





Types of NC Schools Compared

	 Traditional Public	 Magnet <i>(part of local school district)</i>	 Charter School	 Private School
publicly funded (state, local, federal)	✓	✓	✓	state-funded Opportunity Scholarships
governed by a local elected school board	✓	✓	has nonprofit board with public records	any governance, not public
provide busing	✓ *	busing may be provided, likely farther from home	depends on school	depends on school
need to apply		✓	✓	✓
provide meals	✓	✓	depends on school	depends on school
majority of teachers are licensed	✓	✓	at least 50% must be licensed	licensing not required
conduct state testing and reporting	✓	✓	✓	
must provide special education services and protections	✓	✓	✓	
admissions process	no application; accepts every student who lives in zone if not at capacity	may have lottery-based admission	may have lottery-based admission	can accept or reject student for any reason**
can provide direct religious instruction				✓

*North Carolina public schools are not required by law to provide busing, however all school districts do. A district may establish “walk zones” for students who live close to their school.

**Private schools that receive voucher funding cannot discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity.

Sources consulted: Public School Forum of North Carolina, North Carolina Association of Public Charter Schools, Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina