



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Rhode Island

Home School

Rhode Island (RIDE) does not directly supervise home instruction. In Rhode Island, approval of home instruction occurs at the local school district level. If you are thinking of home-schooling your child, please call your local school superintendent's office for information.

For more information, call the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Legal Office at (401) 222-8979 or your local school department

Local school districts must loan textbooks in science, math, and modern foreign languages, as well as texts for some other subject areas. However, the only books that can be loaned are books being used in the public schools of Rhode Island. Other instructional materials will have to be purchased by you.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Rhode Island involves several steps, but it's entirely feasible. Here's a basic guide to get you started:

- 1. Familiarize Yourself with State Laws:** Before starting homeschooling, it's crucial to understand the legal requirements in Rhode Island. Research the homeschooling laws and regulations set by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). Each state has its own regulations regarding homeschooling, so make sure you comply with Rhode Island's requirements. 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 [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - Review R.I. education [Laws and Regulations](#)
- 2. Submit Required Paperwork:** In Rhode Island, you need to present your proposed home schooling program to your local school committee for approval. Your plan will need to show that you will teach the required subjects. There should be agreement between you and your local school committee regarding how your child's academic progress will

be evaluated. This plan typically includes information such as the names and ages of the children being homeschooled, the address where homeschooling will take place, and the parent/guardian's contact information. Check with your local school district for specific requirements.

3. **Choose a Homeschooling Method:** Decide on the homeschooling approach or curriculum you'll use. There are various methods such as traditional textbooks, online programs, or eclectic approaches that combine different resources. Consider your child's learning style, interests, and your teaching preferences when selecting a method.
4. **Develop a Curriculum:** Based on your chosen homeschooling method, create or select a curriculum that aligns with your educational goals and meets Rhode Island's academic standards. You can find pre-packaged curricula designed for homeschooling or customize your own using educational resources available online or at local libraries. You may copy the public school curriculum or use correspondence courses, or you may design your own curriculum. Please check with your local school committee and/or school department.
5. **Set Up a Learning Environment:** Designate a space in your home for homeschooling activities. It could be a dedicated room, a corner of a room, or even outdoor spaces, depending on your preferences and available resources. Ensure the learning environment is conducive to focused study and free from distractions.
6. **Establish a Schedule:** Create a homeschooling schedule that suits your family's lifestyle and allows for a balanced mix of academic instruction, hands-on learning, and recreational activities. Flexibility is one of the advantages of homeschooling, so feel free to adjust the schedule as needed to accommodate your child's learning pace and interests.
7. **Connect with Homeschooling Communities:** Join local homeschooling groups, co-ops, or online forums to connect with other homeschooling families in Rhode Island. These communities can provide valuable support, resources, and social opportunities for both you and your child.
8. **Keep Records and Evaluate Progress:** Maintain records of your homeschooling activities, including attendance, coursework, and assessments, as required by Rhode Island homeschooling laws. Regularly evaluate your child's progress to ensure they're meeting educational milestones and making satisfactory academic growth.
9. **Stay Informed and Flexible:** Stay updated on changes to homeschooling laws and regulations in Rhode Island and remain open to adjusting your homeschooling approach based on your child's evolving needs and interests.

By following these steps and staying informed about homeschooling regulations in Rhode Island, you can start a successful homeschooling journey for your family.

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.

- Approval of home instruction occurs at the local level with the local school committee. [RIGL §16-19-1\(a\)](#).
- The state does **not** apply private school approval standards to home schools; therefore, a home school is not considered a private school.

Assessment and Diplomas

- The parent and the local school committee must agree on a method of evaluating the student's progress in all required subjects. [RIGL §16-19-2](#).
- The completion of a program through at-home instruction does not entitle students to the resident district's high school diploma.

Curriculum and Instruction

- At-home instruction is approved when it complies with the following requirements: the period of attendance is substantially equal to that required in a public school which is five and one-half hours per day for a minimum of 180 days; attendance registers and registers indicating the amount of daily instruction by subject are kept. [RIGL §16-19-2](#). [Rhode Island Board of Education Regulations 200-RICR-20-10-1-1.3.2 F.2.d\(2\)](#).
- State law requires the instruction be in English and the curriculum to include: reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, history of the United States, history of Rhode Island, principles of American Government, health and physical education. Also, beginning with fourth grade, history and government of Rhode Island must be taught. In high school, the U.S. Constitution and Rhode Island Constitution must be taught. [RIGL §16-19-2](#).
- A teaching certificate is not required, but the instructor is expected to provide "thorough and efficient instruction." [RIGL §16-19-2](#).
- Local school districts must loan textbooks in science, math, and modern foreign languages, as well as texts for some other subject areas. However, the only books that can be loaned are books being used in the public schools of Rhode Island. Other instructional materials will have to be purchased. [RIGL §16-23-2](#).

Public School Access

- A homeschooled student may participate in activities sponsored by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) provided there is compliance with [RIIL's Rule 3, Section 1](#).

Resources

Contact Information--State and Federal Departments of Education

- Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903-3400
Phone: (401) 222-8979
Website: <http://www.ride.ri.gov>
- Legal Office
Legal@ride.ri.gov
[\(401\) 222-8979](tel:(401)222-8979)
- U.S. Department of Education, [Rhode Island](#)

Information and Legislation

- [Rhode Island Department of Education \(RIDE\): Home Schooling, Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [RIDE: Board of Education Regulations](#)
- [RIDE: Statutes Pertaining to Education, Title 16](#)
- [State of Rhode Island General Laws](#)