



PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

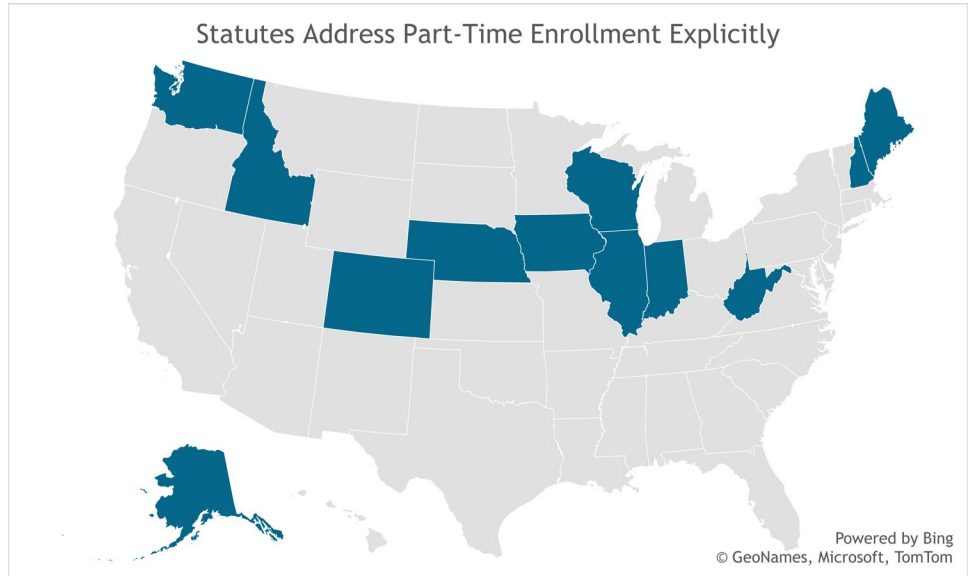
Policy Analysis

June 2021

A part-time enrollment policy allows students to enroll in public schools for one or more courses.

12 STATE POLICY ANALYSIS

At least twelve (12) states allow students to enroll in public schools part-time, addressing the topic explicitly in statute. Eight of those states require that districts offer part-time enrollment to students. Nine states provide districts with the discretion to create local policy guidance. Six states treat part-time enrollment as a student right. **Alaska** funds part-time enrolled students proportional to the time they are enrolled in school, while **Colorado** allows districts to receive 50 percent funding for students enrolled in one course.



Part-time enrollment policy varies widely from state to state. This 12-state analysis seeks to highlight those differences and suggests a promising set of policy that can support both public schools *and* families.

12-State Analysis of Part-Time Enrollment Policies

	AK	CO	ID	IL	IN	IA	ME	NE	NH	WA	WV	WI
<i>Statute explicitly addresses</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Law mandates districts offer part-time</i>	•		•			•		•	•	•	•	•
<i>Law allows for some district discretion</i>	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		
<i>Law grants students the RIGHT to part-time</i>			•			•		•	•	•	•	•
<i>Law explicitly allows enrollment in core classes</i>	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•
<i>Law explicitly allows extracurriculars</i>		•	•		•	•	•		•	•		
<i>Homeschool students allowed</i>	•	•	•			•			•	•	•	•
<i>Private school students allowed</i>	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
<i>Other public-school students allowed</i>			•					•	•	•		
<i>Residentially assigned students only</i>	•			•		•	•		•		•	•
<i>Students funded proportionally to participation</i>	•		•			•				•		
<i>State defines “part-time enrolled student”</i>	•	•										•



Part-Time Enrollment as a Student Right

Should students have the right to access public schools, even if only for a part of the day? States answer this question differently. At least two states, **Washington** and **West Virginia**, have strong statutory language that ensures a student's right to part-time enrollment, though these rights may be limited to particular students and only when the governing board of a school district approves.

Washington limits the right to part-time enrollment to "resident students," but there is no question that those students have rights to any course or service offered by the local public school district. Look no further than this quote from the state's administrative code:

An eligible part-time public school student shall be entitled to take any course, receive any ancillary service, and take or receive any combination of courses and ancillary services which is made available by a public school to full-time students.

(Washington Administrative Code 392-134-010)

There is fine print, however. If a **Washington** student attends a private school that offers the requested course, then the district may decline admittance ([WAC 392-134-015](#)).

West Virginia generously offers any class to any homeschool student. The Superintendent is required to offer support to homeschool students, and statute clarifies that *[a]ny child receiving home instruction may upon approval of the county board exercise the option to attend any class offered by the county board as the person or persons providing home instruction may consider appropriate* ([W. Va. Code § 18-8-1\(c\)\(3\)](#)).

