



# Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## Indiana

### Home School

Parents who choose to home educate their children may report their homeschool's enrollment to the Indiana Department of Education ([IC 20-33-2-21](#)). Reporting homeschool enrollment (registering a homeschool) is not required in Indiana.

### Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Indiana involves a few steps, but it's entirely manageable. Here's a general guide to help you get started:

- 1. Review State Laws:** First, familiarize yourself with Indiana's homeschooling laws. The Indiana Department of Education (DOE) oversees homeschooling regulations. Parents who choose to home educate their children may report their homeschool's enrollment to the Indiana Department of Education ([IC 20-33-2-21](#)). Reporting homeschool enrollment (registering a homeschool) is not required in Indiana. If you do wish to register your Home School, you can use this [Home School Enrollment form](#). 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 [Homeschool Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - Review [Homeschool Help Sheet](#)
  - Review [State Standards](#)
- 2. Choose a Homeschooling Method:** Determine the educational approach you want to take. There are various methods such as traditional, Charlotte Mason, Montessori, unschooling, etc. Select one that aligns with your child's learning style and your educational philosophy.
- 3. Notify the School District:** It is recommended, but not required that you inform your local school district of your intention to homeschool. You'll need to submit a notice of intent to homeschool along with an educational plan outlining your curriculum, subjects, and materials. The [Homeschool Enrollment](#) form pertains only to residents of the State

of Indiana. Submitting the Homeschool Registration Form is not required in the State of Indiana.

4. **Develop a Curriculum:** Design a curriculum tailored to your child's needs and interests. Utilize resources like textbooks, online courses, educational websites, and community programs. Indiana doesn't prescribe specific subjects, so you have flexibility in what you teach.
5. **Keep Records:** Maintain detailed records of attendance, academic progress, and any extracurricular activities. This documentation may be requested by the DOE or your local school district for evaluation purposes.
6. **Administer Standardized Tests:** Indiana requires homeschooled students to take standardized tests annually from the third grade onward. The test must be administered by a qualified individual, and the results should be kept on file.
7. **Join a Support Group:** Consider joining a homeschooling support group or co-op in your area. These communities offer resources, advice, and social opportunities for both parents and students.
8. **Stay Informed:** Stay updated on changes to homeschooling laws and regulations in Indiana. The DOE website and homeschooling organizations can be valuable resources for staying informed.
9. **Evaluate Progress:** Regularly assess your child's progress and adjust your homeschooling approach as needed. Be open to feedback and willing to adapt to your child's changing needs and interests.

Starting a homeschool in Indiana may seem daunting at first, but with careful planning and dedication, it can be a rewarding educational experience for both 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.*

Per the [Indiana Department of Education](#), home schools in Indiana are nonpublic, non-accredited schools.

## Assessment and Diplomas

- Homeschooled students may not take ISTEP+ or any other public school administered test unless they are enrolled in a public school for at least one period a day. Homeschooled children will not receive a diploma from the local public school or from

the state, but can receive a legally issued, non-accredited diploma, according to the state of Indiana, issued by the instructor of the home school. Sixteen-year-old students may take the examination for the general equivalency development certificate. Per the [Indiana Department of Education's Homeschool Help Sheet](#).

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

- Home educators must teach a minimum of 180 days per calendar year. [IC §20-33-2-5](#).
- Per the [Indiana Department of Education's Homeschool Help Sheet](#), the head of the home school will decide the days and hours of the home school. Also, local public school superintendents may request the attendance records to verify attendance.
- State law exempts home schools from the curriculum and program requirements that public schools must follow. [IC §20-33-2-12\(a\)](#).

### **Initial and Renewal Applications**

- Homeschool educators may register by submitting their grade level enrollment to the Indiana Department of Education. [IC §20-33-2-21](#).
- Parents should provide 180 days of instruction in an academic year, which runs from July 1, of a given year through June 30, of the following year. The days the student was enrolled in a public school or another accredited school count toward the 180 days of attendance. Indiana law does not require specific educational records to be maintained. If there is ever a question of educational neglect, keeping good attendance records and other documentation regarding attendance and continuing educational activity is highly instrumental in addressing these concerns. [IC §20-33-2-20](#).

### **Public School Access**

- Home-educated students can participate, with the approval of the superintendent or the school board, in public school educational activities. Participation in elementary or junior high athletics is at the discretion of the public school. [IC §20-33-2-12\(B\)](#).
- Participation in high school athletics is controlled by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSSA). IHSSA requires that the student (1) has been homeschooled the previous three consecutive years; (2) must be enrolled in the school that the student is representing for at least one class per day; (3) pass a physical examination; (4) participate in the required practices for the activity as affirmed by the school; (5) has completed all state-wide examinations as authorized by the Indiana Department of Education; and (6) has his/her grades submitted and be certified passing by his or her family. Per the [Indiana Department of Education's Homeschool Help Sheet](#).

### **Special Education**

- Each public agency must (1) locate, identify, and evaluate all students with disabilities as specified in 511 IAC 7-40 in any nonpublic school or facility, including any religious school or home school, within its boundaries; (2) consult with nonpublic school representatives and representatives of parents of nonpublic school students with

disabilities; (3) provide information to the division of special education related to parentally-placed nonpublic school students covered under this rule; and (4) make available special education and related services to all students with disabilities. [511 IAC 7-34-1](#).

## Resources

### Information and Legislation

- [Indiana Department of Education: Office of Student Services, Homeschool Information](#)
- [Indiana Code](#)
- [Indiana Administrative Code](#)
- [Homeschool Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [State Standards](#)
- [When a Homeschooled Child Returns to Public School](#)
- [Homeschool Enrollment Form](#)