

## The State of School Choice in 2014 America

### The Top 10 Scoring Districts



| Rank | School District Names                                | Score | Grade |
|------|--|-------|-------|
| 1    | Recovery District School District-Ide – Louisiana    | 0.83  | A     |
| 2    | New York City School District – New York             | 0.73  | A-    |
| 3    | Newark City School District – New Jersey             | 0.72  | A-    |
| 4    | Houston Independent School District – Texas          | 0.66  | B     |
| 4    | District of Columbia Public Schools – Washington, DC | 0.66  | B     |
| 6    | Denver County School District 1 – Colorado           | 0.61  | B     |
| 7    | Chicago Public School District 299 – Illinois        | 0.59  | B-    |
| 7    | Greenville County School District – South Carolina   | 0.59  | B-    |
| 7    | Tucson Unified District – Arizona                    | 0.59  | B-    |
| 10   | Boston School District – Massachusetts               | 0.57  | B-    |

### What Seems to Be Working and What Needs Improvement?

Based on categories that had the most high-scoring and the most low-scoring districts.



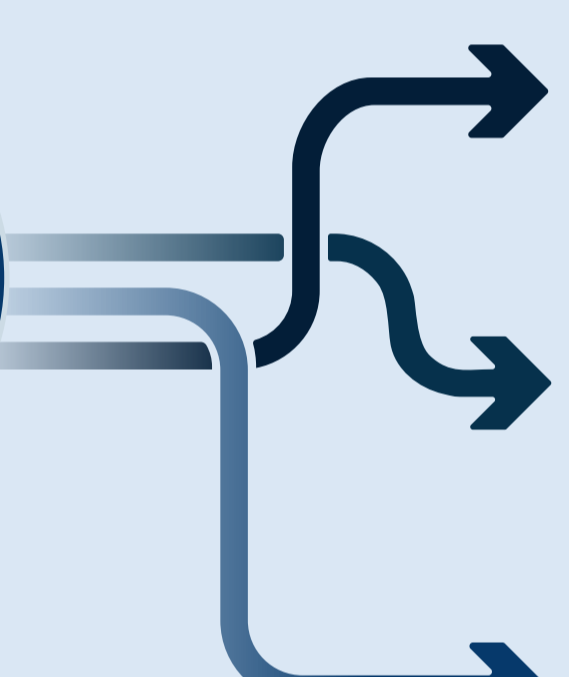
Accessible Online Choice Information



Transportation To Alternative/Choice Schools

### Which Districts Are Making Major Changes?

Districts that changed the most in the *Degree of Choice and Fairness in School Assignment* category by adopting an open enrollment system.



Newark City School District  
New Jersey



Pinellas County School District  
Florida



Greenville County School District  
South Carolina

### How Do We Score The School Districts?



Category 1: Alternatives to Traditional Public Schools

Are there alternatives to traditional public schools and, if so, are many students enrolled?



Category 2: Accessibility of Virtual Courses

Can students enroll in free online courses that count towards graduation requirements?



Category 3: Popularity of Schools Reflected in Funding

Do district funds follow students to schools & differ based on student needs? If so, what percentage of district funds is allocated through this formula?



Category 4: Closures of Schools with Declining Enrollment Due to Parental Choice

Does the district close schools that are unpopular as evidenced by declining enrollment?



Category 5: Degree of Choice and Fairness in School Assignment

Can parents choose schools, and if so are parental preferences maximized or is there a fair lottery for choice schools (vs. first come first serve)?



Category 6: Common Application for All District Schools

Is there a streamlined application process with one common application for enrollment in all schools?



Category 7: Availability and Comparability of Tax Credit Scholarship/Voucher Data

In the case of private schools supported with public funding (through vouchers or tax credit scholarships), is performance data publicly reported and comparable to public school data?



Category 8: Reporting of Student Achievement Gains in Schools

Does the district report student achievement gains vs. only reporting student achievement status at the end of a given year?



Category 9: Accessible Online Choice Information

Can parents easily understand the school choice process and options available through the district website?



Category 10: Relevant Online Student Performance Data

Does the district website provide data that allows a parent compare schools (i.e. school popularity, parent survey results, absentee rates for teachers, past performance of principals, course offerings, etc.)?



Category 11: Clear/Understandable Online Performance Data

Is the performance data in category 10 presented in an easy to understand format and can schools be compared side by side?



Category 12: Transportation to Alternative/Choice Schools

Does the district provide students with free transportation to public schools of choice?



Category 13: District School Quality Rating

How well do schools in the district perform on state assessments?