

School Choice Resources for Louisiana Journalists

Welcome! This plain-text guide provides information about school choice in Louisiana for reporters covering stories related to [National School Choice Week](#) (January 25–31, 2026) and beyond. For more information, please contact:

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To schedule a conversation with one of our team members, including [Andrew Campanella](#), [Shelby Doyle](#), or [Krissia Campos Spivey](#), about school choice policy and options in Louisiana or nationally, call or email Lauren.

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NSCW Overview

School Choice Week in Louisiana Begins January 25

National School Choice Week begins Jan. 25 in Louisiana and across the country. In the Pelican State, 498 schools and nonprofits are hosting events and activities, spanning 54 of the state's 64 parishes and collectively serving an estimated 233,000 students. To raise additional awareness, Gov. Jeff Landry has issued a proclamation recognizing Jan. 25–31 as Louisiana School Choice Week.

The week's goal is to help families learn more about the K–12 learning options available for their children, including public, charter, magnet, private, online, home, and nontraditional learning environments. More than 28,000 events across the country are being planned.

Notable events and activities include: Hosanna Christian Academy in Baton Rouge is hosting a school choice pep rally; St. Landry Charter School in Opelousas is holding a student celebration day with a pep rally assembly; Lake Charles Charter Academy is marking the week with a pep rally kickoff, spirit week, and open house; and Cornerstone Christian Academy in Jonesboro is hosting a morning assembly with giveaways. In New Orleans, St. Mary's Academy is organizing an open house and assembly while Boothville-Venice Elementary School is celebrating with a pep rally featuring music, dancing, and student performances.

For updated event details or more information, please visit <https://schoolchoiceweek.com/louisiana>.

About School Choice and NSCW

School choice is the process of parents selecting the schools that best fit their children's individual interests and needs. Held each January, [National School Choice Week](#) helps families learn more about the learning options available for their children. Organized by the nonprofit [National School Choice Awareness Foundation](#), the week raises equal awareness of public, public charter, public magnet, private, online, home, and nontraditional learning environments. Since 2011, National School Choice Week has spotlighted 235,000 independent events hosted by schools, nonprofits, and parent leaders.

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School Choice Landscape

K-12 Education Options for Parents in Louisiana

Parents in Louisiana have much more flexibility in choosing public, private, home, and nontraditional learning environments for their children than families in other states, as the Pelican State is a national leader in providing families with K–12 schooling options.

Private school choice options have significantly expanded for Louisiana families over the past several years. The biggest policy shift was the transition of the state’s private school voucher program into an education savings account model, scheduled to begin in the 2025–26 school year. This followed a prior increase to the state’s private school tuition tax credit.

Traditional Public Schools

Louisiana offers more than 1,280 traditional public schools for K–12 students. These schools are run by school districts and do not charge tuition, and students are usually assigned to attend a public school in their neighborhood or region. In addition, the state sometimes allows parents to send their children to another public school in limited circumstances such as when a school is identified as academically struggling, with districts deciding placement and transportation varying.

Public Charter Schools

Louisiana is home to about 150 charter schools. Charter schools are tuition-free public schools that are allowed to determine many of their own policies and innovate within the public education system. These schools are widely available across many communities, and transportation availability varies by school.

Public Magnet Schools

Magnet schools are tuition-free public schools or programs that focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing arts. Louisiana offers several magnet schools across the state. Transportation policies vary by district.

Private Schools

There are more than 400 private schools in Louisiana. These schools charge tuition and set their own admissions policies. The state has several programs that help families afford private schooling; the primary program is the GATOR Scholarship, an education savings account for eligible low-income students that provides about \$6,000–\$8,000 per year for private school tuition and other education expenses.

Online Learning

Louisiana offers several full-time, tuition-free online schools, where students learn from qualified educators and collaborate with classmates via the internet, including Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy and University View Academy.

Homeschooling

In Louisiana, parents have the freedom to homeschool their children. Families who want to educate their children at home must file an annual notice of intent, teach required subjects, and complete required assessment or evaluation; homeschool students may be eligible to participate in classes, sports, or activities at local public schools, though restrictions may apply.

Nontraditional Education

Microschools are small group learning environments that are often established by families or educators to respond to local needs. Microschooling in Louisiana includes private microschools and homeschool-based classical communities. Examples include De Beau Microschool and Sequitur Classical Academy in Baton Rouge.

Editor's note: Information in this analysis may be used with attribution to the National School Choice Awareness Foundation.

Parent Survey Data

A record number of U.S. parents searched for new schools in 2025, survey finds

MIAMI (Jan. 12, 2026) — A record 46 million U.S. parents considered finding a new K–12 school for at least one of their children in 2025, marking a five-year high in school-search activity, according to a new national survey released Monday.

