

St Louis School Choice Overview



What are my education options in St. Louis?

Public school options

- **Magnet schools** are public schools that offer specialized courses and curricula. St. Louis Public Schools currently offers 27 magnet schools at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

The magnet school application period begins September 1 each year for admission to a magnet school the following school year. Admission is by application only and applicants must meet eligibility criteria. There are typically more applicants than seats available, so a lottery system is used to determine enrollment. For more information, and to check availability for the 2013-2014 school year, contact the St. Louis Public Schools Recruitment and Counseling Center at 314-633-5200 or log on to www.slpsmagnetschools.org.

- **Charter schools** are elementary, middle and high schools that receive public money but operate independently of the traditional public school system.

There are no tests or eligibility requirements to enroll in a charter school in St. Louis, but all applicants must live in the city of St. Louis or be a suburban student enrolled in the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) program, also commonly referred to as the Deseg program. Like magnet schools, there are limited seats in charter schools so be sure to check availability. For comprehensive information about charter school options in St. Louis, contact the Missouri Charter Public School Association at 314-776-3551 or log on to www.mocharterschools.org.

- **Interdistrict enrollment** allows students to attend school outside of their home district. In St. Louis, the program is facilitated by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC).

Through VICC, African-American students living in the city of St. Louis may be able to attend certain schools in participating county school districts based on space available. To find out more and to apply, call 314-721-8422 or log on to www.choicecorp.org/CICO.htm

Tuition-based schools

There are many private school options in the St. Louis area. Check out some of the resources below.

- The Archdiocese of St. Louis oversees hundreds of Catholic schools in the St. Louis area. Contact them at 314-792-7300 or log on to www.archstl.org/education.
- The Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation provides financial assistance to low-income families interested in faith-based and private schooling. Contact them at 314-792-7621 or at www.archstl.org/ttef.
- Independent Schools of St. Louis represents 44 of the area's most highly acclaimed private schools. Financial assistance is available at many of the schools; once you find a school that you are interested in, contact the school's Financial Aid Officer. Find a school that might be a good fit for your child on their website at www.independentschools.org or contact them directly at 314-567-9229.