



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Nebraska

Home School

Parents (or legal guardians) may educate their child at home by electing not to meet State approval or accreditation requirements ([Section 79-1601 R.R.S.](#)). In Nebraska, “home schools” are referred to as exempt schools and are considered non-approved or non-accredited schools. By filing for and receiving exempt status, parents are electing not to have their child attend a school that meets State approval and accreditation requirements while also complying with the mandatory school attendance law ([Section 79-201 R.R.S.](#)).

Steps to Start a Home School

Starting a homeschool in Nebraska involves understanding the state's homeschooling laws and fulfilling the necessary requirements. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you get started:

1. **Understand Nebraska Homeschool Laws:** Familiarize yourself with Nebraska's homeschooling laws and regulations. In Nebraska, homeschooling is governed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). The state requires parents to comply with the Nebraska Compulsory Education Law and provides several options for homeschooling. 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 \(HSLDA\)](#).
 - [Rule 13, Effective 06/28/2026](#) is the rule governing the procedures and standards for filing for an exemption.
 - Due to the recent passage of LB1027, on 15 April 2024, Rule 13 has been revised. There are many of the prior Rule 13 provisions that are no longer applicable due to these changes.
 - See [LB 1027 \(2024\)](#)
 - Allows one parent (or legal guardian) to file instead of requiring both parents.
 - Added educational decision maker as approved filer on behalf of students.

- Written assurance of compliance with statutes and regulation
- Only need to submit school period information from section 004.01;
ignore all other provisions in section 004 of Rule 13
- [Exempt School Update Presentation](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [Resources \(private parent support organizations\)](#)

2. **Choose a Homeschooling Option:** Nebraska offers several options for homeschooling:

- **Option 1: File a Form 1:** A parent or education decision maker can file Form 1 with their local school district to establish a homeschool. This option requires parents to teach for at least 1,032 hours per school year and maintain certain records.
- **Option 2: Enroll in a Remote or Virtual School:** A parent or education decision maker can enroll their children in a remote or virtual school program offered by a public or private school.
- **Option 3: Dual Enrollment:** High school students can enroll in college courses while being homeschooled.

3. **Submit Required Documentation:** If you choose Option 1 and file Form 1, submit the form to your local school district superintendent. Include basic information such as your name, address, and the names and ages of the children you plan to homeschool.
4. **Develop a Curriculum:** Create a curriculum that meets Nebraska's educational standards and covers subjects such as reading, math, social studies, language arts, and science. You have flexibility in choosing curriculum materials and resources.
5. **Gather Curriculum and Materials:** Collect textbooks, workbooks, educational materials, and other resources needed for teaching and learning. Consider your child's interests, learning style, and grade level when selecting materials.
6. **Set Up a Learning Environment:** Create a designated space in your home for homeschooling activities. Ensure that the space is conducive to learning and free from distractions.
7. **Establish a Schedule:** Develop a daily or weekly schedule for homeschooling activities. Include time for instruction, independent study, breaks, and extracurricular activities. Be flexible and adjust the schedule as needed to accommodate your child's needs and interests.
8. **Keep Records:** Maintain records of attendance, academic progress, and other documentation required by the state. This may include sample work, standardized test scores, progress reports, and a portfolio of your child's achievements.

9. **Participate in Evaluations (Optional):** Nebraska does not require homeschooling families to participate in standardized testing or evaluations. However, you may choose to have your child participate in assessments to gauge their academic progress.
10. **Stay Informed and Connected:** Stay updated on any changes to homeschooling laws and regulations in Nebraska. Join homeschooling support groups, attend workshops and conferences, and connect with other homeschooling families for resources, advice, and socialization opportunities.

Remember that homeschooling is a personalized educational option, so feel free to tailor your approach to meet your child's unique needs and interests. Additionally, don't hesitate to seek guidance from experienced homeschoolers, educational professionals, and homeschooling organizations as you embark on this journey.

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.

- In Nebraska, "home schools" are referred to as exempt schools and are considered private non-approved and non-accredited schools. By filing for and receiving exempt status, parents are electing not to have their child attend a school that meets State approval or accreditation requirements while also complying with the compulsory school attendance law. [Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-201\(e\)](#).

Assessment and Diplomas

- In order to verify information submitted for students in exempt schools, the Department may deem it necessary to conduct regular achievement testing. Department officials shall contact the parent representative and a test, a time, and a procedure shall be mutually designated and established. Denial of student testing in such a case shall be cause for the Department to determine that the school is not meeting the curriculum requirements. Therefore, it shall not be deemed an exempt school. [92NAC 13 §008](#).

Curriculum and Instruction

- The parent representative of each exempt school must submit an information summary to the commissioner or designee prior to the date that the exempt school begins operation, and annually thereafter July 15, that includes a calendar of the school year indicating the hours of operation; [92 NAC 13 §004](#).

Initial and Renewal Applications

- Parents or legal guardians who elect to homeschool their child because the requirements for school approval and accreditation interfere with the decisions of the parents or legal guardians in directing their child's education do so under 92 NAC 12. Parents or legal guardians who elect to homeschool their child because the requirements for school approval and accreditation would violate their sincerely held religious beliefs do so under [92 NAC 13](#). One parent or legal guardian, regardless of the justification they use, must sign a separate statement of objection and assurances. [92 NAC 13 §§001.02, 003.01](#)
- Thirty days before beginning homeschooling, and annually thereafter by July 15, the parent representative must file a statement containing the names and ages of all children in the school and the names of their parents or guardians, and containing assurances regarding submission of information on enrollment and attendance, signed in the presence of, and acknowledged by, a notary public upon oath or affirmation with the statements of objection and assurances. [92 NAC 13 §03.02A](#)
- Upon enrollment of a student in an exempt school, the parent or guardian must provide the commissioner of education with either (a) a certified copy of the student's birth certificate or (b) other reliable proof of the child's identity and age with an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate. [92 NAC 13 §009](#).

Public School Access

- Students who attend an exempt home school shall be allowed to enroll part-time in their local public schools. Specific policies and procedures depend on the school district. [92 NAC 13 §012](#).

Resources

Program Contacts

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Information and Legislation

- Nebraska Department of Education: [Exempt \(Home\) School Program](#)
- Nebraska Department of Education: [General Information Regarding State Education Rules and Regulations](#)
- [Nebraska Revised Statutes](#)