



CMS Health Plan School Choice Guide

There are different types of schooling available to your child in Florida. As their parent or guardian, you have the right to choose what schools and services fit them best. Use this guide from CMS Health Plan to understand the types of schools you can choose from.

TYPES OF SCHOOLS

Public school: Public school is the most common type of school. Your child is automatically assigned to a public school based on your address or school zone. [Search schools in your area.](#)

- If you do not want your child in their assigned public school, Florida school districts have what is called a school choice window. You can use this time to pick up to 3 other schools in the district for your child to go to.
- School choice is a lottery-based system and there is no guarantee your child will get into the school you choose. Check the school district website for dates and how to apply.

Charter school: Funded like public schools but operated more independently. Charter schools are designed to offer special programs and target students interested in certain topics. Students must meet reasonable academic, artistic or other eligibility standards established by the charter school.

- CMS Health Plan cannot recommend a charter school for your child. Check the school district website for a list of charter schools.
- Find more information on [charter schools](#).

Home school: If you decide to homeschool your child, you give up all services offered by the Florida education system. You are fully responsible for your child's education. You do not need a particular educational background or curricula. But you must keep records of your child's schoolwork and provide it to the school district if asked.

- You must register your home education program with the school district and provide the name, address and birthday of each student.
- Home school students must undergo one of five academic evaluations by a certified teacher each year. Results must be submitted to the school district and superintendent.
- Find more information on [home school](#).
- Read [frequently asked questions \(PDF\)](#) on home schooling.

Florida Virtual School (FLVS): Designed for students looking for high-quality education, flexibility and support from a distraction-free learning environment. There are two options:

- **FLVS Flex:** A flexible online option
- **FLVS Fulltime:** A full-time, public-school option
- Find more information on [virtual school](#).

Private school: These schools are not licensed, approved, accredited or regulated by the Florida Department of Education. They issue independent diplomas that do not require approval from the state.

- Private schools establish their own systems of school accountability, grading, reporting and evaluating. They are not included in the state's measurement of public schools.
- Not all private schools offer ESE (exceptional student education) services and accommodations.
- Find more information on [private schools](#).

The Children's Medical Services Health Plan has partnered with Sunshine Health to provide managed care services to our members. Sunshine Health is a licensed Florida health plan.

Children's Medical Services Health Plan provides free aids and services to people with disabilities, such as qualified sign language interpreters, written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic and other formats), and free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages.

This information is available for free in other languages. Please contact Member Services at 1-866-799-5321, TTY 1-800-955-8770 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Esta información está disponible en otros idiomas de manera gratuita. Comuníquese con nuestro número de servicio al cliente al 1-866-799-5321, TTY 1-800-955-8770 de lunes a viernes, de 8 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Si oumenm, oubyen yon moun w ap ede, gen kesyon nou ta renmen poze sou Children's Medical Services Health Plan, ou gen tout dwa pou w jwenn èd ak enfòmasyon nan lang manman w san sa pa koute w anyen. Pou w pale avèk yon entèprèt, sonnen nimewo 1-866-799-5321 (TTY 1-800-955-8770).

Nếu quý vị, hay người mà quý vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Children's Medical Services Health Plan, quý vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thêm thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thông dịch viên, xin gọi 1-866-799-5321 (TTY 1-800-955-8770).