



State law regulates homeschooling in Arkansas. By law, any child turning five (5) years of age on or before August 1 of that year shall be enrolled by the parent or guardian in a public, private, or parochial school, or a home school may be provided. A child must attend school through at least seventeen (17) years of age.

1. DEFINITION OF A HOME SCHOOL

A "home school" is a school provided by parents or legal guardians for their own children.

2. ELIGIBILITY TO PROVIDE A HOME SCHOOL

Parents/legal guardians may provide a home school for their own children. There are no educational requirements for parents/guardians who provide a home school for their child(ren).

3. NOTIFICATION REQUIRED BY LAW

Parents/legal guardians who intend to home school **must file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the superintendent of the resident school district.** The NOI may be completed through the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's online process or by submitting a written NOI to the superintendent of the student's resident school district.

Complete the NOI at the beginning of each school year but no later than August 15; or, subject to the requirements of state law if filing after August 15. Submit an NOI online or return a completed, signed form to the superintendent of the resident school district. An NOI may be completed as early as June 15 and it covers through June 14 of the following year.

NOI forms submitted after the deadline are subject to a fourteen (14) calendar day waiting period prior to withdrawing the child from the resident school district.

The waiting period may be waived, however, it is under the sole legal discretion of the superintendent or school board to make this decision.

Parents have the option of filing an electronic or paper NOI.

Go to:

<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/learning-services/home-school>.

4. NOTICE OF INTENT FORM

Do not file a separate form for each child; file one form per family per school year. Parents/legal guardians must not leave the required areas blank on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to Home School form. Incomplete forms do not meet the requirements of state law and will not be accepted.

Parents/legal guardians will not receive books, curriculum, or materials as a result of filing the annually required NOI.

If a parent submits electronically at

<https://noihs.ade.arkansas.gov>, an email notification of the submission will follow, along with a copy of the NOI.

Parents/legal guardians are not required to meet with the local superintendent to discuss their choice of homeschooling. The law does not require parents/legal guardians to provide a reason for their choice.

5. STUDENTS UNDER DISCIPLINARY ACTION AT THE LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Public school students who are under disciplinary action by the resident school district shall be eligible for enrollment in a home school if the superintendent or local school board chooses to allow the child to enroll in a home school; the disciplinary action against the student has been completed or at the end of a school semester, whichever occurs first; or

the student has been expelled for the remainder of the school year.

Disciplinary action may occur, but is not limited to, when written school policy on excessive unexcused absences is violated.

6. CURRICULUM, BOOKS, MATERIALS

Parents/legal guardians are free to select and purchase their choice of books, curriculum, online, or correspondence programs. Parents/guardians also set their own schedule of instruction for their child(ren).

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, resident school districts, and education service cooperatives are not required to furnish books, curriculum, or materials. **It is the parents/legal guardians responsibility to locate and purchase all books, curriculum, or materials.**

7. STANDARDIZED TESTING

Arkansas Act 832 of 2015 repealed home school testing. **Parents are no longer required to test their students.** If parents choose to test their students, it is at the parents' expense.

The ACT Aspire test taken by public school students is not an option for home school students.

A list of nationally-recognized, norm-referenced tests, include the following options:

- Stanford 10 (SAT 10)
- Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS)
- Terra Nova (CAT 6)
- California Achievement Tests (CAT E/Survey)

- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
- Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED)
- Basic Achievement Skills Inventory (BASI)
- Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT8)
- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
- Brigance Diagnostic Inventories

8. **MONITORING OF STUDENT WORK**

The law does not give the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education or the school district the authority to review or monitor a home school student's work.

Parents/legal guardians may choose to keep the following records: Attendance record, a portfolio of the student's work at each grade level, grades for each subject, and a transcript for each student. **Records may be very beneficial to a home school student in the future.**

9. **HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

No diploma is provided by school districts, education service cooperatives, or the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for students enrolled in home school.

Contact your curriculum provider or your state/local home school support group regarding information on obtaining a home school diploma.

10. **RE-ENTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL**

- Students transferring from a home school to a public school that is accredited by the state shall be evaluated by the staff of the accredited school to determine proper grade placement.
- Home schools are not accredited by the state. **There are no grades, credits, transcripts, or diplomas provided by the DESE, education service cooperative, or by the local school district for students enrolled in home school.**
- Any home school student who re-enters a resident school district must attend classes for at least nine (9) months immediately prior to graduation before the student can become eligible to receive a high school diploma from the resident school district.

