










HOMESCHOOL LAW AT A GLANCE

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|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | Homeschooling Options: Two |  | State-Mandated Subjects: Yes |
|  | School Required for Ages: 6–18 |  | Assessment Requirements: No |
|  | Notification Required:
Option 2 only |  | Immunization Requirements: No |
|  | Teacher Qualifications:
Option 2 only | | |



How to Comply with Homeschool Law

SIMPLE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Michigan parents may choose to homeschool under the homeschool statute or as a nonpublic school or both.

Members of HSLDA may contact us with any specific questions about these options—our dedicated legal team can help you understand how the law applies to your situation.

Option 1: Homeschooling under Michigan's homeschool statute

Parents who are teaching their own children at home under the homeschool statute are required to use an organized educational program covering the following subject areas:

- reading,
- spelling,
- mathematics,
- science,
- history,
- civics,
- literature,
- writing, and
- English grammar.

The statute does not require parents to notify local government or education authorities that they are homeschooling. The statute specifically notes that parents are authorized to give home instruction. If a nonparent is significantly involved in delivering instruction, HSLDA members may contact us for specific guidance.

Option 2: Homeschooling as a nonpublic school

To homeschool your children by operating as a nonpublic school, you will need to follow these requirements.

1. Ensure that the instructor has the required qualifications.

The instructor in a homeschool operating as a nonpublic school may be either a parent, or another person chosen by the parent. Regardless of who

the instructor is, he or she must have a teaching certificate, a teaching permit, or a bachelor's degree.

Parents who are instructing their children and who have a religious objection to teacher certification do not have to meet any of the above teacher requirements. However, this exception only applies when the parent is the instructor; it does not apply to an instructor who is not the parent.

Please note: The information in this document has been reviewed by an attorney, but it should not be taken as legal advice specific to your individual situation.

2. Provide annual notification that you are homeschooling as a nonpublic school.

At the beginning of each school year, you are required to send the following information to the local public school superintendent:

- the name and age of each child enrolled in your school,
- the number or name of the school district and the city or township and county where the parent lives,
- the name and address of the parent, and
- the name and age of any child enrolled in the school who is not in regular attendance.

The Michigan Department of Education is authorized to request, in writing, your nonpublic school's records of pupil enrollment, courses of study, and qualifications of teachers. You do not need to submit this information unless it is requested in writing.

Michigan State Form SM-4325 (bit.ly/39pBKER) has been developed by the state department of education for use in reporting this information. Members may call or email us with any questions.

Required subjects

Both of Michigan's legal options for homeschooling require that certain subjects be taught (see the lists above). While there are no specific requirements for how often each of the subjects must be taught or at what grade levels, HSLDA's general recommendation is

3. Teach the required subjects.

Children in all grades in nonpublic schools must be taught

- mathematics,
- reading,
- English,
- science,
- social studies,
- health, and
- physical education.

In the high school grades, children must also be taught:

- the US Constitution,
- the Michigan Constitution, and
- the history and present form of civil government in the US, Michigan, and Michigan's political subdivisions and municipalities.

that each of the required subjects be taught at an age-appropriate level every year during the elementary and middle school years, and at least once at the high school level.

***Please note:** The information in this document has been reviewed by an attorney, but it should not be taken as legal advice specific to your individual situation.*



Compulsory School Age

WHEN YOU START HOMESCHOOLING (AND WHEN YOU GET TO STOP)

Michigan law requires that every child who is 6 years old before December 1 and under 18 must attend school or comply with the homeschool law. Parents are authorized to notify a school district in writing that their child has parental permission to stop attending school (or complying with the homeschool law) as early as the child's 16th birthday. A child who has graduated from high school or has fulfilled all requirements for graduation is exempt from compulsory attendance.

Even if your child is beyond compulsory school

attendance age, there may be situations where you would want to continue to follow the requirements of a home education option.

Records showing your compliance may be requested in some situations, such as obtaining a driver's license if your child is a minor, enlisting in the military, applying to colleges, or demonstrating eligibility for Social Security benefits. If you are a member of HSLDA and would like additional details, please contact us.



How to Withdraw Your Child from School

THE WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW

If you want to start homeschooling during the school year and your child is currently enrolled in a public or private school, HSLDA recommends that you formally withdraw your child from that school. If you are going to start homeschooling after the school year is over, and your child is considered enrolled for the following year, we recommend that you withdraw your child before the next school year begins, so that the school does not mark your child as absent or truant.

We invite you to become a member of HSLDA to receive specific advice about withdrawing your child from school and starting to homeschool. Local schools may have specific forms or withdrawal procedures. HSLDA members are eligible to receive

individualized advice about whether complying with those procedures is advisable or required. Members can also use our Michigan sample letter of withdrawal available at hslida.org/post/MI/withdrawal to correspond with school officials.

We generally recommend that any correspondence with authorities be sent by "Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested." Keep copies of the withdrawal letter and any other paperwork or correspondence, and any green postal receipts, for your personal records.

Note: *If your child has never attended a public or private school, this section does not apply.*



The Importance of Recordkeeping

BEST PRACTICES FOR WHAT RECORDS TO KEEP

Why is it so important? Good records equip your student with proof of education for continuing their education, entering the military, or passing an employer's background check. It may also prove valuable if there are ever any questions about your homeschool.

We recommend that you follow Michigan's homeschooling rules, and especially keep records of pupil enrollment, courses of study, and qualifications of teachers, which the state department of education is authorized to request from parents who are homeschooling as a nonpublic school.

Whether you are homeschooling under Michigan's Option 1 homeschool statute or Option 2 nonpublic school provision, HSLDA recommends you keep the following important records for your homeschool:

- Attendance records
- Information on the textbooks and workbooks your student used
- Samples of your student's schoolwork
- Correspondence with school officials
- Portfolios and test results
- Any other documents showing that your child is receiving an appropriate education in compliance with the law

You should maintain these records for at least two years.

You should also keep your student's high school records and proof of compliance with the home education laws during the high school years (including any type of home education notice that you file with state or local officials) on file forever.

You have questions about
teaching your kids.

WE HAVE ANSWERS.

HSLDA's Educational Consultants are here to help you tackle your homeschooling challenges, from making preschool fun to creating a 4-year plan for high school. And our Special Needs Team is ready to answer your questions about diagnosis, curriculum, at-home therapies, a student education plan, and more!

Reach out to us at hslida.org/contact or call **540-338-5600** — we want to help you make homeschooling possible for your family!



MEMBER-ONLY BENEFIT



Visit us online at
hslida.org/legal
for even more
state-related information



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