



# Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## Kentucky

### Home School

For a variety of academic and non-academic factors, some parents believe in the benefits of homeschooling their child. While professional educators urge extreme caution to those proceeding with this often overwhelming challenge, it is imperative that parents and guardians opting for a homeschool environment equip themselves with the knowledge, information, contacts and legal obligations pertaining to the establishment and daily operation needed for compliance.

#### **Rights of the Parent**

The Kentucky constitution establishes the prerogatives of the parents to choose the formal education for the child. Therefore, parents may choose to homeschool their child. If a parent chooses this option, they take complete responsibility for educating their child. The parent/guardian selects the curriculum and educational materials. There is no state financial assistance for families who choose this option.

#### **Steps to Start a Home School**

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

1. **Understand Kentucky Homeschool Laws:** Familiarize yourself with the homeschooling laws and regulations in Kentucky. Review the [Kentucky Homeschool Information Packet](#). 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 Local School District:** Notify the superintendent of the local school board in writing within ten days of the beginning of the school year of your intent to homeschool your child(ren) each year you homeschool. The letter must include the name, ages and residence of each child in attendance of the homeschool. See KRS 159.160. A sample

letter is included in the [Kentucky Homeschool Information Packet](#). Make sure to follow any specific guidelines provided by your district.

3. **Develop a Curriculum:** Choose a curriculum or educational approach that aligns with your children's learning needs and your teaching philosophy. You can opt for pre-packaged curricula, online resources, or design your own curriculum based on state standards.
4. **Set Up a Learning Space:** Designate a specific area in your home for homeschooling activities. This space should be conducive to learning and free from distractions.
5. **Gather Necessary Materials:** Depending on your chosen curriculum, gather textbooks, workbooks, art supplies, science materials, and other resources needed for teaching and learning.
6. **Establish a Schedule:** Create a daily or weekly schedule that includes time for instruction, independent study, and breaks. Flexibility is one of the benefits of homeschooling, so feel free to adjust the schedule as needed to accommodate your family's needs and interests.
7. **Join a Homeschooling Support Group:** Consider joining a local homeschooling support group or online community for resources, advice, and socialization opportunities for both you and your children.
8. **Keep Records:** Maintain thorough records of attendance, academic progress, and any other documentation required by the state. This may include standardized test scores or portfolio assessments.
9. **Stay Informed and Flexible:** Stay updated on changes to homeschooling regulations and educational resources. Be open to adjusting your approach based on your children's progress and evolving educational needs.
10. **Monitor Progress:** Regularly assess your children's progress and adjust your teaching methods or curriculum as necessary to ensure they are meeting their educational goals.

Remember that homeschooling is a personalized educational option, so feel free to tailor your approach to suit your family's unique needs and preferences. Additionally, don't hesitate to reach out to local homeschooling organizations or experienced homeschooling families for guidance and support along the way.

## 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.*

- Parents have the prerogative to choose the education for their child. Kentucky State Board for Elementary and Secondary Education V. Rudasill, Ky. 589 S.W. 2nd 877 (1979).
- Home schools are defined as nonpublic schools in Kentucky. Because home schools are considered private schools in Kentucky, private school laws apply equally to home schools. [KRS §159.030](#).

### **Assessment and Diplomas**

- No state policy currently exists.

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

- The curriculum is to be similar to the courses taught in the public schools of the state, consistent with [KRS §156.445\(3\)](#). This is interpreted in Kentucky State Board for Elementary and Secondary Education V. Rudasill, Ky. 589 S.W. 2nd 877 (1979) to at least include reading, writing, spelling, grammar, history, mathematics, and civics. [KRS §158.080](#).
- The school term of nonpublic schools, including home instruction, may not be shorter than the term of the local public school district; if the school operates year-round, then the minimum term is 185 days. [KRS §§158.070](#) and [158.080](#).

### **Initial and Renewal Applications**

- Parents wishing to educate their child at home must first establish a bona fide school, notify the local superintendent of schools that they have established this school, and report the names, ages, and place of residence for each pupil in attendance at the school. Each year they must notify the local superintendent of schools of their intent to homeschool their child(ren) within two weeks of the first day of the school year. [KRS §159.160](#).
- The homeschool parent must keep student attendance records and be open to inspection by the KDE. [KRS §159.040](#).

### **Public School Access**

- Individual school districts can decide whether to allow home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities. [Kentucky Home School Information Packet](#).

## Resources

### Contact Information

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### Information and Legislation

- [Kentucky Department of Education: Home School](#)
- [Kentucky Home School Information Packet](#)
- [Kentucky Revised Statutes](#)