

Tennessee Notice of Intent to Home School

To be completed by school system:	
School system name: McKenzie Special School District	System number: 094
Date received:	
Received by name:	
Signature:	
Title:	

This form should be completed only by parent(s) or legal guardian(s) conducting an **independent home school** under the supervision of the superintendent of a local education agency (LEA). Parents enrolling their child in an approved church-related "umbrella" school or accredited online school do not need to submit this form.

"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 an independent home school, meaning that you will serve as the primary teacher for the student(s) as permitted by Tenn. Code Annotated § 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)	
				Proposed hours of instruction per day:
2.	Last name	First name	Grade	Subjects to be taught
	Age	Birthdate	Social security number (optional)	
				Proposed hours of instruction per day:
3.	Last name	First name	Grade	Subjects to be taught
	Age	Birthdate	Social security number (optional)	
				Proposed hours of instruction per day:
4.	Last name	First name	Grade	Subjects to be taught
	Age	Birthdate	Social security number (optional)	
				Proposed hours of instruction per day:

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)	
				Proposed hours of instruction per day:
2.	Last name	First name	Grade	Subjects to be taught
	Age	Birthdate	Social security number (optional)	
				Proposed hours of instruction per day:

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Part 2. Parent Information

Please provide information **only** for the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who will teach. Legal guardian(s) will need to present proof of guardianship.

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 _____

Home (Physical 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 high school diploma or equivalency credential. _____ 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.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

2026-2027 HOME SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDANCE CALENDAR

Student Name _____ Parent/Guardian _____

Grade _____ Home Address _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2026						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
August 2026						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
September 2026						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
October 2026						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November 2026						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
December 2026						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2027						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 31
February 2027						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 28
March 2027						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
April 2027						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
May 2027						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
June 2026						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

State law requires that a parent teacher conducting a home school must comply with the following requirements:

- (1) Maintenance of attendance records, subject to inspection by local director of schools, and **submission of those records to the director of schools at the end of the school year.**
- (2) Instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for 180 instructional days.

Frequently Asked Questions for Home School

1. *What are my options if I would like to teach my child at home?*

Pursuant to [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050](#), parents and legal guardians have two options to home school their children:

- a) Independent Home School: Parents or legal guardians can conduct an independent home school for their children by registering with the local school system. The parent or legal guardian is the teacher of record and is responsible for meeting the requirements for an independent home school.
- b) Church-Related “Umbrella” School: Parents or legal guardians can enroll their children into an approved church-related non-public school that operates an umbrella home school program permitting the parents or legal guardians to participate as parent-teachers in the school under the supervision of the school's director.

To learn more about these options, visit the Tennessee Department of Education's (department) [Home School webpage](#).

2. *How do I enroll my child in home school?*

- a) Independent Home School: Parents or legal guardians must file an [intent to home school form](#) with their local school district each year. Once registered, the parent-teacher is responsible for reporting attendance (four hours per day for 180 days), presenting the student for testing in grades 5, 7, and 9, and issuing the diploma upon graduation. Read more about independent home school requirements [here](#).
- b) Church-Related “Umbrella” School: Parents or legal guardians can locate a list of approved Category IV church-related schools that offer an umbrella home school option on the department's [Non-Public Schools webpage](#) under Non-Public Schools Directory. Interested parents may contact the approved school directly to initiate enrollment. Once enrolled, Category IV schools manage student records, including attendance reporting, and issue the student's diploma at graduation. Parents may be required to submit grades and attendance information to their child's umbrella home school.

3. *Are all online and virtual schools considered home schools since my child may be logging in from home?*

No. There are private online schools that have been approved and accredited by a Tennessee State Board of Education (SBE) authorized accrediting agency as identified in [SBE Policy 3.500](#). To access a complete list of approved accredited online schools, visit the [Non-Public Schools webpage](#) and click on the Accredited Online Schools List. There are also public virtual schools that offer instruction in a virtual or remote setting, which are established, operated, and overseen by public school districts. To learn more about public virtual schools, visit the [Virtual Schools webpage](#). Neither of these are home schools, even if students access their online classes from home.

4. *What if I want to enroll my child in an online school that is not approved by a Tennessee State Board of Education authorized accrediting agency?*

To comply with Tennessee's compulsory attendance law, students must attend an approved public or non-public school if they are between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17), inclusively. To be considered an approved non-public school, online schools must be accredited by an agency authorized by the Tennessee State Board of Education and meet the requirements established in [SBE Rules 0520-07-02](#) for Category II or III, as applicable (see also question #3). If a parent or legal guardian wants to use an online school that is not approved in Tennessee, the parent or legal guardian may choose to register their child as an independent home school student. This would allow the parent-teacher to use the non-approved online school as part of their selected curriculum for their student. The parent or legal guardian would be responsible for meeting the requirements for operating an independent home school. Another option might be enrolling the student in an approved church-related umbrella home school that allows the parent-teacher to select their own curriculum resources. The parent would be responsible for discussing the curriculum requirements with the selected umbrella home school. A list of approved Category IV church-related schools can be located on the [Non-Public Schools webpage](#).

