prior to verification of the attendance request, unless documentation of meeting the requirements of this section in the school year contiguous to enrollment in the home education program can be provided;
- (e) Is enrolled in an accredited college or university;
- (f) Is enrolled in a postsecondary vocational program or a postsecondary adult vocational program and satisfying relevant attendance requirements;
- (g) Is enrolled in a job training program pursuant to state or federal law and satisfying relevant attendance requirements; or
- (h) Is enrolled in other educational activities approved by the board of trustees of the school district and satisfying relevant attendance requirements.

(2) (a) An applicant for a driver's license who is under the age of eighteen (18) shall provide written verification of compliance with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section or receipt of a waiver therefrom pursuant to subsection (3) of this section to the department. The necessary verification shall be obtained from the school district. If the applicant is enrolled in or has graduated from a private high school, the verification shall be obtained by the applicant from the governing body of the private school. A school district shall not refuse to provide written verification of compliance with the requirements of this section to the department.

- (b) Schools may implement interventions designed to improve student attendance with their district policies and procedures.
- (c) When applying for a license or any instruction permit, an applicant under age eighteen (18) must provide written verification to the department of compliance with the

requirements of subsection (1) of this section or receipt of a waiver therefrom, pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. Written verification shall be obtained from the applicant's school. The applicant's school shall not refuse to provide written verification of compliance with the requirements of this section to the department.

(3) (a) A public school principal, or the principal's designee, or the designee of the governing body of a private school shall provide written notification to a minor and the minor's parent, guardian or custodian of the school district's or private school's intent to request that the department suspend the minor's driving privileges because the minor has dropped out of school and has failed to comply with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section.

(b) The minor or the parent, guardian or custodian of the minor shall have fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of receipt of this notice to request a hearing before the public school principal, or the principal's designee, or the designee of the governing body of a private school for the purpose of reviewing the pending suspension. The hearing shall be conducted within thirty (30) calendar days after the public school principal, or the principal's designee, or the designee of the governing body of a private school receives the request.

(c) The public school principal, or the principal's designee, or the designee of the governing body of a private school shall waive the requirements of subsection (1) of this section for any minor under its jurisdiction for whom a personal or family hardship requires that the minor have a driver's license for his or her own or his or her family's employment or medical care. The public school principal, or the principal's designee, or the designee of the governing body of a private school shall take into account the recommendations of teachers, other school officials, guidance counselors or academic advisors prior to granting a waiver to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section.

(d) The hardship waiver provided in paragraph (c) of this section shall be requested, if desired by the minor or the minor's parent, guardian or custodian at the initial hearing.

(4) Any person denied a hardship waiver by a public school principal, or the principal's designee, or the designee of the governing body of a private school may appeal the decision to the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body of the private school. The public or private school shall notify the department of all students not in compliance with subsection (1) of this section or who have been granted a hardship waiver pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(5) Upon receiving written verification that the reinstatement fees have been paid and the minor is again in compliance with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, the department shall reinstate the minor's privilege to drive. Thereafter, if the school district determines that the minor is not in compliance with the requirements of subsection (1), the department shall suspend the minor's driving privilege until the minor is eighteen (18) years old or otherwise satisfies the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, whichever occurs first.

(6) The department shall report quarterly to each school district the disposition of all requests to suspend driver's licenses of students of that district. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, each school district and each private school shall report the number of notifications issued of possible student driver's license suspensions based on nonattendance, requests to the department to suspend a driver's license and student driver's licenses actually suspended.

## VIRTUAL AND DISTANCE EDUCATION SCHOOLS

The schools listed below are virtual, on-line, and distance education schools which are free, public schools and students may receive a diploma from these schools. The schools may provide flexibility for students that need different schedules, are in rural areas, or have unique circumstances that make traditional schools a challenge. In addition to those listed, school districts in Idaho have developed their own online programs and should be contacted for additional information.

Please contact the schools or districts directly for additional information.

[Another Choice Virtual Charter School](http://www.anotherchoicecharter.org), K-12 – Public Charter School  
1014 W. Hemingway Boulevard  
Nampa, ID 83651  
(208) 475-4255  
<http://www.anotherchoicecharter.org>

[Bonneville Online School](http://www.boslions.com/), K-8 – Public School  
3385 North Iona Road  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
208-557-6836  
<http://www.boslions.com/>

[Bonneville Online High School](http://www.d93online.com/), 9-12 – Public School  
3385 North Iona Road  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
208-557-6879  
<http://www.d93online.com/>

[Idaho Connects Online School](http://iconschool.org), 6-12 – Public Charter School  
1st 6th Street North  
Nampa, ID 83687  
(208) 287-3668  
<http://iconschool.org>

[Idaho Distance Education Academy](http://www.idahoidea.org), K-12 – Public Charter School  
P.O. Box 339  
Bovill, Idaho 83806  
Phone: (208) 877-1513  
<http://www.idahoidea.org>

[Idaho Technical Career Academy](http://itca.k12.com/), K-12 – Public Charter School  
1965 S Eagle Road, Suite 150  
Meridian, ID 83642  
Phone: (208) 917-2420  
<http://itca.k12.com/>

**Idaho Virtual Academy**, K-12 – Public Charter School  
1965 S Eagle Road, Suite 190  
Meridian, ID 83642  
Phone: (208) 322-3559  
<http://www.K12.com/idva>

