



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Oregon

Home School

Families and caregivers have several options when it comes to providing an education for children in their care: enrollment in a public school, virtual, charter, alternative, or traditional, enrollment in a private school, virtual or traditional. Additionally, Oregon law ([ORS 339.035](#)) allows a child (between ages 6 and 18, grades 1-12) to be taught by a parent, guardian, or private teacher in the child's home.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Oregon involves several steps to ensure compliance with state regulations. Here's a general guide to get you started:

1. **Understand Oregon Homeschool Laws:** Familiarize yourself with Oregon's homeschooling laws. In Oregon, homeschooling is governed by the compulsory education law, which requires children between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend school. However, homeschooling is an accepted alternative to traditional school attendance if certain requirements are met. 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 \(HSLDA\)](#).

- [Information for Families](#)
- [Information About Testing](#)
- [Relevant Statutes and Rules](#)
- [Homeschooling Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [ESD Homeschool Notification Websites](#)
- [Academic Content Standards](#)
- [High School Equivalency Certificate](#)
- [List of Education Service Districts](#)
- [List of Homeschool Testers](#)

- [OSAA Homeschool Eligibility Checklist](#)
 - [OSAA Homeschool Academic Eligibility](#)
 - [OSAA High School Equivalency Eligibility](#)
2. **Notify the Local Education Service District (ESD):** Oregon requires parents to register their homeschool with the local ESD. You'll need to:
 - Notify [local Education Service District \(ESD\)](#) of intent to homeschool (either electronically or through paper mail) within 10 days of withdrawing child from school or from the start of the school year
 - Plan to have child(ren) tested at the end of grade levels 3, 5, 8, and 10
 - Plan to submit test scores to the ESD as requested
 3. **Choose a Homeschooling Approach:** Decide on the educational approach or curriculum you want to use. There are various methods, including traditional textbooks, online programs, or a more eclectic approach combining various resources. Choose what best fits your child's learning style and your educational goals.
 4. **Develop a Curriculum:** While Oregon doesn't mandate a specific curriculum, you should create a plan that covers required subjects, which include reading, writing, spelling, grammar, mathematics, science, and social studies. You have flexibility in how you teach these subjects, but it's essential to ensure your plan meets your child's educational needs. Homeschool families may choose their own curriculum, and may use the [Oregon's Academic Content Standards](#) to guide their instruction; however, there is no requirement to adhere to Oregon academic standards. Homeschooling exists outside of the public system, which means there are no public resources. The Oregon Home Education Network ([OHEN](#)) is a good place to learn about resources and materials. Local public libraries may be a good place to start for locating materials. Additionally, [Oregon Open Learning](#) provides access to free lessons in a variety of subjects and grade levels.
 5. **Keep Records:** Oregon requires homeschooling parents to maintain attendance records and an educational progress log for each child. Keep detailed records of the subjects covered, instructional materials used, and your child's progress throughout the year.
 6. **Stay Updated:** Stay informed about any changes to homeschooling laws or requirements in Oregon. Joining a homeschooling support group or network can be beneficial for sharing resources, getting advice, and staying updated on legal matters.
 7. **Consider Support Groups or Co-ops:** Joining a homeschooling support group or co-op can provide valuable resources, socialization opportunities for your child, and support from other homeschooling families.
 8. **Participate in Assessments:** Oregon requires homeschooled students to participate in standardized tests or assessments periodically. These assessments help ensure that

students are meeting educational benchmarks. Check with your local ESD for specific requirements. Plan to have child(ren) tested at the end of grade levels 3, 5, 8, and 10. Submit test scores to the ESD as requested.

9. **Stay Flexible:** Homeschooling allows for flexibility in scheduling and curriculum. Be prepared to adapt your approach based on your child's needs and interests.
10. **Stay Connected with Other Homeschoolers:** Networking with other homeschooling families can provide valuable support, resources, and social opportunities for both you and your child.