5. *Can a parent withdraw a child from public school to home school at any point in the school year?*

Yes. The laws regarding independent home school do not require filing an Intent to Home School form by a specific date. Parents or legal guardians may withdraw their child from public school and register as an independent home school, just as they may enroll their child in any other non-public school, at any point in the school year. Compulsory education law requires a student to be enrolled in an approved public or non-public school, which may include independent home school.

6. *If a student is 18 years old, can they withdraw themselves as an independent home school student?*

Independent home school is defined in [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050\(a\)\(1\)](#) as "a school conducted or directed by a parent or parents or a legal guardian or guardians for their own children." As such, a student cannot register with the school district as an independent home school and become the teacher of record for his or her own education. However, a student who is 18 years old is not subject to compulsory attendance pursuant to [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3001\(c\)\(1\)](#), and can legally make decisions relating to their own education, including withdrawal from school. Likewise, a student who is 18 years old may choose to be homeschooled if their parent registers as an independent home school for the student. Registration as a home school is not a requirement for the parent to provide instruction to the student, as compulsory attendance does not apply to a student who is 18 years old. Furthermore, the school district may decide not to accept and maintain a record submitted by the parent of a student who withdraws from public school at the age of 18 to enroll in independent home school. At any rate, a parent-teacher issues the diploma to students who graduate from home school, not the department. A student who is 18 and withdraws before graduation may also consider pursuing a High School Equivalency Diploma by completing either the HiSet or GED exam.

To learn more about these alternative programs, you can visit [this webpage](#) for the TN Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

7. *Is a power of attorney sufficient as proof of legal guardianship?*

No. A power of attorney is not the same thing as legal guardianship for the purpose of withdrawing a student to home school. Legal guardianship is appointed by a judge through a court of law.

8. *Can a student who has attended an independent home school during the kindergarten year enter the first grade in a public school?*

Yes. [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201](#) requires students in Tennessee to attend an approved kindergarten program prior to entering the first grade. Independent home school is deemed an approved kindergarten program provided the student is five years old on or before August 15 and is properly registered with the school district for independent home school. Upon enrolling into a public school, the home school student may be tested to determine placement.

9. *What rights do home school students have for special education services from the local school district?*

Students who are home schooled are entitled to the same special education services as children who are placed in private schools by their parent or legal guardian. Students with disabilities who are placed by their parents or legal guardians in a private school or home school are not entitled to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) through an individualized education program (IEP). The school district is responsible for providing equitable services to home school students who are determined eligible as a child with a disability. This is accomplished through a “services plan” and is generally a type of related service, such as speech therapy, as determined by the school district where the student is registered to home school. Parents and legal guardians should contact their local school district for complete information.

10. *Are home school students allowed to take classes or participate in extracurricular activities at a public school?*

Yes. Pursuant to [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050\(a\)\(1\)](#), “Public school facilities may be used by home school participants with the approval of the principal of the school, but this permissive authority shall not be construed to confer any right upon the participants to use public school facilities. If approved, use shall be in accordance with rules established by the local board of education.”

11. *Are home school students allowed to participate in public school athletic programs?*

Yes. If an LEA has any public schools in its jurisdiction that are members of an organization or association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition (such as TSSAA, TIAAA, and TSAA), *and if* the organization or association also establishes and maintains requirements for home school students’ participation, then the LEA *must allow* independent home school students who satisfy the eligibility requirements set by the organization or association to try out to for an interscholastic athletic team.

Furthermore, an LEA must allow home school students to try out for interscholastic athletic teams at a public school for which the independent home school student is zoned to attend, if that school

offers interscholastic athletic competition to its students *and is not* a member of an organization or association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition. This does not mean that a public school within the LEA's jurisdiction that *is* a member of such an organization or association cannot enforce its eligibility requirements.

Neither scenario guarantees that an independent home school student will be able to participate in an interscholastic athletic team, only that an independent home school student must be permitted to try out when conditions apply. Furthermore, this does not limit any organization or association to determine or modify eligibility requirements for home school students. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(e).

If a home school student participates in any LEA-sponsored interscholastic or extracurricular activity, then the LEA may request and receive proof that the student received a health service or examination that is required for the LEA's students to participate in the activity or event. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(g).

12. Are home school students allowed to participate in JROTC?

Yes. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2031(f)(1), high schools are required to allow home school students to enroll in JROTC. The federal law states, "Each public secondary educational institution that maintains a unit under this section shall permit membership in the unit to homeschooled students residing in the area served by the institution who are qualified for membership in the unit (but for lack of enrollment in the institution)."

