

Microschooling 101

What is a microschool?

Microschools are small, multi-family educational settings that often include multi-age instruction and hybrid learning. “Small” may mean 5-15 students or even over 100.

Because microschools are intentionally small, they have unique opportunities to adapt the learning environment to individual students or a specific community and to identify variable costs depending on priorities and needs.

Microschools may be private, public, or homeschool programs and may be independently run or associated with a network or major partner. In addition, they may offer part-time and full-time options.

For example, there are national networks that provide training, support, and curriculum to eligible founders, such as

- [Acton Academy](#)
- [Prenda](#)
- [KaiPod Learning](#)
- [Wildflower Schools](#)
- [Great Hearts Microschools](#)

Microschools may also partner with municipalities, businesses, traditional schools, etc.

What variable costs are associated with microschools?

Microschools can creatively address many typical school expenses due to their size, partnerships, and flexible structure. For example,

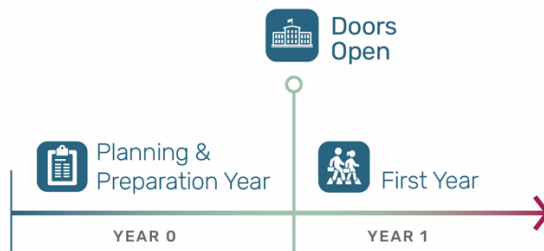
- Microschools can reduce facility costs by operating in shared or donated spaces, such as churches, libraries, homes, and more.
- They can reduce staffing costs by serving students in multi-age classrooms and by combining staffing responsibilities to maximize time, offerings, and savings. They can also form partnerships with local colleges and universities or other local organizations to provide certain types of instruction or support and ask parents and

other volunteers to help with aspects of the academic program or extracurricular activities.

- They can reduce curriculum costs by working with organizations that license curricula to help lower expenses for small settings.
- They can reduce transportation costs by facilitating transportation only for students who need it or by requiring families to transport students.
- They can reduce overall costs by offering different attendance options or operating in-person for less than a full week or a traditional school day, depending on the students and families they want to serve.

How long does it take to launch a microschool?

It is possible to launch a microschool on a short timeline. Depending on a founder's experience and the challenges and opportunities involved, it can take 2-12 months to go from idea to doors open.



Are there any microschools in Mississippi?

The number of microschools across the nation and in Mississippi is growing, and microschools are opening across the state in rural, suburban, and urban areas. They represent a variety of models and approaches to learning. Some examples include:

- [Harper Learning Academy](#)
- [Micah's Mission School](#)
- [Crestwood School of Hattiesburg](#)

- [Ivy Greene Academy](#)
 - [The Montessori Academy of Jackson](#)
 - [The Village School](#)
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What are some other microschooling resources?

To learn more about microschools, various models, and types of support, visit the following:

- [MicroschoolingMS](#)
- [National Microschooling Center](#)
- [LiberatED Podcast](#)
- [VELA Education Fund](#)
- [Microschool Revolution](#)