



# Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## North Dakota

### Home School

Home Education is becoming an ever more popular option for parents in North Dakota. Home Education provides parents more flexibility in educating their children the way they feel most benefits them.

### Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in North Dakota involves several steps, but it's manageable with some planning and understanding of the state's regulations. Here's a general guide to help you get started:

- 1. Understand North Dakota Homeschooling Laws:** Familiarize yourself with the homeschooling laws and regulations in North Dakota. The regulations can change, so it's essential to stay updated. As of my last update, North Dakota requires homeschooling families to submit a homeschooling notification form to the local public school district. 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 Education Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - Review [North Dakota Home School Association](#)
  - Review the [How to Homeschool In North Dakota Handbook](#)
  - Review ["Supervision" Guidance](#)
- 2. Submit Necessary Paperwork:** Complete and submit the required paperwork to the local school district. This typically includes a [Statement Of Intent to Supervise Home Education](#), which outlines your educational plan and any other required documentation.
- 3. Develop a Curriculum:** Plan out your homeschool curriculum. You have the flexibility to choose materials and resources that best suit your child's learning style and educational

needs. Consider your child's interests, learning goals, and any state requirements when selecting curriculum materials.

4. **Set Up a Learning Space:** Create a designated learning space in your home where your child can focus on their studies. This could be a separate room or a specific area within a room free from distractions.
5. **Establish a Schedule:** Develop a daily or weekly schedule for homeschooling. Decide on the times and days when you'll conduct lessons and activities. Flexibility is one of the advantages of homeschooling, so tailor the schedule to fit your family's lifestyle and your child's learning preferences.
6. **Join a Homeschooling Support Group:** Consider joining a homeschooling support group or network in your area. These groups can provide valuable resources, advice, and opportunities for socialization and collaboration with other homeschooling families.
7. **Keep Records:** Maintain records of your child's educational progress and activities. This may include attendance records, samples of coursework, test scores, and any other documentation required by the state.
8. **Stay Engaged and Flexible:** Stay actively involved in your child's education and be prepared to adapt your approach as needed. Pay attention to your child's interests and learning pace and be willing to adjust your curriculum and teaching methods accordingly.
9. **Stay Informed:** Stay informed about homeschooling laws and regulations in North Dakota, as well as any changes or updates that may affect your homeschooling journey.
10. **Evaluate Progress:** Regularly assess your child's progress and make adjustments to your homeschooling approach as necessary. Celebrate achievements and milestones along the way, and don't be afraid to seek support or guidance if needed.

By following these steps and staying informed about homeschooling regulations and resources in North Dakota, you can successfully start and maintain a homeschooling program for your child.

## 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 education" is defined as "a program of education supervised by a child's parent in accordance with the requirements of this chapter." [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-01](#).

## Assessment, Diplomas, and Scholarships

- A student receiving home education must take the standardized test used by the school district in which the student resides in grades four, six, eight, and ten or, if requested by the parent, a nationally normed standardized achievement test. The student may take the test in his or her learning environment or, if requested by the parent, in a public school. The test must be administered by an individual licensed or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-09 \(section 1\)](#).
- There is no applicable standardized testing requirement if a parent or legal guardian of a student who holds a teaching license recognized by education standards and practices board; holds a baccalaureate degree; or meets or exceeds the national teacher exam cutoff score notifies the school district in which the child resides that the parent objects to the standardized tests for philosophical, moral, or religious reasons. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-09 \(section 2\)](#).
- If the student takes the standardized test used by the school district in which he or she resides, then the school district is responsible for the cost of the test and ensuring that a licensed district employee administers the test. If the student takes a nationally normed standardized test not used by the school district in which the child resides, then the parent is responsible for the cost of the test and the cost of administering the test. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-10](#).
- The parent supervising home education must file the results of the student's standardized achievement test with the superintendent of the student's resident district. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-11](#).
- If a student receiving home education receives a basic composite score lower than the 30th percentile on a standardized achievement test then that student will be assessed for potential learning problems by a multidisciplinary assessment team. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-11](#).
- A high school diploma may be issued to a student by the student's school district of residence, a state-approved nonpublic high school, or the North Dakota Center for Distance Education if the student, through home education, has met the issuing entity's requirements for high school graduation and the student's parent or legal guardian provides the issuing entity with the required documentation. A student who, through home education, has completed at least twenty-two units of high school coursework from the minimum required by law may also be eligible to be issued a high school diploma by one of the above-named entities. The student's parents or legal guardian must supply the required documentation. For a diploma requested by this latter method, the issuing entity may indicate on the diploma that the student was home educated. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-17](#).
- A North Dakota homeschooled student is eligible to apply, with verified documentation, for either the North Dakota Academic Scholarship or the Career and Technical Education Scholarship. Completion of the Home Education Transcript for the North Dakota Scholarship Program is a requirement. [N.D. Cent. Code §§15.1-21-02.6, 15.1-21-02.8](#).

## Curriculum and Instruction

- The home education must include instruction in those subjects required by law to be taught to public school students and must have a duration of at least four hours each day for a minimum of one hundred seventy-five days each year. The state provides exact guidance for elementary, middle and high school curriculum requirements. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-04](#) and [§15.1-21-01](#).
- The parent supervising home education must maintain an annual record of courses taken by the child and the child's academic progress assessments, including any standardized achievement test results. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-05](#).
- A parent is qualified to supervise home education if he or she has a high school diploma or a general education development certificate. However, a parent who does not meet these qualifications must be monitored for the first two years of home education by a teacher licensed or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board. If the child being instructed receives a composite standardized achievement test score below the 50th percentile nationally, the required monitoring must continue for at least another school year and until the student reaches the 50th percentile nationally. [N.D. Cent. Code §§15.1-23-03, 06](#) and [07](#).

## Initial and Renewal Applications

- A parent intending to supervise home education must submit at least 14 days prior to the beginning of home education an annual statement with the superintendent of the public school district in which the child resides. The statement must include the names and addresses of the parent who will supervise and the child who will receive home education; the date of birth and grade level of the child; the intention of the parent to supervise home education; the qualifications of the parent who will supervise home education; a list of public school courses in which the child intends to enroll and the public school district offering the courses; a list of extracurricular activities in which the child intends to participate and the public school district or approved nonpublic school offering the activities; proof of immunizations; and proof of identity. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-02](#).

## Public School Access

- "A child receiving home education may participate in extracurricular activities either: under the auspices of the child's school district of residence; or under the auspices of an approved nonpublic school, if permitted by the administrator of the school." In either case, the child is subject to the transfer rules of the constitution and bylaws of the North Dakota high school activities association. [N.D. Cent. Code §15.1-23-16](#).

## Resources

### Contact Information--State and Federal Departments of Education

- North Dakota Department of Public Instruction  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 201  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440  
Phone: (701) 328-2260  
Fax: (701) 328-2461  
Website: <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/>
- U.S. Department of Education, [North Dakota](#)

### Information and Legislation

- [North Dakota DPI: Home Education](#)
- [North Dakota Century Code](#)
- [Title 15.1: Education](#)