



# Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## Utah

### Home School

For parents who wish to home school their child, the State of Utah requires the parent to complete and file an affidavit with their local school district stating their intent to home school. Once the affidavit is filed by the parent, the students listed on the affidavit are withdrawn from their public K-12 schools and exempt from Utah's compulsory education law. Your local school district may have a preferred form for this process, but no specific form is required by state law. While the Utah State Board of Education can provide information regarding state policies, parents have jurisdiction over home school.

### Steps to Start a Home School

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

- 1. Familiarize Yourself with Utah Homeschool Laws:** Before you begin homeschooling, it's crucial to understand the legal requirements in Utah. Utah is considered a moderate state when it comes to homeschool regulations. You can visit the Utah State Board of Education website or consult with local homeschooling organizations to get detailed information on the legal 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 [Frequently Asked Questions About School District Responsibilities and Home Schools](#)
  - Review [Utah Home Education Association \(UHEA\)](#)
  - Review [Utah Code 53G-6-204. School-age children exempt from school attendance](#)
  - Review [Special Education Rules in regard to Home School \(see page. 172\)](#)
- 2. Submit Necessary Paperwork:** In Utah, parents or guardians who choose to homeschool their children are required to submit a [notarized affidavit](#) to the local school district

notifying them of their intent to homeschool. This affidavit should include basic information such as the parent's name, the child's name and age, and an assurance that the child will receive instruction in certain subjects, as required by law.

3. **Choose a Curriculum:** Decide on the curriculum you'll use for your homeschool. There are many options available, including pre-packaged curricula, online programs, or designing your own based on state educational standards. Consider your child's learning style, your teaching preferences, and any specific academic goals you have for your child.
4. **Establish a Schedule and Learning Environment:** Create a schedule for your homeschool that suits your family's lifestyle and your child's needs. Determine where your child will study and ensure it's a conducive learning environment free from distractions.
5. **Network with Other Homeschoolers:** Join local homeschooling groups or online forums to connect with other homeschooling families in Utah. Networking with others can provide support, resources, and opportunities for your child to socialize with peers.
6. **Stay Committed and Flexible:** Homeschooling requires commitment and flexibility. Stay dedicated to your child's education while remaining open to adjusting your approach based on your child's progress and changing needs.
7. **Keep Records:** In Utah, homeschooling parents are not required to submit academic progress reports or standardized test scores to the state. However, it's a good idea to keep thorough records of your child's educational activities, including attendance, coursework, and any assessments, in case they're needed in the future.
8. **Stay Informed:** Stay informed about changes to homeschooling laws or regulations in Utah. The requirements and regulations may change over time, so it's important to stay up-to-date to ensure compliance.

Starting a homeschool in Utah can be a rewarding experience for both you and your child. With careful planning, dedication, and support, you can create a successful homeschooling environment that meets your child's educational needs and goals.

### **MicroSchools**

[S.B. 13 Education Entity Amendments](#) provides a home-based microschool and micro-education entity with certain similar duties, requirements, waivers, and rights as private and charter schools.

- Requires a county and municipality to consider a home-based microschool and micro-education entity as a permitted use in all zoning districts within a county and municipality;
- identifies the occupancy requirements to which a micro-education entity is subject;
- requires a local school board to excuse a student who attends a home-based microschool or micro-education entity under certain circumstances;

- provides that an instructor of a school-age child who attends a home-based microschool or micro-education entity is solely responsible for instruction, materials, and evaluation;
- prohibits a local school board from requiring a home-based microschool or micro-education entity to provide teaching credentials, submit to inspection, and conduct testing;
- prevents government entities from regulating home-based microschool and micro-education entity food preparation and distribution under certain circumstances;
- requires a home-based microschool and micro-education entity to register as a business;
- exempts a student who attends a home-based microschool or micro-education entity from immunization requirements; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

## 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

- Home school students who are Utah residents have the option to participate in U-PASS if they satisfy state home school requirements. [State Board of Education Rule R277-604-4](#).

## Curriculum and Instruction

- The resident school district has no responsibility or authority regarding home schools' curriculum, student assessment, instructional materials, or instruction evaluation. [Utah Code Ann. §53G-6-204 \(2\)\(c\)](#).

## Initial and Renewal Applications

- Each year parents must submit a signed affidavit to the school district of residence stating that the child will attend home school and will receive instruction in the subjects required by the Utah State Board of Education and for the same length of time minors are required to be taught in public schools, as determined by the Utah State Board of Education rules. The statute does not specify a form for the affidavit, but a school district may provide a form to parents. A school district that requires a specific form or format for the affidavit is exceeding the requirements of the statute. [Frequently Asked Questions about School District Responsibilities and Home Schools](#), Utah State Office of Education and [Utah Code Ann. §53G-6-204 \(2\)\(b\)](#).
- Home school students will receive a certificate from the local school board excusing their attendance from the public schools during the time specified on the certificate. [Frequently Asked Questions about School District Responsibilities and Home Schools](#), and Utah State Office of Education and [Utah Code Ann. §53G-6-204 \(2\)\(g\)](#).

## Public School Access

- Home school students are eligible to participate in extracurricular or co-curricular activities of their residential public school if taking courses comparable to traditional school courses or earning credit under the options outline in [R277-700-6](#) in the minimum number of designated courses required by the local board of students for participation in that activity. Dual enrollment students are eligible under the same standards as traditional public school students. [R277-438-3](#) and [Utah Code Ann. §53G-6-702](#).
- To establish that the home school student meets the academic eligibility, a parent, teacher, or organization providing instruction to the student shall submit an affidavit to the principal indicating the student meets academic eligibility requirements. [Utah Code Ann. §53G-6-703 \(6\)\(a\)](#).

## Resources

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

- Utah State Office of Education  
250 East 500 South  
P.O. Box 144200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200  
Phone: (801) 538-7500  
Fax: (801) 538-7521  
Website: <http://www.schools.utah.gov/main/>
- Cassie Hays, M. Ed.  
Parent Liaison and Engagement Education Specialist  
Utah State Board of Education  
[cassie.hays@schools.utah.gov](mailto:cassie.hays@schools.utah.gov)  
(801) 538-7845
- U.S. Department of Education, [Utah](#)

### Information and Legislation

- [Utah State Office of Education: Home School](#)
- [Utah State Office of Education: Home School FAQs](#)
- [Utah Code](#)
- [Utah Administrative Rules](#)
- [Utah Department of Education Administrative Rules](#)