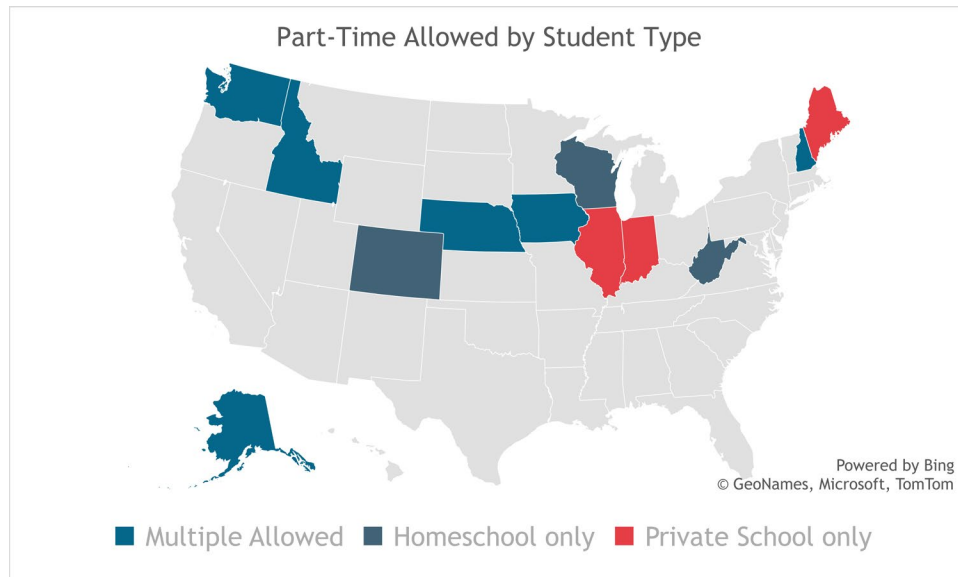
Again, there is some district discretion here since the **West Virginia** homeschool student must first seek approval from the county board of education before they can be admitted to the class and there is no requirement for the county board to approve such a request.

Washington and **West Virginia** are not alone. States like **Wisconsin** allow homeschool to access no more than two (2) courses per semester, though it does not appear that districts have much discretion to deny students. In **Maine**, the only reason for rejection of a potential part-time student is a lack of capacity.

As more states reconsider their policies about part-time enrollment, it will be critical to balance the needs of individual students with the capacity of the public school.



Which students may participate in Part-Time Enrollment?



States have limited access to part-time public school enrollment for different groups of students.

For example, only private school students may apply for part-time enrollment in **Illinois** and **Maine**. Only homeschool students have the right to part-time enrollment in **West Virginia**. In **Idaho** if your student is enrolled in a charter school, then they can also enroll in another public school at the same time. And in **Washington**, nearly any resident student has the right to access nearly any course.

Funding for Part-Time Enrollment

States fund students who enroll part-time differently. For example, **Iowa** provides a flat-rate of one-tenth of a full-time student. **Colorado** provides a flat rate of 50 percent of a full-time student, and **Alaska** funds student proportionally to the number of courses in which they are enrolled.

Three Funding Models for Part-Time Enrollment

Alaska	4 AAC 09.040	Students are funded proportionally to the amount of instructional time they receive from the public school. A student enrolled in one course is counted as 25% of one student, two courses as 50%, three courses as 75%, and four courses as 100%.
Colorado	1C.C.R 301-39, 5.01(2)	Colorado funds part-time students on a flat rate. A part-time student may enroll in up to 90 of 360 instructional hours in a semester, and a part-time student “included in a district’s part-time membership shall equal one-half of one full-time equivalent (0.5).”
Iowa	§ 257.6	Iowa funds students on a flat rate, though at a much lower rate than Colorado. “Resident pupils receiving competent private instruction under dual enrollment pursuant to chapter 299A shall be counted as one-tenth of one pupil.” And nonresident pupils in enrolled part time in a district may be charged tuition.



SOLUTIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS & PARENTS

1. **Grant all students the right to access public schools on a part-time basis.** By providing this right in state-level policy, leaders will encourage private and homeschool students to connect with the public school system. And by increasing the number of students who have access to best-fit education wherever they can find it, the state will benefit from increased academic outcomes and higher degree attainment. Notably, states like Alaska and Washington have provided their students this right while also clarifying areas for district discretion and provide funding to districts on a proportional basis. Therefore, student rights and local authority can be championed simultaneously.
2. **Provide districts with a financial incentive.** If leaders want to see more creativity and more responsive public-private partnerships, then public schools need the funding flexibility to make it happen. For example, in Colorado serving homeschool students for even one hour per day, districts can increase their state funding dramatically. In Alaska, districts can serve high school students for two courses per day and receive 50% of state funding. These kinds of financial benefits encourage districts to accommodate families without limiting access by charging tuition for these services or by some other means. At the same time, we recognize that education funding is limited. We believe the ideal policy for students and systems is fund students proportionally to their engagement.
3. **Provide districts with discretion and flexibility to provide the services that families need and want.** By allowing and encouraging districts to partner with community organizations and parent groups, part-time enrollment could codify some of the promising partnerships that have been formed during the pandemic. This continued flexibility will help districts build trust. More importantly, it will increase the likelihood that students and families receive education that fits their needs.
4. **Inform families and districts about current part-time enrollment opportunities.** Part-time enrollment policies are allowed, at least implicitly, in more than 40 states. However, people are unevenly informed about the opportunity. To ensure that these opportunities are utilized by all who want them, districts and families need to know this is an option.
5. **Highlight examples of part-time enrollment in action.** Over the last 40 years, policymakers have highlighted serious challenges in education. At the same time, we know that local leaders are overcoming these challenges everyday. It is critical to find leaders who have already taken advantage of part-time enrollment policies, highlight them, and encourage them to share creative solutions with other.



PART-TIME ENROLLMENT LANGUAGE

State	Citation	Language (<i>emphasis added</i>)
Alaska	AS 14.03.095	Except as provided in (b) of this section, a governing body shall, upon request, allow a child , including a child who is also enrolled at a private school, is a correspondence student, or is being home schooled, to enroll as a part-time student in the district . A governing body may not discriminate between part-time and full-time students or require that part-time students be enrolled after full-time student enrollment is completed.
Colorado	C.R.S § 22-33-104.5(6)(a)	If a child is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program but also attending a public school for a portion of the school day, the school district of the public school shall be entitled to count such child in accordance with the provisions of section 22-54-103 (10) for purposes of determining pupil enrollment under the "Public School Finance Act of 1994", article 54 of this title.
Idaho	Idaho Code § 33-203	The parent or guardian of a child of school age who is enrolled in a non-public school or a public charter school shall be allowed to enroll the student in any public school , including another public charter school, for dual enrollment purposes.
Illinois	105 ILCS 5/10-20.24.	To accept in part-time attendance in the regular education program of the district pupils enrolled in nonpublic schools if there is sufficient space in the public school desired to be attended.



State	Citation	Language (<i>emphasis added</i>)
Indiana	Ind. Code § 20.33.2.12(b).	This section may not be construed to prohibit a student who attends a school described in subsection (a) from enrolling in a particular educational program or participating in a particular educational initiative offered by an accredited public, nonpublic, or state board approved nonpublic school if: (1) the governing body or superintendent, in the case of the accredited public school; or (2) the administrative authority, in the case of the accredited or state board approved nonpublic school; approves the enrollment or participation by the student.
Iowa	Iowa Code Ann § 299A.8	The parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian of a child who is receiving competent private instruction may enroll the child in the school district of residence of the child under dual enrollment. The parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian desiring dual enrollment shall notify the district of residence of the child not later than September 15 of the school year for which dual enrollment is sought. If the child is not of compulsory school attendance age, the parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian is only required to provide the name of the child, age of the child, contact information for the person requesting the dual enrollment, and a listing of the programs or services for which dual enrollment is requested.
Maine	20-A M.R.S. § 5021-A	A student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program is eligible to participate in cocurricular activities sponsored by the local school unit...
Nebraska	N.R.S. § 79-2, 136	Each school board shall allow the part-time enrollment of students who are residents of the school district pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of section 79-215 and who are also enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school or in a school which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and shall establish policies and procedures for such part-time enrollment.
New Hampshire	NH Rev Stat § 193:1-c	Nonpublic, public chartered school, or home educated pupils shall have access to curricular courses and cocurricular programs offered by the school district in which the pupil resides.



State	Citation	Language (<i>emphasis added</i>)
Washington	RCW 28A.150.350	The board of directors of any school district is authorized and, in the same manner as for other public school students, shall permit the enrollment of and provide ancillary services for part time students: PROVIDED, That this section shall only apply to part time students who would be otherwise eligible for full time enrollment in the school district.
West Virginia	W. Va. Code § 18-8-1(c)(3)	Any child receiving home instruction may upon approval of the county board exercise the option to attend any class offered by the county board as the person or persons providing home instruction may consider appropriate subject to normal registration and attendance requirements.
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.53.	A school board shall allow a pupil enrolled in a home-based private educational program, who has met the standards for admission under sub. (2), to attend up to 2 courses at a public school in the district during each school semester if the school board determines that there is sufficient space in the classroom.