



# Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## Texas

### Home Schools

Homeschooling has been a legal alternative to public schooling since 1994. In the case of *Leeper et al. v. Arlington ISD et al.*, the Texas Supreme Court upheld a lower court's decision that children being taught at home are exempt from the compulsory attendance requirement to the same extent as students enrolled in private schools. Parents who choose to home-school are required to follow a course of study that includes good citizenship. A public school district that becomes aware of a student who is potentially being home-schooled may request in writing a letter of assurance from the parents that the student is being home-schooled.

### **Steps to Start a Home School**

Starting a homeschool in Texas involves several steps. Here's a guide to get you started:

1. **Review State Laws:** Familiarize yourself with homeschooling laws and regulations in Texas. Texas is one of the most homeschool-friendly states in the US, with relatively few regulations compared to some other states. The [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\)](#) website is a good resource for this information. 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 \(HSLDA\)](#).
  - [Texas Home School Coalition](#)
  - [Texas Home Educators](#)
  - [Texas Private School Accreditation Commission](#)
  - [International Association for Learner Driven Schools](#)
  - [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills \(TEKS\)](#)
2. **Choose a Homeschooling Method:** Determine which homeschooling approach or curriculum you want to follow. Options include traditional textbooks, online courses, unschooling, eclectic homeschooling, etc. Choose the one that aligns best with your child's learning style and your educational philosophy.

3. **File Necessary Paperwork:** While Texas has minimal regulations, you're required to withdraw your child from public school and officially begin homeschooling. You can withdraw your child by sending a withdrawal letter to the school district.
4. **Establish a Curriculum:** Develop a curriculum or select a pre-made one that meets Texas educational standards. Keep in mind that Texas doesn't mandate specific subjects or grade levels for homeschooling, but it's a good idea to cover core subjects like math, science, language arts, and social studies.
5. **Set Up a Learning Space:** Designate a space in your home for homeschooling. It could be a room, a corner of a room, or even the dining table. Make sure it's conducive to learning and free from distractions.
6. **Plan Your Schedule:** Create a daily or weekly schedule that works for your family. Homeschooling allows for flexibility, so tailor the schedule to your child's needs and your family's lifestyle.
7. **Join Support Groups:** Consider joining local homeschooling groups or co-ops. They provide opportunities for socialization, support, and resources. You can find these groups through online forums, social media, or local homeschooling organizations.
8. **Keep Records:** While Texas doesn't require homeschoolers to keep detailed records, it's still a good practice. Maintain records of your child's progress, attendance, and any other relevant information.
9. **Stay Flexible and Adapt:** Homeschooling is a dynamic process. Be prepared to adjust your approach based on your child's needs and interests. Stay open to new ideas and be willing to modify your plans as necessary.
10. **Stay Informed:** Stay updated on homeschooling laws and regulations in Texas. Joining homeschooling associations or attending homeschooling conferences can help you stay informed and connected with other homeschooling families.

## 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.*

- Texas has no laws or regulations related to homeschooling. The state of Texas does not regulate, monitor, approve, register, or accredit programs available to parents who choose to homeschool their children. In addition, the state of Texas does not award a diploma to students who are homeschooled. However, in accordance with [Texas](#)

[Education Code §51.9241](#), the state of Texas considers the successful completion of a homeschool education to be equivalent to graduation from a public or private high school.

### **Assessment and Diplomas**

- An institution of higher education is not permitted to require an applicant who presents evidence of successful completion of a nontraditional secondary education (which includes homeschooling) to obtain a general education development certificate, certificate of high school equivalency, or other credentials equivalent to a public high school degree; or to take an assessment not generally required of applicants. [Texas Education Code §51.9241](#).

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

- Under the Texas Supreme Court decision rendered in *Leeper et al. vs. Arlington Independent School District et al.* a homeschool curriculum must be designed to meet a minimum of basic education goals including reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and a study of good citizenship.
- A home school will be considered a private school for the provision of services for children with disabilities if it provides elementary or secondary education that includes a curriculum designed to meet basic education goals, with a scope and sequential progress of courses and a review and documentation of student progress in place. [Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part II, §89.1096](#)

### **Initial and Renewal Applications**

- No state policy currently exists.

### **Public School Access**

- No state policy currently exists.

### **Resources**

For additional information on home schooling, contact the [Texas Home School Coalition](#) or the [Texas Home Educators](#). As an alternative, parents can contact the [Texas Private School Accreditation Commission](#) and [International Association for Learner Driven Schools](#) for information about accredited private schools. Parents interested in the state-mandated curriculum standards can visit the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills \(TEKS\)](#) page on the TEA website.

#### **[Texas Home School Coalition \(THSC\)](#)**

The largest state homeschool association in the U.S., offering legal resources, advocacy, and community events in Texas.

## Information and Legislation

- [Texas Education Agency: Homeschooling](#)
- [Texas Education Agency: Education Laws and Rules](#)
- [Texas Administrative Code](#)
- [Texas Constitution and Statutes](#)