

Alexander S. of Edmond, OK



**WE ARE OKLAHOMA PARENTS AND
STUDENTS IN NEED OF OPTIONS**



PublicSchoolOptions.org
Oklahoma Chapter

Having been a longtime advocate for my son's education, I have learned many lessons. One of the most important is that parents must be part of the conversation when discussing education reform. That's why I'm honored to be part of PublicSchoolOptions.org, a group of parents, students, and teachers who know how life changing school choice can be.

My family is living proof. I have two boys that are as different as night and day. When my eldest was in third grade, he dealt with a crowded classroom and bullying. Coming home crying became our new "norm." My youngest struggled with boredom in his first grade class. I could not keep my boys in either environment. My eldest is now happily finishing his fourth year in a virtual public school, while my youngest attends a wonderful magnet school. We are so grateful to have these choices here in Tulsa.

Unfortunately too many families across Oklahoma do not have a choice. Our Oklahoma legislators need to continue standing up for parents' rights to choose the best fit for their student. Every family deserves choices.

We will continue to make our voices heard – These are our Oklahoma stories.

Lauren Marshall

LAUREN MARSHALL
DIRECTOR, PUBLICSCHOOLOPTIONS.ORG

FITS OUR LIFESTYLE

BRANDI S.

MAX, 5TH GRADE

Westville, OK

I love being able to take a part in my child's education. I think that being able to spend the day with him while he gets a quality education is a dream come true. I am so thankful that we have the option to attend an accredited public school from home. It's wonderful.

DEBBIE D.

CHRISTA, 11TH GRADE

Tulsa, OK

Being a Ballerina at Tulsa Ballet, our daughter Christa Lyn dedicates a lot of her time and energy to the art of dance. Her virtual charter school allows her to balance her academic requirements with her passion for dance. She is currently excelling at both, holding a 4.0 her junior year. Each year the school continues to fine tune its online education, striving for excellence and offering one of the best at-home programs available in the U.S. We are so thankful for this educational opportunity for our daughter.

SANDRA S.

BEN AND BRANDON, 11TH GRADE

Jenks, OK

At our online public school we do not need to worry about distractions from other students, time delays for classes, or getting sick when all the other students and teachers are sick. They have everything they want from a school. They have field trips, events, yearbooks, proms and graduation. I seriously feel that online schools are our future. Children will never have to face a gunman, a bomb in their school or a bully beating them up.

SHANNA B.

ALEXA, 11TH GRADE

Lawton, OK

Attending a public virtual charter school has been very beneficial for my daughter Alexa. It's flexibility has allowed her to stay home with her son, while still excelling academically.

HEALTH ISSUES

BARBARA J.

PIPER, 4TH GRADE

Wilburton, OK

My daughter, Piper, was diagnosed with type one diabetes at age seven. She was at the top of her class in her elementary school, very popular and content. Between 1st and 2nd grade is when she was first diagnosed. That fall I enrolled her in an online public school and we haven't ever considered going back to her former traditional school. We are so fortunate to be able to complete her education while successfully managing health issues at home. Our school's staff and teachers are amazing and very helpful and dedicated to the children enrolled in this system.

ELIANA O.

MAURICIO, 6TH GRADE

Lawton, OK

My son, Mauricio, was moving at a very slow pace in his regular brick and mortar school since he was absent a lot due to his severe asthma and Attention Deficit Disorder. I am so happy that he now has attentive teachers that help him advance his education with one-on-one support.

SANDRA M.

ALICIA, 4TH GRADE

Beaver, OK

Alicia has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and is slow in processing information due to a brain bleed as a baby. She is easily distracted and distressed around other children. Our online public school is a much better option for her. She likes her teachers, can't be bullied, and is encouraged daily.

SHELLEY S.

*SCOTT, 7TH GRADE, MARISSA, 6TH GRADE, ALEXANDER, 4TH GRADE,
AND MARK, 2ND GRADE*

Edmond, OK

A public, virtual education has provided my family with amazing opportunities. I have a child with special needs and bone marrow failure. Not only is he able to attend his lessons and learn during times of sickness, he is also able to receive an education in a safe environment. His special education needs are always met by his teachers and therapists. I also have a child with severe dyslexia. His former brick and mortar school decided he would never be able to read. He is reading remarkably well now! I also have a child who is an advanced learner in math and science. He is able to advance at his own pace and gain enrichment in specific areas. If the children are struggling with a specific lesson, they can attend help sessions with their teachers. I also appreciate the opportunities our virtual charter school also offers socially. We participate in 4-H, homeschool orchestra, co-operative physical education, robotics club, culinary club, book club, and a specialized reading club with therapy dogs.

ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

JOYCE V.

JHAYLIN, 11TH GRADE

Oklahoma City, OK

My son Jhaylin was born in Texas, during a time when his older brother was dealing with bullying and other social issues at school. We weren't getting very much support from school administrators, so I removed him from the school and began home-schooling. My son excelled. Having this previous experience, I started early education with Jhaylin, and he has also excelled. By the time he was ready for kindergarten, he was on a first grade level. The one size fits all approach of his local brick and mortar did not work well for my son. He is a very non-confrontational person, and because he was so quiet, he had a tendency to fall through the cracks. Now that he attends an online virtual school he still struggles with communicating with his teachers when he has trouble, but the staff have been very helpful, and he is getting better grades.

MARY H.

SAMANTHA, 12TH GRADE, AND WILLIAM, 11TH GRADE

Healdton, OK

I chose an online public school because my children were not doing well in the traditional public school system. They were getting bad grades, even in their special education classes. Now that they are enrolled in an online public school their attitudes and grades are terrific because no one is making fun of them for their way of learning. Everyone is very nice and my kids love this school and the teachers. Now they are caught up and their grades are good.

SARAH H.

NICK, 2ND GRADE

Bethany, OK

Nick has always been a "wild child." In pre-kindergarten I was getting phone calls constantly because of his behavior. I noticed when I would go to his classroom, he was always finished with his work early and waiting for the other students to be done before he could move on. By first grade I was done with his traditional public school. They only saw the bad behavior and didn't see that boredom led him to start talking and getting in trouble. With Epic Charter school he is in 2nd grade doing almost 4th grade work.



Masha G. of Seminole, OK

LINDA G.

MASHA, 12TH GRADE

Seminole, OK

Masha was adopted from Ukraine at age 12 and her lack of English was an issue that really isn't well addressed in a brick and mortar school. They tried, but are simply too short-handed to provide the needed one-on-one interaction. As a former teacher, I was spending hours each night re-teaching the day's lessons in a way she could understand. She felt stupid and embarrassed. By enrolling her in a public virtual school, we were able to complete her work in the daytime, while also building her self-esteem. Now she is an honor student, has future college and career plans, and is confident that she can accomplish anything she sets her mind to!

ALISHA M.

ALAINA, 3RD GRADE

Edmond, OK

Our local brick and mortar had very little to offer children on the autism spectrum, like Alaina, except for very minimal therapies in a special needs class. We tried inclusion but the school district would not provide a one-on-one aide, so Alaina was often overwhelmed, confused, and upset in class. It got so difficult for her the last year of traditional school that her own Doctor recommended she finish the year at home. Alaina loves the online experience she now gets with her public charter school.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

**OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
PUBLICSCHOOLOPTIONS.ORG**

(866) 558-2874

Info@PublicSchoolOptions.org

www.PublicSchoolOptions.org/Oklahoma



PublicSchoolOptions.org
Oklahoma Chapter