Educational Choice Options in Maine

School Type	Homeschool		Approved Private School		Recognized for Attendance Purposes Private School (RAPPS)		NEASC- Accredited Private School		Public School (Brick & Mortar Town or District School)		Public School (Brick & Mortar Charter School)		Public School (Alternative Education Program)		Public School (Online Charter School – two currently operate in Maine)	
Legal Status	Home- schooled student		Private school student		Private school student		Private school student		Public school student		Public school student		Public school student		Public school Student	
Who's in Charge?	Parent	School	Parent	School	Parent	School	Parent	School	Parent	School	Parent	School	Parent	School	Parent	School
Control/Accountability	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X
Curriculum Selection	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X
Attendance	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X
Records, Transcripts, & Diploma	Х			X		X		X		X		X		X		X
Testing & Evaluation	Х			X		X		X		X		X		X		X
Financial Burden	X		X		X		X			X		X	X ⁵	X	X _e	X
Special Education	X	X ¹		X ²		X ³		X ⁴		X		X		X		X
Administration	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X

² Under some circumstances, approved private school students may receive Special Education services from local school districts, pursuant to state law and state and federal special education rules and regulations.

³ Under some circumstances, Recognized for Attendance Purposes (RAPPS) private school students may receive Special Education services from local public school districts, pursuant to state law and state and federal special education rules and regulations.

⁴ Under some circumstances, NEASC-accredited* private school students may receive Special Education services from local school districts, pursuant to state law and state and federal special education rules and regulations.

⁵ In some cases, public school sponsored and arranged Alternative Education Programs permit independent study at home or in the community. A minor child participating in such a course of study that does not physically take place in a school building will require supervision. In these cases, an adult (usually the parent) must be available to supervise the child. This will necessitate the parent either giving up paid employment, working from home, or hiring an individual to supervise if the supervision is not provided by the school.

⁶ Virtual online charter schools deliver most of their instruction online and require and depend on an unpaid adult "learning coach" (usually the parent or guardian) to supervise the child's schoolwork fulltime, submit daily attendance reports, assure that the child is logging in for the required amount of time and completing the required work, etc. This will necessitate the parent either giving up paid employment, working from home, or hiring an individual to supervise the child.

*NEASC is the acronym for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. (http://www.neasc.org/)

¹ The public school has an obligation to provide special education services only in the event that the student elects to participate in activities at the school, and only to the extent that those services are necessary, due to the student's disability, to enable the student to participate in those activities.