There are few formal schools in Kibera, and all of them are densely populated (sometimes there are 800 students per classroom). All the teachers in the formal schools are untrained. Most of the schools are attended by religious institutions and other NGOs and CBOs. Tuition fees range from 300 - 500 shillings per month. The price depends whether or not there is a feeding program at the school. Age enrolment is less strict than formal schools, and one can join at any age. Usually different classes take place in the same classroom, with one teacher teaching all classes. The schools are more flexible regarding wearing uniforms, often lack text books, and have no space for playgrounds.

There are also two special schools in Kibera for the deaf and the dumb, and a variety of schools offering technical training such as mechanical work, carpentry, hairdressing, tailoring, computer skills, masonry, bible studies, dining, etc.