

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Home Education Fact Sheet

Home Education is education that is directed by the parent or guardian of a child who has been excused from attending school. The parent or guardian selects the curriculum and educational materials and takes responsibility for educating the child. There is no state financial assistance for families who choose this option.

While students enrolled in state-chartered online schools, or “e-Schools”, do typically work from home, these state-chartered online schools are considered community schools or “charter” schools and are not the same as home education. Like other forms of public and private schools, online schools are responsible for providing the curriculum and educational resources.

Parent or Guardian Responsibility

The parent or guardian must notify the superintendent of the public school district of residence of his or her intent to home educate a school-age child. The notification must include certain specific information and assurances concerning the home education program, including:

- Assurance that home education will include the following, except that home education shall not be required to include any concept, topic or practice that conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs of the parent:
 - a. Language, reading, spelling and writing;
 - b. Geography; history of the United States and Ohio; and national, state and local government;
 - c. Mathematics;
 - d. Science;
 - e. Health;
 - f. Physical education;
 - g. Fine arts, including music; and
 - h. First aid, safety and fire prevention.
- Assurance that the child will be provided a minimum of 900 hours of home education each school year.
- Assurance that the home education teacher has one of the following qualifications:
 - ❖ A high school diploma; or
 - ❖ The certificate of high school equivalence; or
 - ❖ Standardized test scores that demonstrate high school equivalence; or
 - ❖ Other equivalent credential found appropriate by the superintendent; or

- ❖ Lacking the above, the home teacher must work under the direction of a person holding a baccalaureate degree from a recognized college until the child's or the children's test results demonstrate reasonable proficiency, or until the home teacher obtains a high school diploma or the certificate of high school equivalence.
- Brief outline of the intended curriculum for the current year.
- List of
 - ❖ Textbooks;
 - ❖ Correspondence courses;
 - ❖ Commercial curricula; or
 - ❖ Other basic teaching materials that the parent intends to use for home education. Such list is for informational purposes only.
- The parent or guardian shall attest to the assurances and information by providing his or her signature on the notification.

Providing the appropriate information and assurances removes the responsibility of educating a child from the public school district of residence and places it with the parent or guardian.

In addition to the information and assurances, an annual assessment is required before the superintendent accepts notification of the intent for home education during the next school year.

Maintaining Home Education Status

To maintain home education for a second year and beyond, the parent or guardian must:

- Re-notify the public school district regarding the intent for home education as described above.
- Demonstrate that the student is making sufficient academic progress. In addition to the information and assurances, an annual assessment is required before the superintendent accepts notification of the intent for home education during the next school year. The parent or guardian must provide one of the following as an academic assessment of the child's progress over the previous school year:
 - ❖ Certified standardized achievement test results demonstrating reasonable proficiency; or
 - ❖ A written narrative from a certified teacher or other person mutually agreed upon by the parent and the superintendent, indicating that a portfolio of the child's work has been reviewed by that person and that the progress demonstrated for the year is in accordance with the child's abilities; or
 - ❖ An alternative assessment mutually agreed upon by the parent and superintendent.

Part-time Home Education

A parent of a child who has been excused from compulsory school attendance for home education purposes may, with public school district approval, enroll the child in a public school in the school district of residence on a part-time basis. The option for part-time enrollment and related policies is at the discretion of the local public school district.

Re-enrolling a Home-educated Child

If a parent who has been home-educating a child decides to enroll the child into public school, the local district superintendent will determine the appropriate grade level placement of a child and will evaluate which credits may be applied toward the district's requirements for graduation.

Participation of Home-educated Students in High School Activities

Participation in high school sports is governed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Those who are provided full-time home education, in other words, NOT enrolled in a high school at least part time, are generally not eligible for high school sports. Students who receive only part-time home education and are enrolled at least part-time in the school may have some eligibility and should work with the school's athletic department to determine if the student is eligible.

Participation by home-educated students in other school events, such as proms, clubs and other non-athletic activities, is permissible solely at the discretion of the local school district of residence.