



Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

New Hampshire

Home School

A parent is eligible under the Administrative Rules, [Ed 315](#) to establish a home education program for a child between 6 and 18 years of age including an "educationally disabled child" as defined under [RSA 186-C:2,I](#), provided that the definition of "educationally disabled child" as defined under [RSA 186-C:2,I](#), for the purposes of [Ed 315](#), shall be applicable only to children between 6 and 18 years of age.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in New Hampshire involves several steps to ensure compliance with state regulations. Here's a general overview:

1. **Review State Laws:** Familiarize yourself with New Hampshire's homeschooling laws. In New Hampshire, homeschooling is considered a type of private school, and parents are required to provide instruction that is "equal in thoroughness and efficiency" to that provided by the public schools. 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 School District:** Notify a participating agency within five business days of commencement that you intend to enroll your child in a home education program. The participating agency may be the Commissioner of Education, the Superintendent of your local school district, or the Head of a nonpublic school that has agreed to be a participating agency.

For your convenience, the following notification form may (not required) be used:

[Notification of Home Education Program](#)

If you are sending this form to the Commissioner of the NH Department of Education, please use the following email address: homeeducation@doe.nh.gov

3. **Withdraw Student:** If the student is currently enrolled in a public school, the parent must inform the school that their child is withdrawing from the public school.
 - Written notice of termination of a home education program shall be filed by the parent with the Commissioner of Education, the resident district superintendent, or the head of a participating nonpublic school within 15 days of termination.
 - For your convenience, the following notification form may (not required) be used: [Notification of Termination of a Home Education Program](#)
 - If you are sending this form to the Commissioner of the NH Department of Education, please use the following email address: homeeducation@doe.nh.gov.
4. **Choose Curriculum:** Select the curriculum you'll use for homeschooling. New Hampshire law does not prescribe specific curriculum requirements, giving families flexibility in choosing materials that align with their educational goals and values.
5. **Establish a Schedule:** Create a homeschooling schedule that works for your family. Determine the hours and days of instruction, breaks, and any extracurricular activities.
6. **Maintain Records:** Keep detailed records of your child's attendance, academic progress, and any other relevant information. While New Hampshire law does not require standardized testing or evaluations, maintaining thorough records can be helpful for assessing progress and documenting compliance.
7. **Monitor Progress:** Regularly assess your child's progress to ensure they are meeting educational goals. Adjust your approach as needed to address any areas of concern or interest.
8. **Stay Informed:** Stay up to date on any changes to homeschooling regulations or requirements in New Hampshire. Joining homeschooling support groups or organizations can provide valuable resources and information.
9. **Consider Support:** Look into local homeschooling co-ops, support groups, or online communities for support, resources, and socialization opportunities for both you and your child.

Remember that homeschooling requirements and procedures can vary by state and may change over time, so it's essential to verify information with current state laws and regulations. Additionally, consulting with other homeschooling parents or organizations in New Hampshire can provide valuable insights and support as you start your homeschooling journey.

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.

Assessment and Diplomas

- A student in a home education program must receive an annual educational evaluation to demonstrate his/her educational progress is at a level commensurate with the student's age and ability. This requirement can be met in one of the following options:
 - 1) a certified teacher or a teacher currently teaching in a nonpublic school selected by the parent may evaluate the student and submit a written evaluation to the commissioner of education, resident district superintendent, or nonpublic school principal;
 - 2) the student may take any national student achievement test, administered by a person who meets the qualifications established by the provider or publisher of the test, and submit the results to the commissioner of education, resident district superintendent, or nonpublic school principal;
 - 3) the student may take a state student assessment test used by the resident district and submit the results to the commissioner of education, the resident district superintendent, or nonpublic school principal; or
 - 4) the student may be evaluated using "any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent and the commissioner of education, resident district superintendent, or nonpublic school principal." [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193-A:6.](#)

Curriculum and Instruction

- Home education satisfies New Hampshire's compulsory attendance law. [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193:1.](#)
- The state board of education must adopt rules, pursuant to N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §541-A, to administer home education programs. [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193-A:3.](#)
- "Instruction shall be deemed home education if it consists of instruction in science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States, and an exposure to and appreciation of art and music. The department of education, resident district superintendent, or a nonpublic school shall work with parents upon request in meeting these requirements." [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193-A:4.](#)
- The parent must maintain a portfolio of records consisting of "a log which designates by title the reading materials used, and also samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the child." The parent must keep the portfolio on file for a minimum of two years from the date of the ending of the instruction. [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193-A:6.](#)

Initial and Renewal Applications

- A parent planning on beginning a home education program must notify the commissioner of the department of education, resident district superintendent, or

principal of a nonpublic school of such within five business days of beginning the program. Notification must include a list of the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children participating in the program. The commissioner of the department of education, resident district superintendent, or principal of a nonpublic school must inform the parent of his receipt of the notification within 14 days of the receipt. [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193-A:5](#).

