

Home-School Immunization Requirements

Statute references*: Virginia Code § 22.1-271.1 to.4 and § 32.1-46

Health requirements for home-instructed, exempted, and excused children

All home-educated children *in* the Commonwealth of Virginia are required to be immunized including those taught by a certified tutor and those under religious exemption. However, there are exemptions.

- "In addition to compliance with the requirements of subsection B, C, or H of § 22.1-254 or § 22.1-254.1 any parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of a child being home instructed, exempted or excused from school attendance shall comply with the immunization requirements provided in § 32.1-46 hi the same manner and to the same extent as if the child has been enrolled in and is attending school." § 22.1-271.4
- "The parent, guardian or person standing in loco parentis of each child within this Commonwealth shall cause such child to be immunized by vaccine..." § 32.1-46

Designated immunizations

The Commonwealth requires the following immunizations:

§ 32.1-46. The parent, guardian or person standing in loco parentis of each child within this Commonwealth shall cause such child to be immunized by vaccine against:

- diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis before such child attains the age of one year;
- Haemophilus influenzae type b before he attains the age of thirty months;
- Measles (rubeola), German measles (rubella) and mumps before the age of two years.
- hepatitis B before their first birthday for children born on or after January 1, 1994;
- a second dose of measles (rubeola) vaccine prior to first entering kindergarten or first grade and a child who has not yet received a second dose of measles (rubeola) vaccine must receive a second dose prior to entering the sixth grade;
- varicella zoster (chicken pox), not earlier than the age of twelve months for children bom on or after January 1, 1997; children who have evidence of immunity as demonstrated by laboratory confirmation of immunity or a reliable medical history of disease are exempt from such requirement.
- After July 1, 2001, all children who have not yet received immunization against hepatitis B shall receive such immunization prior to entering sixth grade.

Reporting

Parents are NOT required to submit proof of immunization unless specifically requested by the local division superintendent.

"Upon request by the division superintendent, the parent shall submit to such division superintendent documentary proof of immunization in compliance with § 32.1-46." § 22.1-271.4

Administrative agents

A physician, registered nurse, or health department personnel may give immunizations.

"The parent, guardian or person standing in loco parentis may have such child immunized by a physician or registered nurse or may present the child to the appropriate local health department, which shall administer the required vaccines without charge." § 32.1-46

Records

Persons giving immunizations must provide documentation of the type of immunization given, numbers of doses, date, and any further immunizations required.

"A physician, registered nurse or local health department administering a vaccine required by this section shall provide to the person who presents the child for immunizations a certificate which shall state the diseases for which the child has been immunized, the numbers of doses given, the dates when administered and any further immunizations indicated. § 32.1-46

Information sharing

Certain designated persons may share confidential immunization information including the child's name, address, phone number, birth date, social security number, and the parents' names.

"For the purpose of protecting the public health by ensuring that each child receives age-appropriate immunizations, any physician, licensed institutional health care provider, local or district health department, and the Department of Health may share immunization and child locator information, including, but not limited to, the month, day, and year of each administered immunization; the child's name, address, telephone number, birth date, and social security number; and the parents' names. The immunization information; the child's name, address, telephone number, birth date, and social security number; and the parents' names shall be confidential and shall only be shared for the purposes set out in this subsection." § 32.1-46.E

Exceptions

Parents may obtain both religious and medical exemptions to immunizations. For a religious objection to immunizations, a Certificate of Religious Exemption (Form CRE 1) may be obtained from a local health department or HEAV. For a medical exemption, you must have documentary proof from a physician or local health department that one or more immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health.

"No proof of immunization shall be required of any child upon submission of

- (i) an affidavit to the division superintendent stating that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the parent's or guardian's religious tenets or practices or
- (ii) a written certification from a licensed physician that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the child's health, indicating the specific nature of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization." § 22.1-271.4

Definitions

For the purpose of § 22.1-271.2:

- "Admit" or "admission" means the official enrollment or re-enrollment for attendance at any grade level, whether full-time or part-time, of any student by any school.
- "Admitting official" means the school principal or his designated representative if a public school; if a nonpublic school or child-care center, the principal, headmaster or director of the school or center.
- "Documentary proof means written certification that a student has been immunized, such certificate to be on a form provided by the State Department of Health and signed by the licensed immunizing physician or an employee of the immunizing local health department

* Excerpted from the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; revised July 2001.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

The following resources are listed as a springboard for your research into home education. The list is not exhaustive by any means, and inclusion or deletion of an item should not necessarily be construed to be an endorsement or censorship of any resource.

100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum by Cathy Duffy (curriculum reviews and more)
Beyond Survival: A Guide to Abundant-Life Homeschooling by Diana Waring
Charlotte Mason Education: A Home Schooling How-To Manual by Catherine Levison
The Christian Home School by Gregg Harris
Choosing and Using Curriculum by Joyce Herzog
Educating the WholeHearted Child by Clay and Sally Clarkson
Education PLUS+ [Patterning Learning Upon Scripture] resources by Inge Cannon
Evaluating for Excellence: A Handbook for Evaluating Student Progress by Teresa Moon
Gaining Confidence to Teach by Debbie Strayer
Heart of Homeschooling by Chris Klicka
The Heart of Wisdom Teaching Approach by Robin Sampson
Helping the Special Needs Child by Judith Munday
The High School Handbook by Mary Schofield
Home-Designed High School by Diana Johnson
Home Educated and Now Adults by Brian Ray
Home Education 101 by Vicki Bentley
Home Schooling Children with Special Needs by Sharon Hensley
Homeschooler's Guide to... by Vicki Caruana
Homeschooling the Challenging Child by Christine Field
The How and Why of Home Schooling by Ray Ballman
How to Home School: A Practical Approach by Gayle Graham
The Joyful Homeschooler by Mary Hood
Making the Most of the Preschool Years by Valerie Bendt
Mary Pride's Complete Guide to Getting Started by Mary Pride
Learning Styles (tape set) by Cathy Duffy
The Relaxed Homeschool by Mary Hood
The Right Choice: Home Schooling by Christopher Klicka
The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook by Raymond and Dorothy Moore
The Survivor's Guide to Home Schooling by Luanne Shackelford & Susan White
Talkers, Watchers, and Doers by Cheri Fuller
Teaching the Trivium by Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn
The Three R's: Grades K-3 by Ruth Beechick
The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling by Debra Bell
The Underground History of Education by John Taylor Gatto
Unit Studies Made Easy by Valerie Bendt
The Virginia Homeschool Manual by HEAV
The Way They Learn by Cynthia Tobias (on learning styles)
The Well-Trained Mind by Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer
What Your Child Needs to Know When by Robin Sampson
Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling by Brian Ray (lots of statistical information)
You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully by Ruth Beechick