13. Is the state curriculum mandated for independent home school students?

No. Parent-teachers are responsible for selecting and purchasing the curriculum used in their independent home school. Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050 provides little guidance specific to the curriculum a parent or legal guardian must use. The law states that the parent or legal guardian shall submit the proposed curriculum to the director of schools; however, it does not specify what that curriculum should be. Parents should keep in mind the testing requirement in grades 5, 7, and 9 in which their child will be tested on the grade-level state curriculum in reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies. Those subjects should be included in the proposed curriculum to ensure students will be prepared for testing in those areas.

14. Is the local school district responsible for testing students enrolled in church-related umbrella home programs or accredited online schools?

No. The local school district is responsible for testing only those students registered as independent home school students. The church-related umbrella program or accredited online school is responsible for testing its enrolled students.

15. Can a parent or legal guardian of an independent home school student in grades 5, 7, or 9 choose to have their student tested somewhere other than their local school system?

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(b)(5)(A-B) states that tests can be administered by a professional testing service within thirty (30) days of the date of the statewide test and at the expense of the parent-teacher. However, it must be the same state board approved tests administered in public

schools. Currently, there are no state board approved assessments available through a professional testing service location.

16. Which exams are required of 9th grade independent home school students?

Independent home school students are required to take the same state board approved secure standardized assessments as public-school students. If a home school student in grade 9 is taking a course for which there is an end-of-course test, that student would be required to take that end-of-course exam. This will mean some 9th grade students, depending on the courses they are taking, will have fewer tests to take that year than others.

17. Who is responsible for issuing a diploma or transcripts for a home school student?

Transcripts and diplomas should be issued by the school where the student was enrolled. Parent-teachers are responsible for creating and issuing transcripts and diplomas for independent home school students. Students attending an umbrella home school program will be issued transcripts and diplomas from the church-related non-public school.

18. Can a home school student graduate early?

Yes, in some cases, home school students can graduate early. Parent-teachers who choose to independently home school are responsible for choosing the curriculum and setting graduation requirements for their own children, and therefore, establishing when a student is ready to graduate. Compulsory attendance law applies to home school students until they reach seventeen years of age or complete high school and hold a high school diploma. The home school law requires parent-teachers to submit an Intent to Home School form each year to the school district in which they reside and meet other requirements for home schooling, including attendance reporting and testing.

19. Can I hire a tutor for my home school student?

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(c) states, "In the event of illness of a parent-teacher, or at the discretion of the parent-teacher, a tutor, having the same qualifications that would be required of a parent-teacher teaching the grade level or course, may be employed by the parent-teacher." This does not allow the parent-teacher to substitute the tutor's credentials for the parent-teacher's credentials when registering the child for independent home school. The parent or legal guardian must still meet the requirements for home schooling.

20. Can my home school child take the ACT or PSAT at the local public school?

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(f)(3) allows independent home school students to take the AP and PSAT/NMSQT examinations at any public school offering the examinations. Independent home school students wanting to take the ACT or SAT can sign up to take these assessments at any open testing location. More information is available on the ACT and SAT websites.

21. Do credits transfer for home school students?

The Tennessee State Board of Education has approved rules for the transfer of credits for students enrolled in non-public or home school. Students enrolled in a Category IV church-related umbrella home school or registered as independent home school students may be required to take

placement tests when transferring to a public or non-public school. Because they are not home school students, students enrolled in an approved Category II or III accredited online school will receive transfer credit for work completed when transferring to a public school or a Category I, II, or III private school if the school from which the student is transferring supplies an appropriately certified transcript to the enrolling school.

22. Can a home school student participate in TN Promise?

Yes. The [Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions](#) identifies an eligible student as, "A high school senior who graduates from an eligible high school, completes a Tennessee home school program, or prior to his or her 19th birthday, obtains a GED or HiSET diploma. Students must apply by the November deadline of their high school senior year or the year in which he/she will obtain the GED/HiSET and complete all other eligibility requirements detailed [HERE](#)."

Independent Home School Requirements Grades K-12

Parents or legal guardians wanting to educate their school age child(ren) in an independent home school must meet specific requirements established under Tennessee state law ([Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050](#)).

