School Choice Landscape

Presentation to the House Subcommittee for Secondary Education and Career Development

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Our Research on Choice Programs and Today’s Presentation

Scope of research

OPPAGA reviewed 21 school choice programs and provided descriptions of each, as well as data on enrollment trends, student participation, and demographics where available.

Today’s Presentation

Today we will present select information from our research including:

- Choice options offered to public school students
- Highlight of programs related to preparing students for college and careers
Background and State Overview
Education Settings Throughout Florida

Florida students can access education within three major settings:

- **Public School**: 86% of students
- **Private School**: 11% of students
- **Home Education**: 3% of students

Percentage of Students in Each Education Setting, 2019-20
Education Settings, 2019-20

Public School

3,611 public schools

2,792,448 K-12 students

Race/Ethnicity

- White: 37%
- Hispanic/Latino: 34%
- African American: 22%
- Multiracial: 4%
- Asian: 3%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.3%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 0.2%

Gender

- Male: 51%
- Female: 49%

English Language Learners: 10%

Students With Disabilities: 14%

Eligible for Free or Reduced Meals: 54%

Private School

2,821 private schools

352,821 students

Race/Ethnicity

- White: 50%
- Hispanic: 28%
- African American: 18%
- Asian: 3%
- American Indian: 0.4%
- Pacific Islander: 0.4%

Home Education

106,115 students

Demographic data includes the 85% of students at schools that chose to report demographics on the annual survey to the Department of Education.

No demographic information available.
# Overview of School Choice in Florida

Florida offers a variety of school choice options for students and families within each educational setting.

**1. Public School Options**
- Alternate Public School Settings
  - Charter Schools
  - Controlled Open Enrollment
  - Lab Schools
  - Opportunity Scholarships
  - Virtual Education
- Specialized Instruction Programs
  - Gifted Programs
  - Magnet Schools
  - Reading Scholarships
  - Career and Professional Academies
- High School Acceleration Programs
  - Advanced International Certificate Education
  - Advanced Placement
  - Dual Enrollment
  - International Baccalaureate

**2. Non-Public Options**
- Private Schools
- Home Education
- Family Empowerment Scholarships
- Gardiner Scholarships

**3. Public School or Non-Public Options**
- Florida Tax Credit Scholarships
- Hope Scholarships
- McKay Scholarships
- Voluntary Prekindergarten

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Most of the school choice options in this study are delivered at public school settings.
Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK)

In 2019-20, 72% of four-year olds in Florida participated in the VPK Program, but the percentage by district ranged from 23% to 100%.

Eligible Students: Four-year old children who live in Florida

Number of Participating Students: 168,084

Number of Participating Students Over the Past Five Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>169,713</td>
<td>169,594</td>
<td>169,728</td>
<td>171,173</td>
<td>168,084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participation as a Percentage of All Four-Year Olds

- >0%-40%
- 41%-55%
- 56%-70%
- 71%-85%
- Over 85%

Note: County participation rates are from the August 2020 Voluntary Prekindergarten Estimating Conference.
School Choice in Florida, 2019-20

46% of all Florida students participated in at least one of the school choice options below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of All K-12 Students Participating in Each School Choice Option*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private K-12 Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnet Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career and Professional Education Academies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifted Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Tax Credit Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Education Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced International Certificate Education Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKay Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Empowerment Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardiner Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Virtual Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Schools (Traditional and Charter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Scholarships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

69% of the students who participated in at least one of these choice options were participating at a public school

*Students who make use of more than one choice option may be counted in more than one category.
Public School Choice Options

OPPAGA grouped the public school choice options into three categories:

1. Alternate Public School Settings
2. Specialized Instruction Programs
3. High School Acceleration Programs
Alternate Public School Settings
2019-20 School Year
Overview of Alternate Public School Settings

Some choice options allow public school students to attend schools other than their assigned school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Eligible Students</th>
<th>Number of Participating Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
<td>Public school students</td>
<td>323,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Schools</td>
<td>Students representative of local public school enrollment</td>
<td>6,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Virtual Instruction</td>
<td>Public school students</td>
<td>12,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Scholarships</td>
<td>Students in low-performing schools</td>
<td>1,624</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alternate Public School Settings: Student Participation Trends Over Time

Of the four alternative settings we examined, charter school was the most frequently chosen option.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Charter Schools</th>
<th>Lab Schools</th>
<th>Opportunity Scholarships</th>
<th>FT Virtual Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>265,350</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>278,190</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>290,407</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>307,870</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>323,385</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Participating Students
Snapshot: Full-Time Virtual Programs

Available at the district and state level:
- Florida Virtual School (FLVS)
- District franchises of FLVS
- District virtual instruction programs
- District virtual course offerings
- Virtual charter schools

Methodology Notes:
- FLVS students counted based on county of residence
- Students participating in district virtual programs full-time were counted based on the district offering the program

Number of Participating Students:

- 0
- 1-50
- 51-100
- 101-500
- Over 500

Enrollment in full-time virtual instruction was 2% or less of the public school student population educated in nearly all counties.