Remember to check with the Oregon Department of Education or your local Education Service District for any updates or additional requirements specific to your area.

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

- Homeschool students are required to participate in a comprehensive examination that is approved by the Oregon State Board of Education in grades three, five, eight, and 10. The parent may choose which approved examination is used, but the exam must be administered by "a qualified neutral person" and occur no later than Aug. 15. [Or. Rev. Stat. §339.035\(3\)](#) and [Or. Admin. Rules §581-021-0026\(5\)](#).
- If the student withdraws from public school to be home-schooled, then the student must participate in an examination within 18 months. If the student never attended public school, then the first examination must be administered prior to the conclusion of grade three. [Or. Rev. Stat. §339.035\(3\)](#) and [Or. Admin. Rules §581-021-0026\(5\)](#).
- The individual administering the examination must score it and report the results to the parent or legal guardian and, when requested, the parent or legal guardian shall submit the results to the education services district. [Or. Rev. Stat. §339.035\(3\)\(c\) and \(d\)](#) and [Or. Admin. Rules §581-021-0026\(5\)\(b\) and \(c\)](#).
- If the student scores below the 15th percentile, the child must be given the examination again within in one year. If this occurs for three consecutive years, then the superintendent of the education services district has the authority to require that the child receive education from a certified teacher selected by and at the expense of the parent or legal guardian. If the parent or legal guardian does not consent to placing the education of the child under the supervision of a licensed teacher, then the superintendent may order the child to school for a period not to exceed 12 months. [Or. Rev. Stat. §339.035\(4\)](#) and [Or. Admin. Rules §581-021-0026\(7\)\(a\), \(b\), and \(d\)](#).

Curriculum and Instruction

- No state policy currently exists.

Initial and Renewal Applications

- The parent or legal guardian must notify the education service district in writing within 10 days of withdrawing a student from public school to be homeschooled. The education service district shall acknowledge receipt of any notification in writing. [Or. Rev. Stat. §339.035 \(2\)](#) and [Or. Admin. Rules §581-021-0026 \(1\)\(f\), \(4\)](#).
- The notification must include the child's and parent's names and addresses, the child's birth date, and the name of the school the child is presently attending or last attended or, if the child has not attended school, the name of the public school district where the child resides. Annual notification is not required. [Or. Admin. Rules §581-021-0026 \(1\)\(f\), \(4\)](#).

Public School Access

- A homeschooled student may participate in the resident district's interscholastic activities if the student achieves and submits a composite test score that is in the 23rd percentile or greater, all school district eligibility requirements except school or class attendance requirement and class requirements of the voluntary association administering interscholastic activities. A school district may adopt alternative requirements, in consultation with the parent or legal guardian of a homeschooled student, i.e. a portfolio of work samples. [Or. Rev. Stat. §339.460](#) and [Or. Admin. Rules §581-021-033\(3\)](#).
- A school district may allow homeschool students to attend academic classes but is not required by law to do so. [Oregon Department of Education – Homeschooling—Q & A's](#).

Resources

Contact Information--State and Federal Departments of Education

- Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97310-0203
Phone: (503) 947-5600
Fax: (503) 378-5156
Website: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/>
- U.S. Department of Education, [Oregon](#)

Information and Legislation

- [Oregon Department of Education: Home Schooling](#)
- [Oregon Revised Statutes](#)

- [Oregon Administrative Rules](#)
- [ORS 339.030](#) Exemptions from Compulsory Attendance
- [ORS 339.035](#) Teaching by Private Teacher, Parent, or Guardian
- [ORS 339.460](#) Homeschooled Students' Participation in Interscholastic Activities
- [OAR 581-021-0026](#) Examination of Children Instructed by Parent, Legal Guardian or Private Teacher
- [OAR 581-021-0029](#) Home Schooling for Children with Disabilities
- [Search for Oregon Revised Statutes](#)
- [All Department of Education Rules](#)