



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Louisiana

Home School

Louisiana Families may choose to educate their children independently from the public or nonpublic school system. Louisiana families typically provide this independent education through a Nonpublic School Not Seeking State Approval or a Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Approved Home Study Program.

To comply with state attendance laws, parents who want to educate their children in an Approved Home Study Program must apply and be approved annually by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. A child enrolled in an Approved Home Study Program is considered in compliance with compulsory attendance laws.

Parents who enroll their child in an Approved Home Study Program are solely responsible for the items outlined below.

- Parents must submit the [Home Study Application](#). In order to be approved, the assurance statement must be completed by the parent/legal guardian.
- Parents must select the curriculum to use to educate their child. The Department does not maintain a list of approved programs, curriculum, or strategies.
- Parents are responsible for all Approved Home Study Program related costs. State funding is not available for parents who have students in an Approved Home Study Program.
- Parents determine the grade level the child will be taught for the upcoming year. The LDOE does not make assumptions or judgments about the grade level provided by the parent. Retroactive changes to a student's grade level are not allowed.
- The Home Study Program is responsible for creating and issuing diplomas. Home Study diplomas are not awarded by BESE or the Louisiana Department of Education. Therefore, a depiction, reproduction, or duplication of state seals or wording which implies from BESE or the Louisiana Department of Education is unauthorized.

Students in an Approved Home Study Program are not required to take state assessments. Students in an Approved Home Study Program may participate in interscholastic athletic activities.

A diploma received in an Approved Home Study program carries the same weight as a state issued diploma.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Louisiana involves understanding and complying with the state's homeschooling laws and regulations. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you get started:

1. **Understand Louisiana Homeschool Laws:** Familiarize yourself with the homeschooling laws and regulations in Louisiana. Louisiana's homeschooling laws are relatively flexible compared to some other states. Homeschooling is governed by the Louisiana

Department of Education (LDOE), and parents have several options for homeschooling under the umbrella of the Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 17, Part XIII-B. 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 [Home Study Guidelines](#)
 - Review [homeschoollouisiana.org](#)
 - Review [homeschoolfreedom.com](#)
 - Review [nheri.org](#)
2. **Choose a Homeschooling Option:** Louisiana offers several homeschooling options, including:
 - **Home Study Program (Nonpublic School):** Parents can establish a home study program and operate as a nonpublic school.
 - **Home Study (Private Tutoring):** Parents can hire a certified teacher to provide instruction in their home.
 - **Home Study (Distance Education):** Parents can enroll their children in distance education programs offered by approved providers.
 - **Home Study (Dual Enrollment):** High school students can enroll in college courses while being homeschooled.
 3. **Comply with Notification Requirements:** Depending on the homeschooling option you choose, you may need to notify the Louisiana Department of Education or your local school district of your intent to homeschool. Make sure to submit any required documentation and follow the procedures outlined by the LDOE.
 4. **Develop a Curriculum:** Select a curriculum or educational approach that meets Louisiana's educational standards and aligns with your children's learning needs and your teaching philosophy. You can choose pre-packaged curricula, online resources, or design your own curriculum.

5. **Set Up a Learning Environment:** Create a dedicated space in your home for homeschooling activities. Ensure that the space is conducive to learning and free from distractions.
6. **Gather Necessary Materials:** Collect textbooks, workbooks, educational materials, and other resources needed for teaching and learning. Consider your children's interests and learning styles when selecting materials.
7. **Establish a Schedule:** Create a daily or weekly schedule for homeschooling activities, including time for instruction, independent study, and breaks. Be flexible and adjust the schedule as needed to accommodate your family's needs and interests.
8. **Keep Records:** Maintain thorough records of attendance, academic progress, and any other documentation required by the state or your chosen homeschooling option. This may include standardized test scores, portfolios, or other assessments.
9. **Join a Homeschooling Support Network:** Connect with local homeschooling support groups, online forums, or social media communities for resources, advice, and socialization opportunities for both you and your children.
10. **Stay Informed and Flexible:** Stay updated on any changes to homeschooling laws and regulations in Louisiana. Be open to adjusting your approach based on your children's progress and evolving educational needs.

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 seek guidance from experienced homeschooling families or organizations for 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.

