



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Hawaii

Home School

The Department has a legitimate interest in and responsibility for the appropriate education of all school-aged children in the State of Hawaii and recognizes home-schooling as an alternative to compulsory school attendance. Home-schooling is a parent-initiated educational alternative.

Military Families

If you're a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and want information about home-schooling specific to your circumstance, please refer to the website [page for Military Families](#).

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a home school in Hawaii involves several steps to ensure compliance with state regulations and to create an effective learning environment. Here's a guide to get you started:

1. **Understand Hawaii Homeschooling Laws:** Familiarize yourself with Hawaii's homeschooling laws and requirements. In Hawaii, homeschooling is considered a valid educational option, and parents must submit a notice of intent to homeschool to the Department of Education (DOE). 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 \(HSLDA\)](#) and [Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii](#).
2. **Review Requirements:** Ensure you understand the requirements for homeschooling in Hawaii, including the subjects to be taught, the minimum number of instructional hours, and any testing or evaluation requirements. Review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
3. **Review [Tips and Responsibilities for the Homeschooling Parent](#).**
4. **Submit Notice of Intent:** Submit a notice of intent to homeschool ([Form 4140](#)) to the principal of the public school in your neighborhood. This document should include basic information such as the names and ages of the children who will be homeschooled, the address where homeschooling will take place, and a brief outline of the curriculum. A letter of intent, signed by the parent, can be used in place of Form 4140. The following

must be included in the letter of intent, name, address and telephone number of child; birth date and grade level of child; and signature of the parent and date of signature.

5. **Choose a Curriculum:** Select a curriculum that aligns with your educational philosophy, your child's learning style, and Hawaii's requirements. You can choose from pre-packaged curriculum sets, online programs, or design your own curriculum using various resources.
6. **Create a Learning Space:** Set up a designated learning area in your home where your child can focus on their studies. Make sure it's free from distractions and stocked with necessary supplies.
7. **Establish a Schedule:** Develop a homeschooling schedule that works for your family. Consider your child's natural rhythm, your own availability, and any extracurricular activities. Flexibility is one of the benefits of homeschooling, so feel free to adjust the schedule as needed.
8. **Join a Homeschooling Community:** Connect with other homeschooling families in Hawaii through local support groups, online forums, or social media. Networking with other homeschoolers can provide valuable resources, support, and opportunities for socialization.
9. **Document Progress:** Keep records of your child's academic progress, including attendance, coursework completed, and any assessments or evaluations. This documentation may be required by the DOE or helpful for your own records.
10. **Stay Informed:** Stay updated on any changes to homeschooling laws or regulations in Hawaii. Subscribe to relevant newsletters, join homeschooling associations, and attend workshops or conferences to stay informed and connected to the homeschooling community.
11. **Evaluate and Adjust:** Regularly evaluate your homeschooling approach and make adjustments as necessary. Be flexible and responsive to your child's evolving needs and interests.

By following these steps, you can establish a successful homeschooling program for your family in Hawaii. Remember that homeschooling offers a unique opportunity to tailor education to your child's individual needs and interests, so embrace the journey and enjoy the learning experience together!

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.

Assessment and Diplomas

- Test scores are required for grades identified in the Statewide Testing Program, grades three, five, eight, and 10. The child may participate in the testing program through the local public school or through private testing at the parent's expense. Other means of evaluation may be approved if requested by the parent. [HAC §8-12-18](#).
- The parent of a homeschooled student must submit an annual report of the student's progress to the local school principal. Satisfactory progress may be determined by (1) a grade-level achievement on a nationally-normed standardized achievement test; (2) progress on a nationally normed standardized achievement test that indicates progress up a grade level; (3) a written evaluation by a Hawaii certified teacher that grade level progress was made; or (4) a written parental evaluation that includes a description of the student's progress in each subject, representative samples of the student's work, and representative tests and graded assignments when grades were given. The principal must review the adequacy of the student's progress and, if it is not adequate, meet with the parent to discuss problems and make a plan for improvement. [HAC §8-12-18](#).
- A homeschooled child must attend high school for a minimum of three full years to meet the credit requirements for graduation, as well as perform satisfactorily on the Hawaii State Test of Essential Competencies, in order to earn a diploma from the local high school. A homeschooled child who wants to earn a high school diploma from the community school for adults must meet the following requirements: be at least 16 years of age, have been homeschooled for at least one semester under Hawaii's homeschool procedures, and take and achieve a satisfactory score on the Graduate Educational Development test (GED). [HAC §8-12-21](#).
- A child who is being homeschooled may participate in any college entrance examination made available to all other students through a request to the local public high school principal. [HAC §8-12-22](#).

Curriculum and Instruction

- The parent(s) submitting a notice to homeschool a child must be responsible for the child's total educational program including athletics and other cocurricular activities. [HAC §8-12-13\(d\)](#).
- All educational and related services statutorily mandated must be made available at the home public school site to homeschooled children who have been evaluated and certified as needing educational and related services and who request the services. [HAC §8-12-14](#).
- The parent submitting a notice of intent to homeschool must keep a record of the planned curriculum for the child. The record of the planned curriculum must include the following: the commencement date and ending date of the program, a record of the number of hours per week the child spends in instruction, and the subject areas to be covered in the planned curriculum. An elementary school curriculum may include the areas of language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, art, music, health, and

physical education to be offered at the appropriate development stage of the child; a secondary school curriculum may include the subject areas of social studies, English, mathematics, science, health, physical education and guidance. At both the elementary and secondary levels, the curriculum must include the method used to determine mastery of materials and subjects in the curriculum and a list of textbooks or other instructional materials that will be used. The list must be in standard bibliographical format. For books, the author, title, publisher, and date of publication must be indicated. For magazines, the author, article title, magazine, date, volume number, and pages must be indicated. [HAC §8-12-15](#).

- A parent teaching the parent's child at home must be deemed a qualified instructor. [HAC §8-12-19](#).
- No course credits (Carnegie units) are granted for time spent being homeschooled. [HAC §8-12-20](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- The parent must provide the local public school principal with a notice of intent to home educate the child before initiating homeschooling. The notice of intent may be submitted on a HIDOE-developed form ([Form OIS-4140](#)) or in a letter containing the following items: name, address, and telephone number of the child; birthdate and grade level of the child; and signature of the parent. [Hawaii Administrative Code \(HAC\) §8-12-13](#).
- The notice of intent must be acknowledged by the principal and the district superintendent. The notice of intent is used for record-keeping purposes and to protect families from unfounded accusations of educational neglect or truancy. [HAC §8-12-13\(b\)](#).
- If the student's annual progress reports are submitted, the notification of intent to homeschool does not need to be resubmitted annually unless the local school that the student would attend if not homeschooled is changing. [HAC §8-12-13\(c\)](#).
- The parent must notify the principal if homeschooling is terminated. A child must be reenrolled in the local public school or licensed private school unless a new alternative educational program is presented within five school days after the termination of home schooling. [HAC §8-12-16](#).

Public School Access

- No state policy currently exists.

Special Education

- No state policy currently exists.

Resources

Contact Information

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