

CHEF of Lafayette

Suggested Guide for Getting Started in your Home School:

1. **Notify the state.** It is required by the state of Louisiana that you submit **one** of the following to the Louisiana State Department of Education for children ages 7 and older:
 - a) Completed **Home Study** application [available online at <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/schools/home-study> (use *Home Study Application* link in center of page) *or* by calling their toll free number 1-877-453-2721 and asking for a home study application). This option is for those who wish to register as a Home Study Program.
 - b) An official, signed letter registering the school year, name of your school, contact information, and total number of students enrolled. You must notify the Department of Education by the thirtieth day after the school session begins. Send only one copy of the letter, and keep a copy for your records. Your registration will be maintained electronically at the Louisiana Department of Education. This option is for those who wish to register as a **Private School**.

*[note: You can refer to the state's webpage listed above for explanation of the difference between the two options. For example, in order to be eligible for **T.O.P.S.**, a student has to be registered in the Home Study program for the last 2 yrs. of high school. Also, if registered as Home Study program, 180 days of schooling per year is mandatory.]*

2. **Choose a curriculum.** There are many, many options available in home school curriculum. A few suggestions in finding the one for you are talking to other experienced home school parents, doing an Internet search, and/or attending a home school Book Fair in your area. Also, there are several methods or teaching programs from which to choose: standardized curriculums, unit studies, satellite classrooms, DVD programs, local co-ops, etc.
3. **Order Materials.** This includes purchasing curriculum as well as school supplies needed. Place orders early enough so that your materials will already be in when it's time to begin school. Many suppliers provide free diagnostic testing to find the correct level in which your student should start working.
4. **Set start date, holidays, etc.** This varies from homeschool to homeschool, but the more organized you are, the smoother things will go. Just remember, as a home school you set your own guidelines. You can be as structured or as flexible as you want.
5. **Legal advice.** It is prudent to be aware of your legal rights as a homeschooling parent. Home School Legal Defense Association website <http://www.hslda.org/hs101/LA.aspx> is a good place to educate yourself in this area. If you are a member of HSLDA, you will have access to legal advice regarding your homeschool.

6. **Support Groups.** There are usually several local homeschool support groups from which to choose. Christian Home Educators Fellowship is one of them ([Membership Information and Application](#)). Some of the benefits of joining a group are fellowship with other homeschoolers, participation in various activities (such as field trips, sports, etc.), and a means to stay updated on what's happening with homeschoolers near you.

*If you have any questions CHEF of Lafayette will be glad to help you in any way that we can. See the **Contact Us** tab on the homepage of this website to find out how to get in touch with us.*

Home School Achievements

[Click here](#) to view an informative slide presentation on the success and achievement rates of homeschoolers.