



Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Vermont

Home School

Every family in Vermont has the right to educate their own children. All students in Vermont must be enrolled at an approved public or independent school or enroll in a home study program.

Home Study and Home Schooling mean the same thing; the family is responsible for educating the students. Families must develop their own curriculum or purchase a curriculum to implement or they can enroll their students in an online program/academy. The family will determine which best meets their needs.

The Agency of Education's Home Study Team functions as a processor of home study programs – not a school. There are some minimum standards that the State of Vermont has determined all Home Study Programs must meet, and we are responsible for ensuring that all programs are in compliance with the requirements in [16 VSA §166b](#). By enrolling in a Home Study Program, families choose not to access a publicly funded education. There is no money available to pay for a Home Study Program at either the State level or the local level.

Students enrolled in home study do not receive grades or diplomas from the State. The Agency of Education's Home Study Team maintains records documenting that students satisfactorily meet all necessary standards and confirm with school districts all who are enrolled with them so they can accurately enforce truancy laws.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a home school in Vermont involves several steps, but it's definitely doable. Here's a general guide to get you started:

1. **Familiarize Yourself with Vermont's Homeschooling Laws:** Vermont has relatively flexible homeschooling laws. You'll want to review the legal requirements set forth by the Vermont Agency of Education. Ensure you understand the compulsory attendance age, notification requirements, and any other regulations that apply to homeschooling in the state. 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 [Home Study FAQ: 2023 Policy Update](#)
 - Review [Sample Minimum Course of Study for Ages 5-7](#)
 - Review [Sample Minimum Course of Study for Ages 7-10](#)
 - Review [Sample Minimum Course of Study for Ages 9-11](#)
 - Review [Sample Minimum Course of Study for Middle School](#)
 - Review [Sample Minimum Course of Study for High School](#)
2. **Notify the School District:** Vermont requires parents to submit a [notice of intent to homeschool](#) to their local school district. This letter should include basic information about your child, such as name, birthdate, and address, as well as your intent to homeschool. In addition, parents will have to submit a document stating that the student was enrolled in a VT public school (like a report card or attendance report) OR a copy of [Independent Professional Evidence Form](#) or other accepted alternative (i.e. a copy of an IEP or 504 plan) that identifies if the student has a documented disability. The Notice of Intent must be received by the Agency of Education (AOE) Home Study Team 10 business days prior to the intended start date of the Home Study program. This means that you must enroll your student at least 10 business days prior to the first day of school in your town of residence.
 3. **Develop a Curriculum:** While Vermont doesn't mandate specific curriculum requirements, it's essential to have a plan for what and how you'll teach your child. Consider your child's learning style, interests, and academic goals when developing your curriculum. Consider developing a [Minimum Course of Study \(MCOS\)](#).
 4. **Choose Instructional Materials:** Select textbooks, workbooks, online resources, and other materials that align with your chosen curriculum. You can purchase these materials new or used, or even utilize free resources available online.
 5. **Establish a Schedule:** Create a homeschooling schedule that works for your family. Determine how many hours per day you'll spend on academics and any extracurricular activities or field trips you'd like to include.
 6. **Keep Records:** Vermont requires homeschooling parents to keep records of their homeschooling activities, including attendance, academic progress, and any assessments or evaluations. This documentation may be requested by the school district.
 7. **Consider Joining a Homeschooling Support Group:** Connecting with other homeschooling families can provide valuable support, resources, and social opportunities for both you and your child.

8. **Stay Flexible and Adapt:** Homeschooling allows for flexibility, so don't be afraid to adjust your approach as needed based on your child's progress and interests.

Remember, homeschooling is a significant commitment, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Take the time to research and plan carefully, and don't hesitate to reach out to other homeschooling families or educational organizations for guidance and support along the way.

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.

- Homeschooling is an educational program offered through home study that provides a minimum course of study and is offered to children residing in that home and to two or fewer children from one family not living in the home. [16 V.S.A. § 166b](#).

Assessment and Diplomas

- An annual assessment is required. Several options are open to parents, including assessment by a Vermont licensed teacher, complete results of a standardized achievement test, or a report by the instructor accompanied by a portfolio of the child's work. [16 VSA §166b\(d\)](#)

Curriculum and Instruction

- Home study programs in Vermont must provide a minimum course of study in the following fields: basic communication, including reading, writing, and the use of numbers; citizenship, history, and government in Vermont and the United States; physical education and comprehensive health education; English, American, and other literature; the natural sciences; and the fine arts. [16 VSA §906 \(a\) and \(b\)](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- Parents wishing to homeschool their children must file a written notice with the secretary each year. The notice must contain the name and age of the child; contact information for parent and instructor; an assessment of progress for a child enrolled in a home school during the previous year; evidence that the child is or is not handicapped; a description of the content in each instructional area; the name of the resident school district; the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and signatures of the persons who will provide ongoing instruction in each subject matter of the minimum course of study required; and the signature of the parents or guardians, who are legally authorized to make educational decisions for the student. [16 VSA §166b\(a\)](#).

Public School Access

- A home study student is eligible to enroll part-time at school in his or her district of residence. If the district does not operate a school, the student may attend another public school for which his or her district of residence is required to pay tuition.

Resources

Contact Information--State and Federal Departments of Education

- Vermont Home Study Office Email: AOE.Homestudy@vermont.gov
- Vermont Agency of Education
Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary of Education
219 North Main Street Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641
Phone: (802) 479-1030
Fax: (802) 479-1835
Email: aoe-Edinfo@state.vt.us or maureen.gaidys@state.vt.us
Website: <http://www.education.vermont.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Education, [Vermont](#)

Information and Legislation

- [VAE: Home Study](#)
- [Vermont Statutes Online](#)