



# Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## Ohio

### Home School

In Ohio, parents interested in educating their children at home may do so by notifying their local school district superintendent and meeting the requirements of Ohio law to home educate. Once the notification is received, the district superintendent releases the student from required compulsory school attendance. This exempts the student and family from school attendance requirements in state law. Please note that if there is evidence that a child who is exempt from the school attendance requirements is not receiving an education in the subject areas required under this section, then that child may be subject to section [3321.19](#) of the Revised Code.

Parents or guardians who decide to home educate their students are completely responsible for choosing the curriculum and course of study. They select the curriculum and educational materials and take responsibility for educating their children. There is no state financial assistance for families who choose this option.

If a home educated student returns to a public school, the district superintendent shall place the child in the appropriate grade level, without discrimination or prejudice, based on the policies of the child's district of residence.

### **REQUIREMENTS TO HOME EDUCATE**

Parents should start by notifying the superintendent of the school district where they reside about their intent to home educate their child/or children. Notification must be made within five calendar days after commencing home education, moving into a new school district, or withdrawing from a public or nonpublic school, and by the thirtieth day of August each year thereafter.

Here are the [responsibilities of the district superintendent](#) when families home educate their children.

Parents agree to:

1. Provide instruction in English language arts, mathematics, science, history, government, and social studies, and;

2. Notify the superintendent each year (parents may use the [Recommended Notification Form](#))

## ONLINE OR VIRTUAL LEARNING

Many parents think that [online schools](#) fall into the category of home education; this is NOT true. In Ohio, online schools are considered internet-based community schools (e-schools) or district operated online learning schools.

If your student is enrolled in an online school based out of state, you must notify your district of residence that your student will be attending an out of state school. You do not need to provide an intent to home educate.

## Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Ohio follows a specific set of guidelines outlined by the state. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you get started:

1. **Familiarize Yourself with Ohio Homeschool Laws:** Understanding the legal requirements is crucial. In Ohio, homeschooling is governed by the state's homeschool statute, which requires homeschools to operate as a "private church school" or as a qualified non-public school. 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 [Home Education Fact Sheet](#)
  - Review the [Ohio's Learning Standards](#)
  - Review the [Ohio's Graduation Requirements](#)
  - Review the [Homeschool Student Data](#)
  - Review the [Excused Absence for Home Education](#)
2. **Choose a Homeschooling Method:** Ohio law doesn't prescribe a specific curriculum, allowing flexibility in educational approach. Determine the educational philosophy and method that aligns best with your child's needs and your teaching style.
3. **Notify the Ohio Division of Non-Public Education (DNPE):** Submit a [Notice of Intent to Establish a Home School](#) to the DNPE. This notice should include basic information about your homeschool, such as the name of the school, address, and chief administrator (usually the parent).
4. **Maintain Records:** Ohio requires homeschools to maintain certain records, including attendance and immunization records. Keep organized records of your child's academic progress, including grades, test scores, and samples of work.

5. **Develop a Curriculum:** Design your curriculum based on your child's educational goals, interests, and abilities. You have the freedom to choose from various resources, including textbooks, online courses, and educational materials.
6. **Establish a Schedule:** Create a homeschooling schedule that suits your family's needs. Determine the days and hours of instruction, as well as breaks and holidays.
7. **Join a Homeschooling Support Group:** Consider joining a homeschooling support group or network in your area. These groups provide opportunities for socialization, collaboration, and resource sharing with other homeschooling families.
8. **Participate in Required Standardized Testing:** In Ohio, homeschool students must take a nationally standardized test annually from third grade onwards. The results of these tests do not need to be submitted to the state but should be kept for your records.
9. **Stay Informed and Compliant:** Stay informed about any changes to homeschooling laws and regulations in Ohio. Ensure that you remain compliant with state requirements and deadlines.
10. **Evaluate Progress Regularly:** Monitor your child's progress and adjust your homeschooling approach as needed. Celebrate achievements and milestones, and be prepared to make changes to the curriculum or teaching methods if necessary.

By following these steps and staying informed about homeschooling regulations in Ohio, you can successfully establish and maintain a homeschooling program for your child. Remember to stay flexible and adaptable to best meet your child's educational needs.

