



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Maryland

Home School

Maryland law, [Education Article, §7-301, Annotated Code of Maryland, Compulsory Attendance](#), and [COMAR 13A.10.10.01](#) states that each child who resides in Maryland and is five years old or older and under 18 shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough schooling during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public school to children of the same age. Maryland recognizes nonpublic schools and home schooling as options to public school enrollment for students to receive regular, thorough instruction.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a home school in Maryland involves understanding the state's homeschooling laws and fulfilling the necessary requirements. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you get started:

1. **Understand Maryland Homeschool Laws:** Familiarize yourself with Maryland's homeschooling laws and regulations. Homeschooling in Maryland is governed by the Maryland Department of Education (MSDE) and is primarily regulated under the Maryland Compulsory Attendance Law and [COMAR 13A.10.01](#). 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 the links below:
 - [Home Instruction Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Fact Sheet Regarding Maryland Church-Exempt Schools](#)
 - [Nonpublic Entities Registered to Supervise Home Instruction](#)
 - [Complete COMAR Citation 2019](#)
 - [Código Anotado de Maryland, Programa de educación en el hogar \(COMAR13A Home Instruction Regulation in Spanish\)](#)

- [Home Instruction Video Series](#)
 - [Part 1 Initiating Home Instruction](#)
 - [Part 2 Components of a Home Instruction Program](#)
 - [Part 3 Special Topics for High School Aged Students](#)
 - [Spanish Link: Home Instruction Video Series](#)
- www.aacps.org/homeinstruction

2. **Choose a Homeschooling Option:** Maryland offers several options for homeschooling:

- **Portfolio Review:** Parents can homeschool independently and submit a portfolio of their child's work to a qualified evaluator for review.
- **Enroll in a Nonpublic School:** Parents can enroll their child in a nonpublic school umbrella program that provides oversight and support for homeschooling families.
- **Church-Related Umbrella Programs:** Some religious organizations may offer umbrella programs for homeschooling families.
- **Online Homeschooling Programs:** Parents can enroll their child in accredited online homeschooling programs.

3. **Comply with Notification Requirements:** Depending on the homeschooling option you choose, you may need to notify the local school district or the Maryland State Department of Education of your intent to homeschool. Follow the procedures outlined by the MSDE or your chosen umbrella program.

4. **Develop a Curriculum:** Select a curriculum or educational approach that meets Maryland's educational standards and aligns with your child'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 child'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 keeping a portfolio of your child's work, standardized test scores, 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 child.
10. **Stay Informed and Flexible:** Stay updated on any changes to homeschooling laws and regulations in Maryland. Be open to adjusting your approach based on your child's progress and evolving educational needs.

Remember that homeschooling is a personalized educational option, so feel free to tailor your approach to suit your child'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.

- Home instruction programs that deliver regular, thorough instruction during the school year in subjects usually taught in public schools to children of similar age, five years old or older and under 16, satisfy Maryland's compulsory school attendance law. [Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-301](#).
- Home instruction in Maryland is governed by state regulations that establish the process a local school superintendent uses to ensure a homeschooled child receives consistent and comprehensive instruction similar to that received by public school students of similar age. [COMAR 13A.10.01 \(A\)](#).
- A home-based private educational program is not a private school under state law.

Assessment and Diplomas

- The parent of a home instruction program must allow a representative of the local school system to review "the portfolio of educational materials, discuss the instructional program, and observe the instruction provided. There are not more than three reviews during a school year." [COMAR 13A.10.01 \(E\)](#).
- A parent of a child in a home instruction program may request that the child participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing that is administered in the public school where the child is eligible to attend. [COMAR 13A.10.01.02](#).

Curriculum and Instruction

- Such parents or legal guardians must provide regular, thorough instruction in the subjects that are taught in the public schools. Parents or legal guardians may unilaterally select the relevant instructional materials and equipment they wish to use. [COMAR 13A.10.01](#).
- Parents or guardians must teach their homeschooled children in the following mandatory subjects: English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education. [COMAR 13A.10.01.01C. \(2\)](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- Parents or legal guardians must submit a written statement on a consent form prescribed by the Maryland Department of Education at least 15 days before the beginning of a home instruction program. Forms are available upon request to the local school system. [COMAR 13A.10.01](#).
- Once home instruction is established, parents must annually thereafter, before the beginning of the school year, verify the continuation of home school instruction for their children with the local school superintendent. [COMAR 13A.10.01.01 \(2\)](#).
- Parents or legal guardians must select an entity to supervise the home instruction they provide. That entity may be one of the following: the local school system; a nonpublic school that holds a certificate of approval from the Maryland State Board of Education; a church-exempt nonpublic school; or an education ministry of a bona fide church organization. [COMAR 13A.10.01.05](#).

Public School Access

- There is no regulation at this time allowing homeschooled students to participate in courses or activities that are offered by a Maryland public school other than the standardized testing program. [COMAR 13A.10.01](#).
- Parents or guardians may request that a homeschooled child participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing programs being given at the child's local public school district. [COMAR 13A.10.01.02](#).

Resources

Information and Legislation

- [Code of Maryland Regulations \(COMAR\): COMAR Online](#)
- [Code of Public General Laws \(Statutes\) of Maryland](#)
- [Many Paths of Natural Learning Support Group](#)
- [Maryland Association of Christian Home Educators](#)
- [Maryland Catholic Homeschoolers](#)

- [Maryland Department of Education \(MSDE\): Nonpublic School Approval](#)
- [Maryland Home Education Association \(MHEA\)](#)
- [Maryland HomeSchool Association](#)
- [Maryland Homeschool Organizations and Support Groups \(2017\)](#)
- [MSDE Home Instruction Notification Form \(2017\)](#)
- [MSDE: Home Instruction](#)
- [MSDE: Nonpublic Schools Regulations](#)
- [MSDE: Nonpublic Schools Workgroup](#)
- [The Learning Community International](#)