



# Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## Idaho

### Home Schools

Home Schooling is education directed by the parent/guardian. Since Idaho does not regulate or monitor home school education, it is up to the parent/guardian to select the curriculum they wish to use. There is no registration or sign-up procedure required and the state of Idaho does not have a set curriculum to be followed for home school education. All costs associated with home schooling are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

### Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Idaho involves several steps to ensure compliance with state regulations and to create an effective educational environment for your child. Here's a general guide:

1. **Familiarize Yourself with Idaho Homeschool Laws:** Understand the legal requirements for homeschooling in Idaho. Idaho is one of the most homeschool-friendly states in the US, with minimal regulations. However, you still need to comply with certain rules. The main requirement is to submit a letter of intent to homeschool to your local school district annually. Review the Frequently Asked Questions on this [webpage](#). 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 Your School:** Parents should contact the school office, in person and/or in writing, to let the school know that the child will be instructed at home and is being withdrawn from public school. The school may have a withdrawal form to be completed by the parent or guardian. If a parent does not withdraw the child, the child may remain on the school attendance list and may be considered truant.
3. **Choose a Homeschool Curriculum:** Select a curriculum that fits your child's learning style and your educational goals. There are many options available, including pre-packaged curricula, online programs, and eclectic approaches where you piece together materials from various sources.

4. **Set Up a Homeschooling Schedule:** Create a schedule for your homeschool that suits your family's needs. Decide how many hours per day you'll dedicate to homeschooling and establish a routine that includes time for academic subjects, breaks, extracurricular activities, and field trips.
5. **Gather Necessary Materials and Resources:** Purchase or gather the materials and resources you'll need for homeschooling, such as textbooks, workbooks, art supplies, and educational games. Consider utilizing your local library, online resources, and homeschooling groups for additional support.
6. **Establish Learning Spaces:** Designate specific areas of your home for learning activities. Create a comfortable and organized environment where your child can focus on their studies.
7. **Join a Homeschooling Support Group:** Consider joining a homeschooling support group or co-op in your area. These groups provide opportunities for socialization, networking, and sharing resources with other homeschooling families.
8. **Keep Records:** Maintain records of your child's homeschooling progress, including attendance records, samples of coursework, and any standardized test scores. While not required by Idaho law, keeping thorough records can be helpful for documenting your child's education and meeting future educational goals.
9. **Stay Informed:** Stay informed about homeschooling laws and regulations in Idaho. Joining a homeschooling association or subscribing to homeschooling publications can help you stay up to date on any changes or developments.
10. **Continuously Assess and Adjust:** Regularly assess your homeschooling approach and make adjustments as needed to meet your child's evolving needs and interests. Flexibility is one of the key advantages of homeschooling, so don't be afraid to experiment and adapt your methods as you go.

By following these steps, you can establish a successful homeschooling program for your child in Idaho. Remember that homeschooling is a personal journey, so don't hesitate to tailor your approach to best suit your child's individual learning style and interests.

## 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 Diploma

- Homeschooled students may participate in statewide testing and assessment. [Idaho State Department of Education School Choice Packet](#).
- A homeschooled student may, at the age of 18, take the General Education Development (GED) test and, upon successful completion of all requirements, apply for an Idaho High School Equivalency Certificate. There are exceptions to the age criteria. [Idaho State Department of Education School Choice Packet](#).

## Curriculum and Instruction

- A homeschooled student must be comparably instructed to students in the public school during the compulsory attendance ages of seven through 16 years. [Idaho Code §33-202](#)

## Home Education Programs

- A nonpublic student is one who receives educational instruction outside of a public-school classroom, including a private or home school. [Idaho Code §33-203\(9\)](#).
- Idaho does not require any registration or reporting related to homeschooled students.

## Initial and Renewal Applications

- No state policy on applications regarding home schools currently exists.

## Public School Access

- The parent or guardian of a homeschooled child is allowed to enroll the student in the public school for dual enrollment purposes. Dual enrollment allows the student to enter into any program, including public school classes and extracurricular activities, in the public school that are available to other students subject to compliance with the same rules and regulations as other students. [Idaho Code §33-203](#).

## Special Education

- No state policy on special education regarding home schools currently exists.

## Resources

### Contact Information--State and Federal Departments of Education

- Program Specialist  
(208) 332-6906
- Idaho State Department of Education  
650 West State Street  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027

Phone: (208) 332-6800

Toll-Free: (800) 432-4601

Fax: (208) 334-2228

Website: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/>

- U.S. Department of Education, [Idaho](#)

### **Information and Legislation**

- [Idaho State Department of Education: Home School](#)
- [Idaho State Department of Education: Special Education Manual](#)
- [Idaho Statutes](#)