- Solely for purposes of compulsory attendance in a nonpublic school, a child who participates in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall be considered in attendance at a day school. A home study program shall be approved if it offers a sustained curriculum of a quality at least equal to that offered by public schools at the same grade level. [La. R.S. Ann. §17:236](#).
- A home study plan is a program in which an approved curriculum can be implemented under the direction and control of a parent or a tutor. Any child eligible to attend an

elementary or secondary school in Louisiana is eligible to participate in a home study plan. Home study regulations are found at [La. R.S. Ann. §17:236, §17:236.1](#).

- A home school educational program may operate by registering as a nonpublic school not seeking state approval in accordance with Louisiana's compulsory attendance law. An official, signed letter must be submitted annually to register (by the thirtieth day after the school session begins) and it must include: the school year, name of school, contact information, and the total number of students enrolled [La. R.S. §17:232 \(C\) and \(D\)](#).

Assessment and Diplomas

- State assessment is not required. A student in an SBESE-approved home study program may request the local school board or state superintendent to administer the iLEAP, LEAP, or GEE tests. It is the parent's responsibility to contact the testing coordinator in early February to arrange the student's participation in state testing. A fee of no more than \$35 for administering, scoring, and reporting may be charged. La. R.S. Ann. [§17:236.1](#).
- Completion of a home study program does not entitle the student to a regular high school diploma. Only public and approved nonpublic schools that meet state requirements may issue a state diploma. The state board can award the General Equivalency Diploma (GED), provided the student passes the GED examination. [La. R.S. Ann. §17:11](#).
- Effective August 2010 and thereafter, high school diplomas awarded through home study programs approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education are now recognized by all public postsecondary educational institutions, all state departments, agencies, boards, and commissions, and all other state and local government entities to have all of the rights and privileges as those awarded by a state-approved nonpublic school. [La. R.S. Ann. §17:236.1.G](#).
- Home study program diplomas are not awarded by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or by the Louisiana Department of Education. Therefore, depiction, reproduction, or duplication of state seals or wording that implies implementation of the prescribed course of study required for public schools is unauthorized.

Curriculum and Instruction

- State Board policy requires local school systems to provide textbooks to students participating in SBESE-approved home study programs when extra copies are available. Local school systems may charge a deposit fee for each book borrowed by a home study parent, but the deposit is refunded when the book(s) is/are returned. [La. R.S. Ann. §17:351.1](#).

Health

- If a child is 11 years of age and participating in an approved home study program ([La. R.S. §17:236.1](#)), Louisiana state law requires parents to provide proof of immunization against meningococcal disease. Parents have the right to submit waivers for religious, medical, or personal reasons to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in lieu of immunization evidence. [La. R.S. §17:170.4\(A\)\(1\)\(c\)](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (SBESE) may approve home study programs. To be approved by the SBESE, a home study program must offer a sustained curriculum of a quality at least equal to that offered by the public schools, consist of an adequate physical plant, and operate a minimum session of no fewer than 180 days. [La. R.S. Ann. §17:221.3](#), [§17:232 \(C\) and \(D\)](#), and [§17:236](#), [§17:236.1](#), and [§17:236.2](#).
- An initial application must be made within 15 days of beginning a program of home instruction. It must include a completed application and certified copy of the birth certificate for the child. A short-form birth certification card is acceptable as a certified copy of the birth certificate. [La. R.S. Ann. §17:236.1](#).
- A renewal application must be made by October 1 of the school year, or within 12 months of the approval of the initial application, whichever is later. A renewal application is accepted upon presentation of satisfactory evidence that the program offered a sustained curriculum of a quality at least equal to that of the public schools at the same grade level. The sustained curriculum can be substantiated in several ways, including presentation of test results on which the student scored at or above his or her grade level, or description and substantiating documents detailing the contents of the instructional program. [La. R.S. Ann. §17:236.1](#).

Public School Access

- Home study students have the opportunity to participate on a public-school sports team with the approval of the school's principal. [La. R.S. §17.236.3](#).

Resources

Contact Information

Please email homestudy@la.gov with questions about this process.

Information and Legislation

- [LDOE: BESE Approved Home Study Guidance and Applications](#)
- [Louisiana Administrative Code](#)