

# Comparison of Educational Options in Virginia\*

	Policy	Parental Control Over Curriculum	Safety of Child	Religious Content/Worldview
<b>Public School</b>	It is the right of the Commonwealth of Virginia to choose the proper education and training for any child under its care and supervision.	None; school board has decision-making power; school is under local, state, and federal government control. Parents can make limited appeals.	Low; most incidents of violence against school-aged children have happened in or around public schools.	No biblical worldview teaching is allowed; however, other beliefs are brought in through school materials, teachers, and other children.
<b>Charter School</b>	It is the right of the Commonwealth of Virginia, along with some input from a parental board, to choose the proper education and training for any child under its care and supervision.	Very Low; a few parents may be part of charter school board to help select curriculum, but school is under local school board control and subject to charter.	Low/Medium; most charter schools have fewer incidents of crimes than public schools.	No biblical worldview teaching is allowed; however, other beliefs are brought in through school materials, teachers, and other children.
<b>Virtual Schools: Public School at Home</b>	It is the right of the Commonwealth of Virginia to choose the proper education and training for any child under its care and supervision.	Very Low; curriculum package is limited to options approved by the school board and offered through the public school or virtual program.	Highest; child is with parents during the day.	No biblical worldview teaching is allowed; however other beliefs are brought in through school materials. Parents may add their own religious material, but they may not remove any material in lesson plans.
<b>Part-time Public School</b>	It is the right of the Commonwealth of Virginia to choose the proper education and training for any child under its care and supervision	Medium; parents may select classes for their child from the ones offered. All homeschool curriculum is under the control of the parents.	Mixed; safety is low while child is at public school and high while child is at home. (See Public School and Independent Homeschool boxes.)	No biblical worldview teaching allowed in public school. Other beliefs are brought in through school materials, teachers, and other children. Parents may add their own religious material at home.
<b>Private School</b>	It is the right of the private school board (in some cases, along with the parents) to choose the proper education and training for any child under its care and supervision.	Medium; parental control varies with each school. Private school board chooses curriculum without government control.	Low/Medium; most private schools have fewer incidents of crimes than public schools.	Varied; worldview depends on the school chosen. The school controls religious teaching.
<b>Independent Homeschool §22.1-254.1</b>	It is the primary right and responsibility of the parents to choose the proper education and training for any child under their care and supervision.	Highest; parents are free to choose all materials and curriculum to meet the individual learning styles and needs of each child.	Highest; child is with parents during the day.	Greatest freedom; parents may incorporate their own worldview. Bible may be made center of curriculum.

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	Testing/Advancement	Cost per Child	Parent's Time Required	Child's Time Required
<b>Public School</b>	The Commonwealth of Virginia mandates SOL (Standards of Learning) tests as benchmarks for each child. Advancement is determined by the teacher.	School collects at least \$8,891, plus capital construction dollars, for each child from public taxes.** Parents pay for supplies, special fees, lunches, etc.	Parents are asked to help in classrooms, plus may need to help child with homework. Parents may also need to provide transportation.	Child attends school 6 to 7 hours per day, plus has 1 to 4 hours of homework to complete.
<b>Charter School</b>	The Commonwealth of Virginia mandates SOL (Standards of Learning) tests as benchmarks for each child. Other standardized tests may be added. Advancement is determined by teacher.	School collects at least \$6,450, plus some capital construction dollars, for each child from public taxes.***	Parents may be required to help in school, plus may need to help child with homework. May also need to provide transportation.	Child attends school 6 to 7 hours each day, plus 1 to 4 hours of homework to complete.
<b>Virtual Schools: Public School at Home</b>	The Commonwealth of Virginia mandates SOL (Standards of Learning) tests as benchmarks for each child. Other standardized tests may be added. Advancement is determined by public school teacher overseeing program.	School collects at least \$8,891 for each child from public taxes. Families may receive Internet access, free materials, and/or reimbursement for some expenses.**	Parents are required to oversee educational activities and computer work. Parents must meet with public school teacher who has oversight of the program.	Studies take about 6 to 7 hours per day, plus additional time if needed.
<b>Part-time Public School</b>	Yearly standardized achievement test or independent evaluation is given to comply with homeschool law. Child must score in or above 4 <sup>th</sup> stanine. Advancement is determined by parent.	Amount school collects varies based on the number of classes taken. Amount collected is limited to ½ ADM (Average Daily Membership).	Public school teachers instruct child in a public school classroom. Parents act as a coach, overseeing child class work at home according to program schedule. A limited number of classes may be taken. Parents may also need to provide transportation.	School time includes public school hours, homework assignments, and homeschool hours.
<b>Private School</b>	Testing varies by each school. Advancement is determined by teacher and/or board.	Parents pay \$1,000 - \$10,000 per year, per child.	Parents may be asked to help in classroom, plus may need to help with homework. Parents may also need to provide transportation.	Child attends school 6 to 7 hours per day, plus has 1 to 4 hours of homework per day.
<b>Independent Homeschool §22.1-254.1</b>	Yearly standardized achievement test, portfolio, or independent evaluation is required if under the homeschool statute. When using standardized achievement tests, child must score in or above the 4 <sup>th</sup> stanine. Advancement is determined by parent.	Expense varies based on curriculum choices. Average cost is \$400 per year, per child; cost is paid by parents.	Parents teach, plan, and grade. Time required will depend on the curriculum, method, grade level, and individual student. It may take from 2 to 6 hours per day. Multiple children can often be taught at the same time, and teaching can be done in conjunction with household responsibilities.	Child does 2 to 7 hours of homeschool work per day depending on the child, method, and curriculum.

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	Parental Control Over Schedule	Family Involvement
<b>Public School</b>	Low; government/school board sets all aspects of schedule.	Low; parents may be involved in classroom, but teacher/school controls involvement. In most cases, no other family members are included.
<b>Charter School</b>	Low; government/school board sets all aspects of schedule.	Low; parents may be involved in classroom but teacher/school controls involvement. In most cases, no other family members are included.
<b>Virtual Schools: Public School at Home</b>	Medium; assignments must be done on time, but parents can decide daily schedule.	Medium/High; whole family can learn together and some classes can be taught together.
<b>Part-time Public School</b>	Medium/Low; parents must plan day around public school hours to fit in home-teaching time.	Mixed; family involvement depends on number of hours in public school. (See Public School and Independent Homeschool boxes.)
<b>Private School</b>	Low; private schools have differing policies, but schedule is still set by the school.	Low; parents may be involved in classroom, but teacher/school controls involvement. In most cases, no other family members are included.
<b>Independent Homeschool §22.1-254.1</b>	Highest; parents are in full control of the schedule.	Highest; classes can be set up for the entire family. Older children can help work with younger children, and extended family members can be included.

\*Adapted for Virginia from Christian Home Educators of Colorado.

\*\*Taken from *Public Education Finances 2005*, issued April 2007, from the Annual Survey of Government Finances conducted by the United States Census Bureau at <ftp2.census.gov/govs/school/05f33pub.pdf>.

\*\*\*Taken from The Center for Education Reform at <http://www.edreform.com>.

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