



<https://www.tn.gov/education/families/school-options/home-schooling-in-tn.html>

For FAQs, Tennessee Academic Standards, Graduation Requirements, Assessment Information, and more information including a list of Approved Homeschools, visit the site above.

Parents in Tennessee may choose to home-school their own children in grades K - 12. The Tennessee Home School law (Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3050) states: "A home school is a school conducted or directed by a parent or parents or a legal guardian or guardians for their own children."

Parents desiring to home school their own children may do so by **choosing one of the following three options:**

1. Independent Home School

Parents may home school their own children pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3050 by registering with their local school district. The law states that independent home school students must do the following things:

- "Provide annual notice to the local director of schools prior to each school year of the parent-teachers' intent to conduct a home school and, for the purpose of reporting only, submission to the director of schools of the:
 - names, number, ages and grade levels of the children to be homeschooled,
 - the location of the school,
 - the proposed curriculum to be offered,
 - the proposed hours of instruction and
 - the qualifications of the parent-teacher";
 - Maintain attendance records and submit these records to the Director of Schools at the end of each school year, and
 - Submit proof of vaccination and receipt of any health services or examinations as required by law.
- Parents choosing this educational option should begin by contacting the local school district. The parent will **be required to complete an "Intent to Home School" form and provide evidence of a high school diploma or GED.**
- Student attendance (**at least 4 hours per day, 180 days per year**) must be reported to the local school district at the end of the school year. (Attendance Calendar Provided)
- **Testing of independent home school students is required in grades 5, 7, and 9** and coordinated through the local school district.

| Requirement | Grades K-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Parent's Education | High School Diploma or GED | High School Diploma or GED |
| Registration | With local school system prior to each school year | With local school system prior to each school year |
| Attendance | 4 hours per day, 180 days per year | 4 hours per day, 180 days per year |
| Record Keeping and Reporting | Attendance Record sent to Director of Schools at the end of the school year | Attendance Record sent to Director of Schools at the end of the school year |
| Testing | In grades 5 and 7, same state board approved secure standardized tests required of public school students | In grade 9 same state board approved secure standardized tests required of public school students but NOT the high school proficiency test |

| Requirement | Grades K-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|---|---|---|
| Location and Cost of Testing | In the local public school which the student would otherwise attend at no charge OR by a professional testing service at parent's expense | In the local public school which the student would otherwise attend at no charge OR by a professional testing service at parent's expense |
| Test Sanctions | 1 year or more below grade level for 2 years in a row, superintendent MAY require parents to enroll child in public or private school (unless child is learning disabled) | 1 year or more below grade level for 2 years in a row, superintendent MAY require parents to enroll child in public or private school (unless child is learning disabled) |
| Enter or Re-Enter Public or Approved Private School | Must be tested for grade placement | Must be tested in each subject for credit toward graduation |
| High School Diploma or Certificate of Attendance | None provided - Parent creates | None provided - Parent creates |

2. Church Related Umbrella School

By authority of the same statute, parents may also home school their own children by registering with a church-related "umbrella" school defined by Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-50-801. **Parents who choose this option will be required to provide evidence to the local school district that their child is enrolled in a church-related school.** An Intent to Home School form is not required for students who are enrolled in a church-related school. The church-related school will determine record keeping and test requirements for students enrolled in an umbrella program.

3. Accredited Online School

Parents may also enroll their child in an accredited online school. Parents choosing this educational option must be sure to determine that the school has legitimate accreditation status and will be **required to provide evidence to the local school district that their child is enrolled in an accredited online school.**

To be an acceptable online school for students who reside in Tennessee, the school must be accredited by one of the regional accrediting agencies listed below:

- AdvancED
- SACS CASI - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement
- NCA CASI - North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.
- NWAC - Northwest Accreditation Commission
- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
- MSCES – Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools
- MSCSS – Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and affiliates (e.g., SAIS)
- National Council of Private School Accreditation (NCPA)

NOTE: For Options 2 and 3 above, these schools usually provide us a roster after school begins, but if you are a student “new to homeschooling,” please contact your current school to make them aware of your intentions AND the local board of education with some EVIDENCE OF ACCEPTANCE that must be included in the student’s permanent record. Failure to comply can lead to TRUANCY AND LEGAL ISSUES.

Tennessee Notice of Intent to Home School

| | |
|--|----------------|
| To be completed by school system: | |
| School system name: | System number: |
| Date received: | |
| Received by name: | |
| Signature: | |
| Title: | |

This form should be completed only by parent(s) conducting a home school under the supervision of the superintendent of a local education agency (LEA).

“Home schools” are schools conducted by parents or legal guardians for their own children, which are distinct from degree-granting online or distance education schools. This form may be utilized as notice of your intent to conduct a home school, meaning that you will serve as the primary teacher for the student(s) as permitted by T.C.A. §49-6-3050. **Please complete both pages of the form and return both pages to your local public school system office before the start of each school year.**

PLEASE PRINT

Part 1. Student Information

A. **Grades K-8:** For each student in grades K-8, please list the following information:

| | | | | |
|----|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Last name | First name | Grade | Subjects to be taught |
| | Age | Birthdate | Social security number (optional) | |
| 2. | Last name | First name | Grade | Subjects to be taught |
| | Age | Birthdate | Social security number (optional) | |
| 3. | Last name | First name | Grade | Subjects to be taught |
| | Age | Birthdate | Social security number (optional) | |
| 4. | Last name | First name | Grade | Subjects to be taught |
| | Age | Birthdate | Social security number (optional) | |

B. **Grades 9-12:** For each student in grades 9-12, please list the following information:

| | | | | |
|----|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Last name | First name | Grade | Subjects to be taught |
| | Age | Birthdate | Social security number (optional) | |
| 2. | Last name | First name | Grade | Subjects to be taught |
| | Age | Birthdate | Social security number (optional) | |

Tennessee Notice of Intent to Home School

Part 2. Parent Information

Please provide information **only** for the parent(s) or guardian(s) who will teach.

