



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Colorado

Home School

Homeschool is considered a non-public schooling option. Therefore, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is not able to advise on homeschool matters. However, we are able to share resources and general information as seen below.

We encourage you to please contact the school district you plan on submitting your letter of intent with.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Colorado involves several steps to ensure compliance with state regulations. Here's a general outline of what you'll need to do:

- 1. Familiarize Yourself with Colorado Homeschooling Laws:** Colorado has relatively lenient homeschooling laws compared to some other states, but it's essential to understand the requirements. In Colorado, homeschooling is considered a non-public school. You'll need to comply with the Colorado Revised Statutes, specifically sections 22-33-104 and 22-33-104.5. 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 \(HSLDA\)](#).
 - Review [FAQs Regarding Home School](#)
 - Review [Laws Pertaining to Home School](#)
 - Review [Home School Resources](#)
- 2. Notify the School District:** According to Colorado law, you must notify the school district of your intent to homeschool. You should submit a notice of intent to homeschool to the local school district in which you reside. This notice typically includes basic information about your family and your educational plans.
- 3. Establish a Curriculum:** Although Colorado does not mandate specific subjects or curriculum, you'll need to establish an educational plan for your child. This plan should

cover the core subjects such as math, language arts, science, and social studies. You have the flexibility to tailor the curriculum to your child's needs and interests.

4. **Maintain Records:** Colorado requires homeschooling parents to keep records of attendance and academic progress. You should maintain detailed records of the subjects covered, materials used, samples of your child's work, and any assessments or evaluations.
5. **Assessment and Evaluation:** Colorado law requires homeschool students to be evaluated periodically, typically at the end of each school year. You can choose from various assessment options, including standardized tests, evaluations by certified teachers, or a portfolio review by a qualified individual.
6. **Stay Informed:** Keep yourself updated on any changes to homeschooling regulations or requirements in Colorado. Joining local homeschooling groups or online communities can be helpful for networking, sharing resources, and staying informed about legal developments.
7. **Consider Joining a Homeschooling Support Group:** Connecting with other homeschooling families can provide valuable support, resources, and social opportunities for both you and your child.
8. **Optional: Withdrawal from Public School:** If your child is currently enrolled in a public school, you'll need to officially withdraw them before homeschooling. Contact the school administration for the necessary paperwork and procedures.

Remember, while Colorado law provides a lot of flexibility for homeschooling families, it's essential to comply with the legal requirements to ensure a smooth homeschooling experience for you and 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.

- Home-based education is a legitimate alternative to classroom attendance for the instruction of children. Homeschooling is permissible under Colorado law and is distinguished from private and nonpublic schools. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5](#).

Assessment and Diplomas

- Each child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be evaluated when such child reaches grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven. Each child shall be given a nationally standardized achievement test to evaluate the child's academic progress, or a qualified person shall evaluate the child's academic progress. Testing is administered at the parent's expense in accordance with the school district's decision. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5](#).
- Parents of a homeschooled student are required to submit test or evaluation results to the local school district that received the written notice of intent to home school. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5\(3\)\(f\)](#).
- A district diploma is issued only to students who complete a public education school program. There is no state-accredited diploma issued to homeschooled students; however, parents may issue a diploma when the student completes the home-based program. Homeschooled children have the option of taking the GED. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5](#).

Curriculum and Instruction

- The instructor of a child being homeschooled must be a parent, guardian, or adult relative. The parent must keep records of attendance, test and evaluation results, and immunization records. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5\(3\)\(a\)](#).
- The nonpublic, home-based educational program must be a minimum of 172 days, averaging four instructional contact hours per day, and shall include, but not be limited to, communication skills of reading, writing, and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5\(3\)\(d\)](#).
- Teachers conducting evaluations for educational progress must be qualified as defined by the state. A qualified teacher is one who is licensed pursuant to article 60.5 of this title. The teacher is 1) employed by a nonpublic school; 2) a licensed psychologist; or 3) a person with a graduate degree in education. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5\(2\)\(c\)](#).
- Attendance data, test and evaluation results, and immunization records must be maintained and stored. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5\(3\)\(g\)](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- The parent or guardian must provide a written notification to the local school district office 14 days in advance, explaining his or her intent to home school. Written notification is to be given for each child six years of age or older, for each year the program is maintained. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5\(3\)\(e\)](#).
- All costs of home education are assumed by the parents. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5](#).

Public School Access

- Students who receive instruction at home and participate in an extracurricular activity at a school selected by a district may do so without having to enroll in a course or obtain course credit as a condition to participate. Districts, schools, and interscholastic

organizations may require homeschooled students to enroll in a course if the extracurricular activity is an extension of the course. [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 \(6\)\(b\)\(I\)](#).

Resources

Home School Contact

- Home_School@cde.state.co.us

Information and Legislation

- [Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\) – Colorado Non-Public Schools](#)
- [CDE — Colorado Legal Requirements for Non-Public Schools](#)
- [CDE — Schools of Choice Office](#)
- [CDE — Home School in Colorado](#)
- [Colorado Revised Statutes](#)
- [Colorado Regulations](#)