**INSPIRE Academics**, K-12 – Public Charter School  
600 N Steelhead Way, Bldg 3, Suite 164  
Boise, Idaho 83704  
Phone: (208) 322-4002  
<http://www.connectionsacademy.com/idaho-school/home.aspx>

**iSucceed Virtual High School**, 9-12 - Public Charter School  
6148 N Discovery Way, Suite 120  
Boise, ID 83713  
Phone: (208) 375-3116  
<http://www.isucceedvhs.net>

**Kootenai Bridge Academy**, 11-12 - Public Charter School  
606 River Street  
Coeur d'Alene 83814  
Phone: (208) 930-4515  
<http://kootenaibridgeacademy.org>

**Richard McKenna Charter High School**, 9-12 - Public Charter School for at risk students  
675 South Haskett Street  
Mountain Home, ID 83647-2333  
(208) 580-2449 or (888) 580-2449  
<http://www.rmckenna.org>

**Vallivue Virtual Academy** - Public School  
5207 S. Montana  
Caldwell, ID 83607  
Phone: (208) 454-2445  
<https://sites.google.com/a/vallivue.org/vallivue-school-district/vallivue-virtual-academy>

**Other:**

**Idaho Digital Learning Academy**, 9-12 – Online course provider (not a school)  
1303 E Central Drive, Suite 200  
Meridian, ID 83642  
(208) 342-0207  
<http://idahodigitalllearning.org>.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are free, public schools that are open to all students. A charter school gives parents the choice of sending their children to a school that uses innovative methods, provides a specific type of instruction, has a unique schedule, or is smaller than the neighborhood school. Enrollment is open to all students and is often determined by a lottery due to the limited spaces available. Each school has a specific application period for the next year's enrollment. If students apply after that time and spaces are not available they will be placed on the waiting list for that school.

Additional general information about charter schools can be found on the [Idaho State Department of Education's Charter School web site](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/school-choice/charter/) (http://www.sde.idaho.gov/school-choice/charter/).

A list of the charters schools including contact information and the school's web sites can be found on the [Idaho State Department of Education's Charter School web site](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/school-choice/charter/) (http://www.sde.idaho.gov/school-choice/charter/).

## MAGNET SCHOOLS

Magnet Schools are free public elementary and secondary public schools of choice that are operated by school districts. Magnet schools have a focused theme and aligned curriculum to themes such as Science, Technology and Engineering (STEM), Fine and Performing Arts, International Baccalaureate, and International Studies, Career Tech, World Languages (immersion and non-immersion) and many others. The following is a current list of the magnet schools in the state. Contact your local school district to find out more about their magnet schools.

School	Focus	District
Treasure Valley Math/Science	Math/Science	Boise
Mountain View Elementary	Alternative - inquiry based	Bonneville
Lakes Magnet School	Health Science Art	CDA
Ramsey Magnet School of Science	Science	CDA
Sorensen Magnet School	Arts and Humanities	CDA
AH Bush Elementary	Math/Science	Idaho Falls
Compass Academy	Project based technology	Idaho Falls
Barbara Morgan STEM Academy	STEM	Meridian
Chief Joseph School of the Arts	Arts	Meridian
Christine Donnell School of the Arts	Arts	Meridian
Eagle Elementary School of the Arts	Arts	Meridian
Galileo Magnet School	STEM	Meridian
Gateway School of Language and Culture	Language	Meridian
Heritage Middle School	Science	Meridian
Lewis & Clark Middle School	Technology	Meridian
Lowell Scott Middle School	Arts	Meridian
Paramount Elementary	Literacy	Meridian
Pioneer School of the Arts	Arts	Meridian
Renaissance High School	International Baccalaureate	Meridian
Spalding Elementary	STEM	Meridian
Summerwind School of Math and Science	STEM	Meridian
New Horizon Magnet School	Dual Language	Nampa

## ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Alternative secondary programs are those that provide special instructional courses and offer special services to eligible at-risk youth to enable them to earn a high school diploma. Contact your local school district to find out if your student qualifies as an alternative student. Additional information regarding alternative schools in the state can be found on the [Idaho State Department of Education Alternative School webpage](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/school-choice/alternative/) (<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/school-choice/alternative/>).

The current qualifications are as follows:

An at-risk youth is any secondary student, grade six through twelve (7-12,) who meets any three (3) of the following criteria in column A **or** any one (1) criteria in column B.

Alternative School At-risk Qualifiers			
Column A		Column B	
1	Has repeated at least one (1) grade.	1	Has substance abuse behavior.
2	Has absenteeism that is greater than ten (10%) percent during the preceding semester.	2	Is pregnant or a parent.
3	Has an overall grade point average that is less than 1.5 (4.0 scale) prior to enrolling in an alternative secondary program.	3	Is an emancipated youth.
4	Has failed one (1) or more academic subjects.	4	Is a previous dropout.
5	Is two (2) or more semester credits per year behind the rate required to graduate.	5	Has serious personal, emotional, or medical problems.
6	Is a limited English proficient student who has not been in a program more than three (3) years.	6	Has a court or agency referral.
		7	Upon recommendation of the school district as determined by locally developed criteria for disruptive student behavior

