



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Delaware

Home School

If you plan to homeschool children in Delaware, you must open a nonpublic school (NPS) with the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and enroll your children

There are two requirements to keep a nonpublic (home or private) school open and active once registered. Pursuant to [Delaware law, 14 Del.C. § 2704](#):

- All persons conducting nonpublic schools shall report end of the year attendance information to the DDOE annually, on or before July 31, on such forms as shall be prescribed by the DDOE.
- Such persons shall also submit annually, no later than September 30, a statement of pupil enrollment as of the last school day in September, on such forms as prescribed by the Department of Education.

Annual enrollment and attendance information are reported through the Nonpublic School System.

The use of an online school, program, or curriculum is acceptable, but you are still required to open a homeschool. You do not have to open a homeschool with the DDOE if your child is 16 or older; however, we welcome and encourage you to do so.

For multi-family homeschools, the school's liaison/administrator is responsible for registration, reporting, and enrollment. They will add students to the multi-family homeschool as part of the enrollment process and provide the parent/guardian with a copy of the acknowledgement page. If you plan for your child(ren) to attend a multi-family homeschool, you must contact the liaison/administrator in order to determine what steps you must take to enroll your student.

Once your student is enrolled into a homeschool, you must withdraw from public school or your previous nonpublic school.

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Delaware is a wonderful endeavor! Here are the key steps you'll need to take:

1. **Review State Laws:** Familiarize yourself with Delaware's homeschooling laws. Delaware requires parents to notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool and submit a curriculum. However, there are no specific requirements for teacher qualifications or standardized testing. 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 [Explanation of Schools and Services](#)
 - Review [Information Packet](#)
 - Review [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - Review [Register for a Nonpublic School](#)
 - Review [Contact Us](#)
 - Review [EdAccess Single Sign-On](#)

2. **Submit Necessary Paperwork:** Contact your local school district to obtain the necessary paperwork for homeschooling. Typically, you'll need to submit a letter of intent to homeschool along with a curriculum outline.
 - **Step One:** [Apply for an EdAccess Account](#) and select Nonpublic School Account from the dropdown. Once you have submitted the form, be sure to check your email for a confirmation and next steps. NOTE: You will be required to set up a Multi-Factor Authentication (a two-step process to log in). Please take a few minutes to view the [EdAccess MFA.pdf](#) and watch the MFA four minute YouTube guidance video [EdAccess Multi-Factor Authentication](#). You will need to do this each time you access the [EdAccess portal](#).

 - **Step Two:** [Log into the Nonpublic School Application](#) via EdAccess. Select the Nonpublic School Application icon, select the +School blue button at the top of the page. Then select the type of NPS you are opening, enter the school's demographic information, contact information, and add student(s) to be enrolled. If you are opening a homeschool, make sure to link your students to a parent/guardian. Be sure to save and continue on each page, review the information one more time, and then submit. At this time, your nonpublic school request will go into a pending status.

 - **Step Three:** Print or obtain a copy of the Acknowledgment Letter indicating that your NPS has been opened and your student(s) is/are enrolled. Public schools will not withdraw your child(ren) to a NPS without this Acknowledgement Letter.

Please note, if you are registering a nonpublic school for next school year, you will need to wait until **after August 11th** to do so.

Once the DDOE notifies you that your NPS is approved/open, you can access the homepage for your NPS by logging in through [EdAccess](#) (Remember the Multi-Factor Authentication step) and clicking on the NPS icon. This will take you to your NPS homepage for your school.

3. **Choose a Curriculum:** Select a curriculum that aligns with your child's learning style, interests, and educational goals. There are many options available, including pre-packaged curricula, online programs, and eclectic approaches where you piece together materials from various sources.
4. **Set Up a Learning Space:** Designate a space in your home specifically for homeschooling. This could be a dedicated room or simply a corner with a desk and supplies.
5. **Establish a Schedule:** Create a daily or weekly schedule that outlines when homeschooling will take place. Remember to include breaks and time for extracurricular activities.
6. **Join a Homeschooling Community:** Consider joining a homeschooling support group or co-op in your area. These communities can provide valuable resources, support, and social opportunities for both you and your child.
7. **Stay Flexible:** Remember that one of the benefits of homeschooling is the flexibility it offers. Be open to adjusting your approach based on your child's needs and interests.
8. **Keep Records:** Maintain detailed records of your child's progress, including samples of their work, attendance records, and any standardized test scores if required by your state.
9. **Stay Informed:** Stay up to date on homeschooling laws and regulations in Delaware to ensure compliance and address any changes that may occur.
10. **Enjoy the Journey:** Homeschooling is a unique and rewarding experience for both you and your child. Embrace the opportunity to tailor their education to their individual needs and interests.

By following these steps and remaining dedicated to your child's education, you can create a successful homeschooling experience in Delaware!

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

- Per the Department of Education Website, the state does not award diplomas to home-schooled students.

Curriculum and Instruction

- Delaware requires all nonpublic schools to provide regular courses in the United States Constitution, the Delaware Constitution and government, and the free enterprise system in grade eight through high school. The extent and content of courses is determined by the Department of Education with approval of the Delaware State Board of Education. [Del. Code Ann., title 14, §4103](#).

Home Education Programs

- A home school is defined as a nonpublic school. Delaware Code lists three types of home schools: "multi-family home school," "single-family home school," and "single-family home school coordinated with the local school district." [Del. Code Ann., title 14, §2703A](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- All nonpublic schools, including home schools, must register their students with the state in order for those students to be exempt from the compulsory attendance law. [Del. Code Ann., title 14, §§2702, 2703, and 2704](#).
- All persons conducting private schools and/or home schools shall report to the Department of Education the attendance on or before July 31 of each year. All persons conducting private schools and/or home schools must also submit a statement annually of enrollment no later than October 5 on such forms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Department of Education. [Del. Code Ann., title 14, §2704](#).

Public School Access

- According to [Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association regulation 1008 2.3](#), a student must be enrolled in the public middle or junior high school which he or she represents to participate in public school sports.

Special Education

- Homeschool students are considered "parentally-placed private school children" for the purposes of equitable services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

(IDEA), ensuring access to certain special education services. [Del. Code Ann., title 14, §2703A](#).

Resources

- [Delaware DEDOE: Opening a Homeschool and Homeschool Information](#)
- [Delaware Administrative Code](#)
- [Age requirements](#)
- [Attendance days, days open](#)
- [Attending online programs/curriculums, digital private schools](#)
- [Curriculum](#)
- [Diplomas](#)
- [Drivers Education](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Next school year registration](#)
- [Registering an online/digital private school Social Security forms](#)
- [Sports and extracurricular activities](#)
- [State assessments](#)
- [Transcripts/Academic records](#)
- [Social Security Forms](#)
- [Work forms](#)