See the home school rules for a list of records the public school may request when transferring:
<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/legal/rules/current#H>.

11. **CREDITS FOR GRADUATION**

It is possible that a home school student who returns to a public high school may not be immediately eligible to receive a diploma. However, school districts cannot deny awarding of course credits earned in a home school as long as records are produced as outlined in the rules, otherwise the district has sole authority to determine the awarding of course credits and graduation may be delayed until credits are recovered.

12. **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Parents/guardians may home school a student with disabilities. Home school students will be given the same consideration for special education services as private school students in Arkansas; this does not guarantee an individual student services. There are no certification requirements for parents/guardians who teach their special needs child(ren).

13. **INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES**

Home school students may pursue participation in interscholastic activities at their resident public school. Beginning with the 8th grade, there is a 365-day waiting period for a child who enrolls in home school before they can compete in interscholastic activities. The principal of the resident school must be notified of the home school student's desire to participate and certain academic qualifications apply. See the full rules at:
<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/legal/rules/current#H>.

14. **CLASSES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public school districts are required by law to adopt a policy that allows a home school student to enroll in an academic course at the student's resident public school. There is a funding mechanism entitling districts to receive 1/6th of the state foundation funding amount for each academic course in which the home school student is enrolled. See the full rules at:
<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/legal/rules/current#H>.

15. **AGE TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL**

Students are required to attend school until they are eighteen (18) years of age, or meet other requirements specified by state law.

16. **GED PROGRAM**

Parents may contact the state GED office for enrollment requirements:

GED Testing

Division of Workforce Services - Adult Education
 1 Commerce Way
 Little Rock, AR 72202
 (501) 682-1982

Website:

<https://arcareereducation.org/services/adulteducation/high-school-equivalency-ged>.

17. **RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

If you are not sure of your resident district, go to the following website and enter your physical address:
<http://www.geostor.arkansas.gov/G6/Viewer.html>.

18. **MOVE DURING SCHOOL YEAR**

A move to a new school district requires that a copy of the current-year NOI form be submitted to the superintendent of the new district within thirty (30) calendar days of establishing residency within the district.

19. **PRIVATE SCHOOL/CURRICULUM SUPPLIER/UMBRELLA SCHOOL**

A curriculum supplier may state that they are a "private school" or "umbrella school." The supplier may state that if parents enroll or purchase curriculum from them, the parents will not have to file Notice of Intent (NOI) to Home School each year in Arkansas. This is false. The obligation to file an NOI does not depend on the source of the material used **but rather on whether the student is being educated within the State of Arkansas.**

Contact the Home School Office if there are questions regarding maintaining legal home school status.

20. **ARKANSAS SUPPORT GROUPS**

The support groups listed below may provide information on homeschooling, including:

- Local home school support groups
- Newsletters about homeschooling
- New/used book fairs in Arkansas
- Organized activities for students
- Home school curriculum providers
- Transcripts and graduation

The Education Alliance

(501) 978-5503

www.arkansashomeschool.org

Home Educators of Greater Little Rock

(501) 396-9634

www.homeedonline.com

21. **NATIONAL SUPPORT GROUPS**

National Black Home Educators Association

13434 Plank Road, PMB 110

Baker, Louisiana 70714

Email: burgess1@outlook.com

Eric and Joyce Burges, Founders

www.nbhe.net

Home School Legal Defense Association

P. O. Box 3000

Purcellville, Virginia 20134

Phone: (540) 338-5600

www.hslda.org

22. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- **The Home School Office will NOT accept forms from home school parents.** Forms must be filed with the parent/legal guardian's resident school district.
- In order to maintain legal home school status, file **each year** between June 15 and August 15, or meet other requirements of state law.
- Submit only **current year forms**, which are available from school districts no later than June 15 of each year or electronically at our website: <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/home-school>.
- It is to the benefit of parents and students to ensure that the information entered on the required form is legible.

ACCURATE HOME SCHOOL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING:

Home School Office

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Arkansas Department of Education

Four Capitol Mall - Slot #6

Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: (501) 682-1874

Website:

<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/learning-services/home-school>



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Home School Fact Sheet

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