



Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Alaska

Home Schools

Steps to Start a Home School

Parents may contact their local school district and select correspondence programs that the district has designed or supports. Each district correspondence program and student funding allotment will vary.

Parents aren't limited to district correspondence programs. They may select a recognized statewide correspondence program that is sponsored by another school district in Alaska. Statewide programs are similar to the local school district option, except that parents will contact a school district in which they are not a residence. Statewide correspondence programs and the student funding allotment will vary.

Parents may also elect to participate in the centralized option, which has evolved into the [AK Virtual School](#). This statewide program provides a virtual classroom environment for students across Alaska. Some school districts have opted out of participating in the AK Virtual School, but parents residing in those school districts may still choose to have their children participate in the program.

For more information, visit [Alaska Statewide Correspondence Schools](#) or contact [Donald Enoch](#), Education Administrator II (907) 465-2972

Homeschool Organizations and Support

- [Alaska Homeschool Associations](#)
Homeschool World has created a list of Alaska Homeschool Groups that includes a short description and contact information.
- [Alaska Private and Home Educators Association \(APHEA\)](#)
The APHEA website contains links to online resources, legislative information and alerts pertaining to homeschooling.

Starting a homeschool in Alaska involves several steps, but it's entirely doable. Here's a general guide to get you started:

1. **Understand the Legal Requirements:** Familiarize yourself with Alaska's homeschooling laws. In Alaska, homeschooling is legal, and parents have broad discretion over their child's education. However, you'll need to comply with certain regulations, such as filing a homeschooling notice with your local school district. You can find detailed information on your state's Department of Education website or through homeschooling advocacy groups such as [Home School Legal Defense Association \(HSLDA\)](#).
2. **Notify the School District:** Submit a homeschooling notice to your local school district. This notice should include basic information about your child, such as their name, age, and the fact that you'll be homeschooling them. You may also need to provide an outline of your educational plans.
3. **Choose a Curriculum:** Decide on a curriculum that suits your child's needs and your educational goals. There are many options available, including pre-packaged curricula, online programs, and eclectic approaches where you pull resources from various sources. Consider your child's learning style, your teaching style, and any specific subjects or methods you want to prioritize.
4. **Gather Resources:** Once you've chosen a curriculum, gather the necessary resources. This might include textbooks, workbooks, online resources, art supplies, science equipment, and anything else you'll need to teach the subjects you've chosen.
5. **Set Up a Schedule:** Establish a daily or weekly schedule for homeschooling. Determine when and where you'll hold classes, how long each session will be, and how you'll balance different subjects. Keep in mind that flexibility is one of the benefits of homeschooling, so don't feel like you have to replicate a traditional school schedule exactly.
6. **Join a Support Group:** Consider joining a homeschooling support group or co-op in your area. These groups can provide valuable resources, advice, and social opportunities for both you and your child.
7. **Stay Organized:** Develop a system for keeping track of your child's progress, including grades, assignments, and any other relevant information. This might involve keeping a homeschooling portfolio, creating a transcript, or using online tools to track progress.
8. **Stay Informed:** Stay up-to-date on homeschooling laws and regulations in Alaska, as well as any changes or developments that might affect your homeschooling experience. This will help ensure that you're in compliance with state requirements and that you're providing the best possible education for your child.

Home School Statutes

The Education Freedom Foundation has relied on the [U.S. Department of Education's State Regulation of Private and Home Schools Map](#) for relevant statutes. Over time, the state pages on this map have been updated since their

initial creation. In some cases, states have changed their laws without these updates being reflected on the map. Given the various methods each state uses to publicize changes to its laws, the most recent information for the Start-A-School project was often obtained directly from the U.S. Department of Education website. Users are encouraged to verify any information before making decisions based on it.

- The state recognizes several options under which a child may be educated in his or her home and meet the Alaska compulsory enrollment law. [Alaska Stat. §14.30.010](#).
- The Alaska home school statute states that compulsory attendance is met "if a child is being educated in the child's home by a parent or legal guardian." [Alaska Stat. §14.30.010\(b\)\(12\)](#).
- Alaska statutes that address other alternatives to attending public school include: 1) attending a home school that meets legal requirements qualifying it as a "religious or other private school"; 2) tutoring by a certified teacher; 3) enrolling in "a full-time program of correspondence study approved by the department"; and 4) participating in a school board approved educational experience requested in writing by the child's parents or guardian for excuse from school attendance. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.100-14.45.200](#), [§14.30.010\(b\)\(1\)\(B\)](#), [§14.30.010\(b\)\(1\)\(C\)](#), [§14.30.010\(b\)\(10\)\(B\)](#); [§14.20.020](#), [§14.30.010\(b\)\(11\)](#).

Assessment and Diplomas

- No testing requirements are set for a home school unless it is operating as a private or religious school. If this is the case, then the parent must administer any nationally standardized achievement test for English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics. Assessment is required of students in grades four, six, and eight. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.120](#). See also, State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's Guide for Establishing a Private or Religious School.

Curriculum and Instruction

- Home schools are exempt from fire, safety, and asbestos regulations as well as from developing a corporal punishment policy. State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's Guide for Establishing a Private or Religious School.

Initial and Renewal Applications

- Parents intending to homeschool their children are not required to register with the state or their local school district. Additionally, there are no requirements to notify, seek approval, test, file forms, or have any teacher qualifications. [Alaska Stat. §14.30.010\(b\)\(12\)](#). See also, State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Frequently Asked Questions.
- If the parent chooses to homeschool through the use of a private tutor that individual must have a teacher certification. Requirements for issuance of a teacher certificate in Alaska include finger printing. [Alaska Stat. §14.30.010\(b\)\(1\)\(B\)](#), [§14.20.020](#).
- If the parent chooses to homeschool through establishing the home school as a private or religious school option, forms or reports are required for the following: affidavit of

compliance; corporal punishment policy; private, religious or other private schools enrollment; school calendar; enrollment reporting for school district; immunization; standardized testing; and academic achievement. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.100-14.45.200](#). See also, State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's Guide for Establishing a Private or Religious School.

Public School Access

- Beginning July 1, 2013, homeschooled students have the opportunity to participate in school sports and interscholastic activities held at public schools. [Alaska Stat. §14.30.365](#).

Resources

- [EED: Alternative Schooling Options](#)
- [EED: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Alaska Administrative Code](#)
- [Home School Legal Defense Association \(HSLDA\)](#)

The HSLDA website has links to state homeschool laws, how to comply with Alaska's Homeschool Law, Compulsory School Age in Alaska, and Public School Access for Homeschoolers in Alaska and more.

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