Last Name

First Name

A. Name of parent(s) or guardian(s) (Mother) _____

(Father) _____

or

(Guardian) _____

B. Contact Information

Home (Mailing Address) _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Email Address _____

C. Parent/Guardian Educational Background (**complete only for parent(s)/guardian(s) who will teach**)

1. For grades K-12, I have a GED or high school diploma. _____ Yes _____ No
2. If mailing this form, please attach documentation of qualifying education. If presenting this form in person, please bring documentation of your qualifying education for school staff to verify.

Part 3. Health Records

Please attach documentation that student(s) have received immunizations as required by T.C.A. § 49-6-5001.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Indicate Proposed Curriculum to be used here: _____

Helpful Homeschool Links

| Site Description | Link |
|-----------------------------|---|
| TDOE Homeschool Site | https://www.tn.gov/education/families/school-options/home-schooling-in-tn.html |
| Curriculum Resources | Tennessee Academic Standards Tennessee Graduation Requirements Tennessee Assessments |
| Non-Public School List | https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/nonpublic/Nonpublic Schools 2022-23 upd 6 20 22.xlsx |
| Approved TN Virtual Schools | https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/nonpublic/chtr_sch/TN Virtual Schools SY2022 23 rev6 5 22.xlsx |

Chester County Board of Education

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March | Descriptor Term: <h2 style="text-align: center;">Home Schools</h2> | Descriptor Code: 6.202 | Issued Date: 07/13/21 |
| | | Rescinds: 6.202 | Issued: 11/03/11 |

1 *General*

2 A home school is a school conducted or directed by parent(s)/guardian(s) for their own children. Home
 3 schools which teach grades K-12 where the parent(s)/guardian(s) are associated with an organization
 4 that conducts church-related schools¹ are exempt from the following provisions but shall follow
 5 procedures issued by the State Department of Education.

6 A parent/guardian wishing to conduct a home school shall meet the following requirements:²

- 7 1. Provide annual notice to the Director of Schools before the commencement of each school year of
 8 the intent to conduct a home school;
- 9 2. Submit to the Director of Schools the name, number, age, grade level of children involved, location
 10 of the school, curriculum to be offered, proposed hours of instruction, and qualifications of the
 11 parent-teacher;
- 12 3. Maintain attendance records, subject to inspection by the Director of Schools;
- 13 4. Submit attendance records to the Director of Schools at the end of each school year;
- 14 5. Provide instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for the same number of instructional days as
 15 are required by state law;³
- 16 6. Possess a high school diploma, GED, or HiSET;⁴
- 17 7. Cooperate in the administration to home school students of appropriate tests by the Commissioner
 18 of Education/designee or by a professional testing service in grades five (5), seven (7), and nine (9);
- 19 8. Take actions according to state law if home school student falls behind appropriate grade level;
- 20 9. Submit proof to the Director of Schools that the home school student has been vaccinated as required
 21 by state law;⁵
- 22 10. Submit proof to the Director of Schools that other health services and examinations as required by
 23 state law have been received by the home school student; and
- 24 11. In the event of illness or inadequacy of the home school parent-teacher to teach a specific subject,
 25 employ a tutor having the same qualifications as required of parent-teacher.

1 If one or more of these requirements are not met, the Board authorizes the Director of Schools to take
2 formal action to bring the child into compliance with the compulsory attendance law (until the child has
3 reached age seventeen (17), either in the home school or in a public, private, or church-related school).

4 **FACILITIES USE**

5 School facilities shall be available for home school instruction only when all of the following conditions
6 exist:

- 7 1. Special needs courses are being taught which require services unavailable to the home school
8 student;
- 9 2. These services cannot be provided through any means other than the schools;
- 10 3. Requests for services are made known by the home school parent when notice is given to the
11 Director of Schools of the intent to conduct a home school;
- 12 4. The Director of Schools investigates the request and makes recommendations to the Board;
- 13 5. No overcrowding, additional expenses, including providing transportation, or other special
14 situations which interfere with the normal operation of the school district shall be incurred; and
- 15 6. Approval by the Board shall be on a case-by-case basis.

16 **RECORD ACCEESS**

17 The Director of Schools, through the Attendance Supervisor, shall have the attendance records of the
18 home school inspected at least two (2) times each school year in order to provide assistance in
19 implementing the compulsory attendance law.

20 **STUDENT PERFORMANCE⁶**

21 The Director of Schools shall develop administrative procedures regarding necessary consultations
22 with home school parents in regard to student performance.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-50-801(a)
2. TCA 49-6-3050(b)
3. TCA 49-6-3004(a)
4. Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 493
5. TCA 49-6-5001
6. TCA 49-6-3050(b)(6)

Cross References

Compulsory Attendance Ages 6.201