

Definition of a Homeschooler

Home education is best defined as parent/guardian-led, relationship-based education of a child at home. Usage of the term “homeschooling” originated in the early 1980’s and signifies an arrangement recognized by that name in Arizona law as one where the parent or guardian assumes the teaching responsibility of the required subject areas.

The state of Arizona defines Homeschool as follows: [ARS §15-802 G 2](#) Homeschool means a nonpublic school conducted primarily by the parent, guardian or other person who has custody of the child or nonpublic instruction provided in the child’s home.

Homeschoolers retain complete control of their child’s primary level education. Delegation of control to either a private school program or government-funded classes held outside the home for core subjects reclassifies the parents or legal guardians as something other than Homeschoolers, at least in relation to the child involved in said program or classes. Parents/guardians are permitted to utilize outside resources, however the spirit of the law implies that a parent /guardian is the primary teacher for the core subjects.

Parents/guardians of a secondary level student utilizing supplemental educational opportunities, including enrollment in community college classes, JTED, and others, are still considered Homeschoolers as long as a parent or legal guardian remains the primary educator and retains complete responsibility for their child’s education.

Note of clarification: A child enrolled in a publicly funded distance learning/virtual school program is classified by law as a public school student. Likewise, a child enrolled in a hybrid educational institution in which the institution controls oversight of the child’s education, even though the student may complete some coursework at home, by law is not considered a homeschool student.