- The exception is Hendry County School District—at 20%
- It offers a full-time virtual education program called Florida Online School, which is offered statewide
- In 2019-20, 95% of students enrolled in full-time virtual instruction in a district outside their county of residence (not including FLVS) were enrolled in Hendry County’s district virtual program
Controlled Open Enrollment

Controlled open enrollment allows students to attend a district school outside of their assigned attendance zone based on parental preference.

District and charter schools must accept students according to their controlled open enrollment process if the school has not reached capacity.

Requires a lottery procedure to determine student assignment; however, some students receive priority.

We did not include data on controlled open enrollment in our report due to reliability concerns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
<th>Percentage of Schools Identified as Schools of Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>88.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walton</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Specialized Instruction Programs
2019-20 School Year
### Overview of Specialized Instruction Programs

Some choice options offer specialized instruction for students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Eligible Students</th>
<th>Number of Participating Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gifted Programs</strong></td>
<td>Students identified as gifted</td>
<td>178,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magnet Schools</strong></td>
<td>Public school students</td>
<td>208,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Scholarships</strong></td>
<td>Students in grades 3-5 who scored below a 3 on the ELA assessment</td>
<td>6,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPE Academies</strong></td>
<td>Secondary students; no statewide eligibility criteria</td>
<td>185,699</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most specialized instruction options have high student participation; the reading scholarship program has fewer participants, but is relatively new.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CAPE Academies</th>
<th>Magnet Schools</th>
<th>Gifted Programs</th>
<th>Reading Scholarships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>196,474</td>
<td>167,667</td>
<td>165,597</td>
<td>5,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>212,753</td>
<td>193,097</td>
<td>169,282</td>
<td>6,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>222,716</td>
<td>198,291</td>
<td>172,267</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>207,673</td>
<td>204,369</td>
<td>176,448</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>208,644</td>
<td>185,699</td>
<td>178,162</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Snapshot: CAPE Academies

In 2019-20, 12% of Florida public school students in grades 6 to 12 were enrolled in an academy

- Option for middle and high school students
- Rigorous academic curriculum integrated with an industry-specific curriculum
- Opportunity to earn industry certifications or postsecondary credit
- Number of Students: 185,699

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gender
  - Male: 52%
  - Female: 48%

- Students With Disabilities: 10%
High School Acceleration Programs

2019-20 School Year
Overview of High School Acceleration Programs

We examined four choice options that allow students to earn postsecondary credit

- **Advanced Placement (AP)**
  - 207,657 Students

- **Dual Enrollment**
  - 80,380 Students

- **Advanced International Certificate Education (AICE) Program**
  - 63,212 Students

- **International Baccalaureate (IB) Program**
  - 14,852 Students

Options for high school students:
- Programs offer rigorous academic courses or curriculum
- Incentives in place for student participation in accelerated programs
High School Acceleration Programs: Student Participation Trends Over Time

Enrollment in all four high school acceleration programs has grown over the past five years.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AP</strong></td>
<td>197,279</td>
<td>204,974</td>
<td>210,854</td>
<td>209,119</td>
<td>207,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dual Enrollment</strong></td>
<td>55,873</td>
<td>61,837</td>
<td>69,336</td>
<td>75,207</td>
<td>80,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AICE</strong></td>
<td>33,326</td>
<td>41,512</td>
<td>48,663</td>
<td>55,728</td>
<td>63,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IB</strong></td>
<td>13,746</td>
<td>13,662</td>
<td>13,857</td>
<td>13,824</td>
<td>14,852</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Participating High School Students
Snapshot: Dual Enrollment

Eligible Students: High school students with a 3.0 GPA who earn a minimum score on a common placement test.

Number of Participating Students: 80,380

Number of Participating Students:
- 1-200
- 201-500
- 501-1,000
- 1,001-2,000
- Over 2,000

Participation as a Percentage of Public High School Students:
- >0%-5%
- 6%-10%
- 11%-15%
- 16%-20%
- Over 20%

Race/Ethnicity:
- White: 46%
- Hispanic: 30%
- African American: 16%
- Asian: 4%
- Multiracial: 3%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0.3%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Gender:
- Male: 40%
- Female: 60%

Note: Students participating in dual enrollment might also be participating in other choice options.
Snapshot: Dual Enrollment and AP

The level of student participation in different acceleration programs may vary significantly within the same county.

Participation as a Percentage of Public High School Students

Dual Enrollment

- >0%-5%
- 6%-10%
- 11%-15%
- 16%-20%
- Over 20%

Advanced Placement

- 0
- >0%-10%
- 11%-20%
- 21%-30%
- Over 30%

Note: Students participating in dual enrollment might also be participating in other choice options.

Note: Students in AP courses might also be participating in other choice options.
Questions?
Contact Information

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