## 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.*

## Assessments and Diplomas

- With notification of the intention to homeschool, the parent(s)/guardian(s) is required to send an academic assessment report of the child for the previous school year, including one of the following:
- A nationally normed, standardized achievement test administered by a licensed or certified teacher, another person mutually agreed upon by the parent(s) and the superintendent, or a person fully authorized by the publisher of the test. The test shall

demonstrate reasonable proficiency (at or above the 25th percentile) in comparison with other children in the district at the same grade level;

- A written narrative indicating that a portfolio of samples of the child's work has been reviewed and the child's academic progress for the year is in accordance with the child's abilities. The report must be prepared by a licensed or certified teacher, or other personnel mutually agreed upon by the parent(s)/guardians) and the superintendent; or
- An alternative academic assessment of the child's proficiency mutually agreed upon by the parent and the superintendent. [OAC §3301-34-04](#).
  - The child may participate in the standardized testing conducted as part of the school district's scheduled testing program at no cost to the parent. [OAC §3301-34-04](#).
  - A home-schooled student will not receive a high school diploma recognized by the Ohio DOE. To receive an Ohio Board of Education diploma, a student must successfully complete the high school curriculum of a school district, community school, chartered nonpublic school, or correctional institution. [ORC §3313.614](#)

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

- The home education must include the following content, except for any concept, topic, or practice that is in conflict with the sincerely held religious beliefs of the parent: language, reading, spelling, and writing; geography, history of the United States and Ohio; and national, state, and local government; mathematics; science; health; physical education; fine arts, including music; and first aid, safety, and fire prevention. [OAC §3301-34-03](#).
- Homeschooling must consist of a minimum of nine hundred hours of home education each school year. [OAC §3301-34-03 \(A\)\(8\)](#).

### **Home Education Programs**

- "Home education" refers to education primarily directed and provided by the parent or guardian under division (A)(2) of [ORC§3321.04](#) whose child is of compulsory school age and not enrolled in a nonpublic school. [OAC §3301-34-01](#).

### **Initial and Renewal Applications**

- A parent who elects to provide home education must supply the following information to the superintendent of schools of the district of residence: name and contact information for student/s, parent/s and instructor/s other than parents; assurance that home education will follow a prescribed list of subjects to be taught, except that home education shall not be required to include any concept, topic, or practice that is in conflict with the sincerely held religious beliefs of the parents; a brief outline of the intended curriculum; a list of textbooks or other basic teaching materials that the parent intends to use for home education; assurance that the child will be provided a minimum of 900 hours of home education each school year; and assurance that the home teacher has a high school diploma or the certificate of high school equivalence or standardized

test scores that demonstrate high school equivalence or other equivalent credential found appropriate by the superintendent. [ORC §3321.04](#) and [OAC §3301-34-03](#).

- "The parent shall send to the superintendent an academic assessment report of the child for the previous school year at the time of supplying subsequent notification." [OAC §3301-34-04](#).
- If the annual academic assessment indicates that the child is not demonstrating reasonable proficiency, the parent will be required to develop a plan of remediation and submit a quarterly report of the child's progress to the superintendent. If the child does not demonstrate reasonable progress during remediation, the superintendent may, subsequent to a due process hearing, revoke the child's excuse from attendance and notify the parents in writing to enroll the child within 30 calendar days in a school in compliance with [OAC §3301-35](#). [OAC §3301-34-05](#).

### **Public School Access**

- A homeschooled student is eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity offered at the district school to which the student otherwise would be assigned during that school year. The student shall fulfill the same nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant, and
- if the student's previous year of instruction was not through home instruction, then the student's previous year's academic performance must fulfill the academic requirements; or
- if the student was previously homeschooled, then the academic assessment of the previous year must meet the standards for continuation of home education. [ORC §3313.5312](#)

### **Resources**

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

- Ohio Department of Education  
Nonpublic Educational Options Program  
25 South Front Street, MS 710  
Columbus, OH 43215-4183  
Phone: (877) 644-6338  
Website: <http://education.ohio.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Education, [Ohio](#)

#### **Information and Legislation**

- [Ohio Administrative Code](#)
- [Ohio Revised Code](#)
- [Ohio Department of Education: Operating Standards for Ohio's Schools](#)
- [Ohio Department of Education: Home Schooling](#)