



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

New York

Home School

Parents of, or persons in parental relation to, compulsory school age children have the legal right to instruct their children at home. If a child is being educated at home, the local school district must be assured that the child is receiving instruction in certain required courses/subjects.

Parents who wish to home school their children must provide written notice of intent to the school district superintendent. The school district must then respond to the family and provide a copy of the home instruction regulations as well as an individualized home instruction plan (IHIP) form to complete. Parents are responsible for identifying the curriculum materials that they will use to instruct their children in the required subject areas.

Please review the home instruction regulations, which provide greater detail of the process described above and other home instruction requirements, and the Questions and Answers. Both links can be found to the right.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in New York involves specific steps to comply with state regulations. Here's a guide to help you get started:

1. **Understand New York Homeschooling Laws:** Familiarize yourself with New York's homeschooling regulations. In New York, homeschooling is considered "home instruction" and is governed by the regulations of the New York State Education Department (NYSED). 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 \(HSLDA\)](#).

Parents should review the following sections from the Department of Education's website.

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [100.10 Home Instruction](#)

- [Notice of intention](#)
 - [IHIP development and review](#)
 - [Content of IHIP](#)
 - [Required courses](#)
 - [Attendance requirements](#)
 - [Quarterly reports](#)
 - [Annual assessment](#)
 - [Probation](#)
2. **Submit a Letter of Intent:** You must submit a Letter of Intent to Homeschool to the superintendent of your school district within 14 days of beginning homeschooling. This letter should include basic information such as your child's name, age, and address, as well as a statement of your intention to provide home instruction.
 3. **Choose a Curriculum:** Select a curriculum that meets New York's educational requirements. While there are no specific curriculum requirements, your instruction should cover specific subjects, including arithmetic, reading, spelling, writing, English, geography, U.S. history, science, health education, music, visual arts, physical education, and library skills.
 4. **Maintain Records:** Keep detailed records of your homeschooling activities, including attendance records, samples of your child's work, and progress reports. These records may be requested by the school district for review.
 5. **Comply with Assessment Requirements:** New York requires annual assessments for homeschooled students beginning in grade 4. You can choose from various assessment options, such as standardized tests or written evaluations by certified teachers. You must submit the results of these assessments to the school district each year.
 6. **Understand Special Education Requirements:** If your child has special needs, you must comply with additional requirements outlined by the NYSED. This may include developing an Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP) and providing appropriate services and accommodations.
 7. **Stay Informed:** Stay updated on any changes to homeschooling regulations and requirements in New York. The NYSED website is a valuable resource for information and updates.
 8. **Join Support Groups:** Consider joining homeschooling support groups or networks in your area. These groups can provide valuable resources, advice, and social opportunities for both you and your child.

9. **Seek Guidance if Needed:** If you have questions or need assistance with homeschooling in New York, don't hesitate to reach out to the NYSED or local homeschooling organizations for guidance and support.

By following these steps and fulfilling New York's homeschooling requirements, you can legally homeschool your child and provide them with a quality education tailored to their needs and interests.

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

- Parents must submit a quarterly report for each home-instructed child indicating the number of instructional hours during the quarter, a description of material covered, a grade in each subject or narrative of the child's progress, and an explanation if less than 80 percent of the course materials set forth in the IHIP. [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(g\)](#).
- With the filing of the fourth quarterly report, the parent must also file an annual assessment, which must include the results of a commercially published norm-reference achievement test or an alternative method listed in regulations of 8 CRR-NY 100.10 (h). [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(h\)](#).
- If a child's annual assessment does not comply with the requirements of [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(h\)](#), the home instruction program will be put on probation and the parent must submit a remediation plan. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the home instruction program is not in compliance with these regulations, the superintendent of schools can conduct or send a representative for a home visit after providing three days' written notice. [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(i\)](#).

Curriculum and Instruction

- Required courses for grades one through six are arithmetic, reading, spelling, writing, the English language, geography, United States history, science, health education, music, visual arts, physical education, and bilingual education and/or English as a second language where the need is indicated. [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(e\)](#).
- Required courses for grades seven and eight are English, history, geography, science, mathematics, physical education, health education, art, music, practical arts, and library skills. [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(e\)](#).

- Required courses for grades nine through 12 are English; social studies, including American history, government, and economics; mathematics; science; art and/or music; health education; physical education; and three electives. [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(e\)](#).
- All grades must cover the following subjects: patriotism and citizenship; health education regarding alcohol, drug and tobacco misuse; highway safety and traffic regulations, including bicycle safety; and fire and arson prevention and safety. [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(e\)](#).
- Instruction must be the substantial equivalent of 180 days each school year. Cumulative hours of instruction are mandated as 900 hours for grades one through six and 990 hours for grades seven through 12. [8 CRR-NY 100.10 \(f\)](#).

Home Education Programs

- Parents of students of compulsory school attendance age must submit written notice to the superintendent of schools of their school district of residence of their intention to educate their child at home by July 1 of each school year. If parents decide to commence home instruction after the start of the year, they must submit the written notice within 14 days. [8 CRR-NY 100.10](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- Within 10 business days of receiving the parent's notice of intention, the school district must provide parents a copy of [8 CRR-NY 100.10](#) and a form to submit an individualized home instruction plan (IHIP). [8 CRR-NY 100.10](#).
- The parent must submit a completed IHIP within four weeks of receiving the materials, or by August 15, whichever is later. If the parent needs assistance in preparing the forms, the district must provide it upon request. [8 CRR-NY 100.10](#).
- The school district must notify the parent within 10 business days, or by August 31, whichever is later, whether or not the IHIP complies with state requirements. If the IHIP is found deficient, the school district must provide written notice of its deficiency. [8 CRR-NY 100.10](#).
- If the IHIP is found deficient, the parent must submit a revised IHIP correcting the deficiency within 15 days of receiving notice of the deficiency or by September 15, whichever is later. [8 CRR-NY 100.10](#).
- The IHIP must include the child's name, age, and grade level; a list of the syllabi, curriculum materials, textbooks or plan of instruction to be used in each of the required subjects; the dates for submission to the school district of the parents' quarterly reports; the names of the individuals providing instruction; and a statement that the child will be meeting the compulsory educational requirements of Education Law, section 3205 through full-time study at a degree-granting institution. [8 CRR-NY 100.10](#).

Public School Access

- A student is eligible to participate in interschool competition if the student is registered in the equivalent of three regular courses within 15 days of the beginning of the

semester, is meeting the physical education requirement, and has been in regular attendance 80 percent of the school time. [8 CRR-NY 135.4 \(c\)\(7\)\(ii\)\(b\)\(2\)](#).

Special Education

- Solely for the purpose of providing services to students with disabilities in a home instruction program, those students are considered nonpublic school students. [N.Y. Edn. Law §3602-c \(2-c\)](#).

Resources

Contact Information--State and Federal Departments of Education

- New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
Phone: (518) 474-3852
Nonpublic and Private Schools: (518) 474-6541
Website: <http://www.nysed.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Education, [New York](#)

New York Home Educators Network (NYHEN)

Provides information on New York homeschooling regulations, support groups, and resources. [Website](#)

Information and Legislation

- [New Your State Education Department: Home Instruction](#)
- [New York State Education Department: Policy & Guidance](#)
- [Code, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York](#)
- [Part 100 Regulations of the Commissioner of Education](#)
- [Subchapter E. Elementary and Secondary Education](#)