Also, many homeschool magazines contain a wealth of information (including advertisement of many wonderful resources) :

Home School Digest (P.O. Box 125, Sawyer MI 49125) www.v.homeschooldigest.com (has links to many other sites)

Homeschooling Today (www.homeschooitoday.com 954-962-1930)

Practical Homeschooling (P.O. Box 190, Fenton MO 6J026/ phone 800-346-6322. orders@home-school.com)

The OldSchoolhouse (www.JhiiHomeschivIMagaina.com or S88-71 S-HO.V1E;

The Teaching Home (Box 20219, Portland OR 9~294, phone 503-253-6333 <f.v.! -v. i^-achinul [ome.jom > - j-zine

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CATALOG LIST (for starters, anyway!)

A Beka Books (www.abeka.com) P.O. Box 19100, Pensacola FL 32523-9100 (1-800-874-2352) Textbooks and workbooks designed for and used in many Christian private schools across the country. Comprehensive program. Also available as correspondence or video school.

Alpha Omega Publications (www.aop.com) (1-800-622-3070) Publishers of the popular LifePacs; Switched-On Schoolhouse (CD-ROM), www.classes2vou.com (SOS on-line), A/O Academy correspondence program, A/O On-Line Academy. Weaver and Horizons curricula. Diagnostic and placement tests.

Bob Jones University Press (www.bjup.com) Greenville SC 29614 (No, I didn't leave out the street address - they're so big and well known that this is sufficient.) (1-800-845-5731) Well-known and respected publisher of textbooks/workbooks used in homeschools and private Christian schools across the country. Also offers high school correspondence courses, as well as HomeSat, a 24-hour-a-day, flexible in-home satellite program for K-12.

Christian Liberty Academy Publishers (www.homeschools.org) 502 W. Euclid Ave. .Arlington Heights IL 60004 (1-800-348-0899) Actual on-campus private school offering several satellite school options, including full-service correspondence school as well as family-administrated curriculum package: individual courses now also available. Christian Liberty Press (www.ChristianLibertyPress.com), their publishing branch, offers discounted resources and curricular materials.

CBD Home School (www.Christianbook.com) P.O. Box 7000. Peabody MA 01961-7000 (978-977-5005) New department of Christian Book Distributors. Nice variety, colorful catalog, discount prices.

Farm'Country General Store (www.homeschoolfcgs.com) 731 North Fork Road. Vletamora IL 61548 (309-367-2844) Super resources, well rounded, helpful book lists. Includes many healthy living resources.

Greenleaf Press (www.greenleafpress.com) 3761 Highway 109N. Unit D. Lebanon TN 37087 (615-449-1617) Guaranteed 100% Twaddle-Free! Wonderful resources for history, literature, art, music and nature study. Useful just for the book lists! Has several informative articles within the pages, as well as detailed descriptions of items.

Home Educators Association of Virginia (www.heav.org) 2248-G Dabney Road, P.O. Box 6745, Richmond VA 23230-0745 (804-278-9200) On-site selection of helpful resources: extensive line of resources and curriculum info in HEAV's Web-based shop.

Home School Resource Center (www.debrabell.com) P.O. Box 67, Palmyra PA 17078 (1-800-937-6311) Owned by Debra Bell, author of *The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*. Resources for creative homeschooling.

Lifetime Books and Gifts' *The Always Incomplete Catalog* (www.lifetimebooksandgifts.com) 3900 Chalet Suzanne Drive, Lake Wales FL 33859 (T-800-377-0390) S5 Catalog/supplement contain **over 390 pages** of personal reviews, lots of good information on subject areas, great book lists. Lots of hard-to-find items.

Rainbow Resource Center (www.rainbowresource.com) Route 1 Box 159A. 50 N 500 East Road. Toulon IL 61483 (309-695-3200) 400+ pages of resources for all different home education styles.

Sonlight Curriculum (www.sonlight.com) 8042 South Grant Way, Littleton CO 80122-2705 (303-730-6292) Comprehensive, interrelated, literature-based studies: includes all necessary supplies and books (including science supplies).

Timberdoodle (www.timberdoodle.com) 1510 E Spencer Lake Road. Shelton WA 98584 (360-426-0672) Proponents of a hands-on, fairly relaxed approach to home education. Great resources, lots of fun and real-life-application stuff.

Whole Heart Ministries (www.wholeheart.org) (1-800-311-2146) Authors of *Educating the Whole Hearted Child* and more. Resources based on the premise that real books and real life are the roads to real learning (based somewhat on the writings of Charlotte Mason and Susan Schaeffer Macaulay).

Also check www.heav.org's list of advertisers and convention exhibitors for specific item listings and other curriculum providers.