



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Minnesota

Home Schools

Minnesota's Compulsory Instruction statutes, sections [120A.22](#), [120A.24](#), and [120A.26](#), allow parents to create private schools in their home for their children. Like other nonpublic options, these schools are predominately financed by the parents. However, Minnesota does have [Nonpublic Pupil Aids](#) that parents may claim by September 15 of each year through their public school district superintendent's office.

Minnesota currently recognizes only one accrediting agency, the [Home-Based Educators Accrediting Association](#), for accrediting homeschools. Homeschools do not need to be accredited. However, one benefit of being accredited is being waived from a requirement for a nationally normed achievement test for each student ages 7-17 each year.

No state certification of individual private schools or homeschools: State standards set for public schools do not apply to nonpublic schools – whether regular private schools or homeschools. Therefore, the Minnesota Department of Education nor local school districts certify or validate any nonpublic or homeschool, diploma or transcript.

County social services has jurisdiction on educational neglect. The Minnesota Department of Education does not have jurisdiction to investigate concerns of educational neglect of any student. As with other types of abuse or neglect, mandatory reporters must, and others may, contact county social services where the student resides to report.

Starting homeschooling in Minnesota involves several steps to ensure compliance with state laws and to set up a successful educational experience for your child. Here's a detailed guide to help you get started:

Steps to Start a Home School

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

1. **Familiarize Yourself with Minnesota Homeschooling Laws:** Minnesota has specific homeschooling laws that you must comply with. The laws require parents to notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool, provide instruction in certain subjects, and conduct annual assessments. Familiarize yourself with these laws to ensure you're meeting all requirements. 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 following items:
 - [Home-School Questions and Answers](#) - 9/28/23
 - [Initial Registration Form for Unaccredited Schools](#) - 8/7/23
This form is to be submitted to resident school superintendents by October 1 of each year, or within 15 days of withdrawing a child from public school. Revised April 2015.
 - [Letter of Intent to Continue to Provide Instruction](#) - 8/8/23
This form is to be submitted to the resident school superintendent by October 1 of each year after the instructor has provided the same district with an Initial Registration Form. Revised April 2015.
2. **Notify the Local School District:** Download and submit a [Letter of Intent to Continue to Provide Instruction](#) to your local school district by October 1 . Include the names and ages of the children you'll be homeschooling, along with your contact information. You must submit this letter before you start homeschooling.
3. **Choose a Homeschooling Method:** Decide on the homeschooling method or curriculum that aligns with your educational philosophy and your children's learning styles. There are various approaches, including traditional textbooks, online programs, eclectic homeschooling, and unschooling. Research different methods and choose what works best for your family.
4. **Develop a Curriculum:** Based on your chosen method, create a curriculum for each child. Include subjects required by Minnesota law, such as reading, writing, math, social studies, science, and health. You have flexibility in how you teach these subjects, so tailor the curriculum to suit your children's interests and abilities.
5. **Gather Necessary Materials:** Purchase or gather the materials and resources you'll need for homeschooling, such as textbooks, workbooks, educational games, art supplies, and science equipment. Consider visiting homeschooling conventions or joining online homeschooling communities for recommendations and support.
6. **Establish a Schedule:** Set a daily or weekly schedule for homeschooling activities. Determine the time of day when your children are most alert and focused and plan your lessons accordingly. Include breaks, outdoor activities, and field trips to keep learning engaging and balanced.

7. **Keep Records:** Maintain accurate records of your homeschooling activities, including attendance, academic progress, and any assessments or evaluations. Minnesota law requires homeschooling parents to keep these records for at least three years.
8. **Participate in Assessments:** Minnesota law requires homeschooling students to participate in annual assessments to measure academic progress. You can choose from various assessment options, including standardized tests, portfolio evaluations, and teacher evaluations. Submit the assessment results to the local school district as required.
9. **Stay Informed and Connected:** Stay informed about changes to homeschooling laws and regulations in Minnesota. Join homeschooling organizations, support groups, or online forums to connect with other homeschooling families, share resources, and seek advice or support when needed.

Starting a homeschool in Minnesota requires careful planning, adherence to state regulations, and ongoing commitment to providing a quality education for your children. By following these steps and staying informed, you can create a successful homeschooling experience for your family.

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.

- "The parent of a child is primarily responsible for assuring that the child acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship." [Minn. Stat. Ann. §120A.22](#).
- A home school is defined as a nonpublic school wherein a resident of Minnesota may legally fulfill the compulsory instruction requirements. The home school must be located within the state and must meet the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352). [Minn. Stat. Ann. §123B.41](#).
- The local superintendent is responsible for ensuring compliance with Minnesota's compulsory instruction law. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §120A.26](#).

Assessment and Diplomas

- A home school student is required each year to be "assessed using a nationally norm-referenced standardized achievement examination." Both the parent and the superintendent must agree on the specific examination, the administration, and location of the examination. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §120A.22, Subd.11](#).

Curriculum and Instruction

- Home schools are required to provide instruction in: 1) basic communication skills, including reading, writing, literature, and fine arts; 2) mathematics and science; 3) social studies, including history, geography, and government; and 4) health and physical education. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §120A.22](#).
- Instruction, textbooks, and materials must be in the English language. It is permissible to use another language in addition to English, according to [Minn. Stat. Ann. §124D.59-124D.61](#).
- Home school students may take non-elective core courses in the local public school at the discretion of the local school district. Local school districts receive prorated funding from the state for the portion of time used to educate nonpublic school students. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §126C.19](#).
- Home school students are eligible to participate in cocurricular activities in their resident local school district. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §123B.49](#).
- Teacher certification is not required. However, if the home school is not accredited by a Minnesota state-recognized accrediting agency (TEACH or HBEA as of September 2008), then the parent is required to submit instructor qualifications in accordance with the Compulsory Instruction Law. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §120A.22, Subd.10\(6\)](#).

Health

- Home schools must submit immunization to the local school district in which the home school is located the first year of the child's homeschooling in Minnesota and the grade seven year. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §121A.15](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- A parent conducting a home school must complete and submit documentation that meets annual reporting requirements to the local superintendent by October 1 of the first school year "the child receives instruction after reaching the age of seven." [Minn. Stat. Ann. §120A.24](#).
- Home school instructors submit to the local superintendent either a full report or a Letter of Intent to Continue Homeschooling. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §120A.24, §120A.22, §121A.15](#).

Public School Access

- School districts "shall allow all resident pupils receiving instruction in a home school ... to be eligible to fully participate in extracurricular [but not co-curricular] activities on the same basis as public school students. Cocurricular activities means school sponsored and directed activities designed to provide opportunities for pupils to participate, on an individual or group basis, in school and public events for the improvement of skills." [Minn. Stat. Ann. §123B.49, Subd.4\(a\)](#).

- Shared Time – School districts may establish policies that allow nonpublic school students who reside in a district to take public school classes to fulfill the district's graduation requirements. Local policy determines which classes are eligible and other factors may affect a nonpublic school student's ability to enroll. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §§126C.19; 126C.01, Subd. 6-8.](#)

Tax Exemption

- Limited aid is available. Costs can include instructional materials, field trips, and most importantly, parental time, as the parent/guardian is the instructor and administrator of the homeschool. [Minn. Stat. Ann. §§123B.41, 290.0674.](#)

Resources

Contact Information

Cynthia Jackson
mde.school-choice@state.mn.us
(651) 582-8572

- [Nonpublic Pupil Aids](#)
- [Home-Based Educators Accrediting Association](#)
- [Home-School Questions and Answers - 6/10/24](#)
- [Letter of Intent to Continue to Provide Instruction - 8/8/23](#)

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