

A Summary of Arizona's Homeschool Law

Home education is legal in all fifty states. "Homeschool" means instruction provided primarily in the child's home, the majority of which is conducted by the parent, guardian or other person who has custody of the child. Arizona's Revised Statutes specifically provide for home instruction; this state has one of the best homeschool laws in the nation.

Homeschooling is defined by Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) §15-802 as "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."

Only two documents are required to home school in Arizona: an affidavit of intent to homeschool and a certified birth certificate for each child. Teacher certification, academic evaluations, and achievement testing are not required. If you are beginning homeschooling and your child is 6 years old as of September 1st or is less than 16 years of age, then proceed with the following:

- File with the County School Superintendent a notarized affidavit of intent and a certified copy of the child's birth certificate within 30 days of starting homeschooling. (Keep a copy for your records.) If there is a change of address, the County School Superintendent must be notified so that the child's file can be updated.
- The affidavit should include the child's name and date of birth, current address and telephone number, both parents' names, and must be signed by a person who has custody of the child.
- If you do not plan to begin formal education until the child is 8 years of age, you can note this on the affidavit.
- The affidavit of intent needs to be filed only once and is not required again, unless the child is returned to public school and subsequently re-enters home schooling.
- If a child is moved from home instruction to public or private school, the County School Superintendent must be notified within 30 days of terminating home school if the child is younger than 16 years of age.
- Testing is NOT required of children who are instructed in a homeschool program while they are receiving homeschool instruction.
- Homeschooled children returning to the public school system shall be tested by the school to determine their appropriate grade level. Students who return to public high school may lose some or all of their homeschool credits.
- Homeschooled children residing within the attendance area of a school shall be allowed to try out for participation in interscholastic athletic competition on behalf of the school.
- Many schools are willing to work with homeschoolers, although policies vary from district to district. However, any interaction with public schools should be done with care.
- Special needs students are able to access a variety of state-provided services.
- Homeschooled children may be eligible for Regent Scholarships at the state universities based on ACT and/or SAT test scores.
- Students may enroll in community college classes as early as age 12, and can get dual high school and college credit for all classes in the 101 level and above.
- Enrollment in a public charter school program or virtual academy is NOT considered homeschooling in accordance with A.R.S. §15-802.

(Note: While the above summary is intended to be helpful, it does not constitute a legal opinion.)