The [survey](#) found that 75% of parents of school-aged children considered, searched for, or enrolled a child in a new or different school last year, up from 60% the year before. Twenty-one percent of parents — about 13.3 million nationwide — ultimately enrolled at least one child in a new learning environment.

The findings come from a nationally representative survey of 3,960 U.S. parents conducted by the National School Choice Awareness Foundation ahead of National School Choice Week, which runs Jan. 25–31.

School-search activity spanned a wide range of outcomes. Twenty-three percent of parents considered new schools but did not actively search, while 31% searched but did not enroll a child. Parents living in cities, higher-income households, and younger parents were more likely to search, while parents in small towns and rural communities were more likely to follow through with enrollment once they began the process.

Most parents who enrolled their children in new schools said their decisions were driven by practical factors rather than dissatisfaction alone. Common reasons included children entering school for the first time, moving between grade levels, or families relocating. Thirty-two percent cited dissatisfaction with a previous school as the primary reason for enrolling elsewhere.

Parents who enrolled said they prioritized student well-being when choosing a new school. Safety and a supportive school environment ranked highest, followed by a positive social environment and a particular educational theme or instructional approach, such as STEM, arts-focused, or faith-based education.

Parents who ultimately enrolled were more likely to engage directly with schools during their search, including visiting campuses in person, reviewing school websites, and speaking with administrators. Conversations with family members, friends, and other parents also played a role, as did open houses and school tours.

Despite high interest, many parents did not complete the enrollment process. More than half of U.S. parents considered or searched for a new school but did not enroll a child. The most common barriers included concerns about disrupting a child's academic or social life, uncertainty about making the wrong decision, limited availability or waitlists, and transportation challenges.

Looking ahead, interest in school choice is expected to remain high. Nearly two-thirds of parents said they are likely to consider new schools for at least one of their children in 2026, according to the survey.

“Over the past five years, more than 30 states have expanded public and private learning options for families, and new and nontraditional learning environments have opened their doors,” said Andrew Campanella, CEO of the National School Choice Awareness Foundation. “As a result, exercising education options is no longer a niche exception, but an expectation for many parents.”

[Download the survey report here.](#)

[Visit the survey web page here.](#)

Guest Column for Republication

What Families in Louisiana Should Know About Their School Options

By Andrew Campanella

All children in Louisiana and across America deserve the opportunity to learn, thrive, succeed, and pursue their dreams.

That's why one in five parents last year enrolled at least one of their children in a new K–12 school. In fact, the process of moms and dads actively choosing how and where their children learn—often referred to as school choice—reached a five-year high in 2025.

Meanwhile, more than 60% of parents say they are likely to consider a new school for at least one of their children in 2026—suggesting another active year for families making enrollment decisions. What that means for your family depends, in large part, on where you live.

In Louisiana, parents have more education options than they may realize. Alongside assigned traditional public schools, the Pelican State is a national leader in giving families meaningful flexibility in choosing how and where their children learn.

Within the public education system, tuition-free schooling options include charter schools (which are widely available), theme-based magnet schools (available in several districts), and full-time online schools. In some districts, parents may also be able to send their children to traditional public schools outside of their zones, depending on local policies and circumstances, including transfers from schools identified as academically struggling.

Parents can also consider private schools, and Louisiana's GATOR Scholarship Program helps eligible families make private education more affordable by providing funding that can be used for private school tuition and other approved education expenses. Finally, Louisiana moms and dads have the freedom to educate their children at home, and some families pair homeschooling with private microschools or classical learning communities.

If you want to explore these education options in advance of the 2026–27 school year, the time to begin that process is now. National School Choice Week begins January 25, with 498 school events across Louisiana, including school fairs, open houses, parent nights, and information sessions.

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Before starting your search, it can help to pause and write down your goals for your child and what you want in an ideal learning environment. Doing so helps center the process on what—and who—really matters: your daughter or your son. When possible, visit schools and schedule tours or meetings with staff. Research shows that parents who visit schools in person

are twice as likely to enroll their children in a new school as parents who search without touring or visiting.

During those visits, ask questions. One of the most common mistakes parents make is accepting education jargon—of which there is plenty—at face value. If you do not understand a term, a reference to curriculum or instructional methods, or a school policy, ask for clarification until you do. You may also want to talk with other parents about their experiences, while keeping in mind that their perspectives are shaped by their own child's unique needs.

And remember: you know your child better than anyone else. When it comes to your child's well-being, you are the expert. Finding the right school is not about choosing what works for everyone—it's about choosing what fits your daughter or son best.

For a free guide to school choice options in Louisiana, visit <https://myschoolchoice.com/louisiana>

*[Andrew Campanella](#) is the CEO of the National School Choice Awareness Foundation, the nonprofit organization that coordinates National School Choice Week, Navigate School Choice, and Conoce tus Opciones Escolares. He is also the author of *The School Choice Roadmap: 7 Steps to Choosing the Right School for Your Child*.*

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