- If a parent intends to terminate the home education program, he or she must submit a written notice of termination with the commissioner of education, and the resident district superintendent or nonpublic school principal within 15 days. [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193-A:5](#).

Public School Access

- "Nonpublic or home educated pupils shall have access to curricular courses and cocurricular programs offered by the school district in which the pupil resides. The local school board may adopt a policy regulating participation in curricular courses and cocurricular programs, provided that such policy shall not be more restrictive for nonpublic or home educated pupils than the policy governing the school district's resident pupils. In this section, 'cocurricular' shall include those activities which are designed to supplement and enrich regular academic programs of study, provide opportunities for social development, and encourage participation in clubs, athletics, performing groups, and service to school and community. For purposes of allowing access as described in this section, a 'home educated pupil' shall not include any pupil who has graduated from a high school level program of home education, or its equivalent, or has attained the age of 21." [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193:1-c](#).
- A home education advisory council will carry out duties assigned by the commissioner of education. The council will work with home educators and representatives of private and public education to encourage understanding of home education. [N.H. Code Admin. Rule Ed. 315.08\(a\)](#).

Resources

Information and Legislation

- [New Hampshire Department of Education: Home Education](#)
- [New Hampshire Revised Statutes](#)
- [New Hampshire Office of Legislative Services: Administrative Rules](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [New Hampshire Homeschooling Coalition](#)
- [Granite State Home Educators](#)
- [Catholics United for Home Education](#)
- [UnschoolingNH](#)

- UnschoolingNH@comcast.net
- [Statutes and Regulations](#)
- [Home Education Advisory Council](#)

School Choice Programs

Education Tax Credit (ETC) Scholarships

The Education Tax Credit (ETC) scholarships are managed by the New Hampshire Children's Scholarship Fund to allow New Hampshire students to attend a private school, online school, or homeschool that is a better fit for them and their learning needs.

To be eligible for a New Hampshire ETC as a Home Education student (as defined by RSA 193-A)

1. You must be a New Hampshire resident.
2. You must have a child/children between the ages of 6 and 18 who has not graduated from high school.
3. Your household income must not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level.

To find more information about the New Hampshire ETC, visit the [New Hampshire Children's Scholarship Fund](#).

Education Freedom Account (EFA) Program

Homeschooling using the Education Freedom Accounts (EFA) is not considered Home Education under RSA 193-A. However, NHED feels it is important to make families aware of this opportunity for their children.

The EFA program was created by the State of New Hampshire to help expand educational opportunities for New Hampshire children. Eligible New Hampshire families earning up to 350% of the poverty line can direct part of their child's state education funding to pay for tuition at the school of their choice, tutoring, online learning programs, educational supplies, and other educational expenses. A full listing of eligible EFA expenses can be found in RSA 194-F:2(a – o).

Students who have previously notified as Home Educating under RSA 193-A must terminate their Home Education program in accordance with NHED rule Ed 315.06 and RSA 193-A:5(III) prior to enrolling in the EFA program pursuant to the requirements of RSA 194-F:2, IX. Additionally, unlike students notified as Home Educating under RSA 193-A, EFA students do not have the same right to access their resident public school curricular and cocurricular programs as guaranteed by RSA 193:1-c.

To be eligible for a New Hampshire EFA

1. You and your student must be New Hampshire residents.

2. Your child must be at least 5 years old and no older than 20 years old and entering Kindergarten – 12th grade.
3. Your family's income must be at or below 350% of the federal poverty level guidelines.
4. You must complete the application process and sign the EFA agreement, which includes agreeing to share academic accountability documents.

To find more information about qualifying and applying for the New Hampshire EFA, visit the [New Hampshire Children's Scholarship Fund](#).