Getting Started: Initial Registration	
How do I register my child for an independent home school?	File an <i>Intent to Home School Form</i> with the local school district where your family resides. The form is on the Tennessee Department of Education's Home School webpage .
When can I register my child for independent home school?	Anytime. There is no deadline for registering your child for home school the first time. For each subsequent year of independent home school, the <i>Intent to Home School Form</i> should be submitted prior to the start of each school year.
Who can register a child for independent home school?	Only parents or legal guardians can register a child for independent home school. Legal guardians are required to present proof of guardianship at the time of registration.
What education level is required by the parent-teacher?	Parent-teachers must have a high school diploma or GED. Proof of education must be submitted with the <i>Intent to Home School Form</i> .
What are the vaccination requirements?	Proof of vaccination is not required for independent home school students.
Is there a specific curriculum that must be used for an independent home school?	Parent-teachers are responsible for selecting and purchasing the curriculum used in their independent home school. The school district will ask for the identification of the selected curriculum.
Where do I submit the <i>Intent to Home School Form</i> and accompanying documentation?	Each local school district has a designated home school coordinator responsible for assisting families with the home school process. The <i>Intent to Home School Form</i> and supporting documentation can be emailed to the home school coordinator, or you can call the coordinator for mailing or drop off information. A list of home school coordinators is on the Home School webpage .

Ongoing Registration & Reporting Requirements	
Continued Registration	A new <i>Intent to Home School Form</i> must be submitted prior to the start of each school year.
Instructional Requirements	Students must have a minimum of four (4) hours of instruction per day for 180 days per year.
Attendance Reporting	Attendance records must be submitted to the director of schools in the school district where the student lives at the end of each school year. Attendance records are subject to inspection at any time by the local director of schools. A calendar template is available on the Home School webpage or parent-teachers may select their own calendar for documenting attendance.
Testing	Students in grades 5, 7, and 9 must take the same state-board-approved, secure standardized tests required of public-school students (not the high school proficiency test). In Tennessee, this is the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP).
Test Results	If a home-school student falls six (6) to nine (9) months behind as determined by the test results, the parent-teacher shall consult with a Tennessee state licensed teacher to design a remedial course and report the course to the local director of schools. If the student performs one (1) year or more below grade level on two (2) consecutive tests, the superintendent may require parents or legal guardians to enroll the student in a public or private school.
Location and Cost of Testing	Students may take the TCAP exams at the local public school that the student would otherwise attend at no charge OR at a professional testing service location approved by the local school district at the parent-teacher's expense. Tests administered by a professional testing service must be the same tests administered at the public school and within 30 days of the statewide test. Currently, the approved test is the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP). Test results must be shared with the parent-teacher, director of schools, and the state board of education.
Grading and Transcripts	The parent-teacher is responsible for creating and maintaining grades and school transcripts.
High School Diploma or Certificate of Attendance	The parent-teacher is responsible for creating the high school diploma or certificate of attendance. The state or local school district does not provide a diploma for home school students graduating from high school.
Entering or Re-Entering Public or Approved Private Schools	Students will be tested for placement upon enrollment in a public or approved private school. Students in grades 9-12 will be tested in each subject area for credits toward graduation.

TN Academic Standards are found

<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/education/instruction/academic-standards.html>

TN Graduation Requirements are found

<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/education/instruction/graduation-requirements.html>

TN Home School Information is found

<https://www.tn.gov/education/school-options/home-schooling-in-tn.html#collapseid16330cc358407694488cefa22a611a-9>

I recommend looking at the textbooks found at ck12 that are used by Tullahoma City Schools in TN.

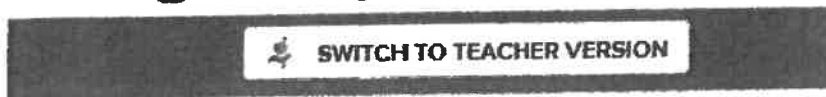
<https://www.ck12.org/schools/tennessee>

Please email me if you have any questions. andersond@mckenzie-schools.org

How to use CK12.org

Go to <http://ck12.org>

You can switch between student and teacher view. But you want to be on teacher version



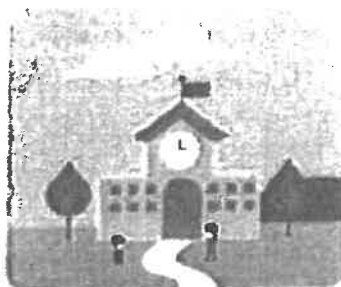
Click on the ck-12 to make sure you are on the home page

Go to the bottom click schools

Schools

Find schools and districts near you that are on CK-12

Find Your School



Pick Tennessee at the top

Find Tullahoma City Schools

They have all sorts of textbooks for you. You can read it online or download it as a PDF.



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Links

TN Home School (Category IV, V & VI Non-Public Schools) and Category III On-line School Requirements:

Home School Student:

1. A student who is completing high school in a Tennessee home school program meeting the requirements of §49-6-3050. For one (1) year immediately preceding completion of high school as a home school student, such student shall have been a student in a home school associated with a church-related school as defined by §49-50-801; or
2. A student who is completing high school in a Tennessee home school program meeting the requirements of §49-6-3050. For one (1) year immediately preceding completion of high school as an independent home school student whose parent or guardian has given notice to the local director of a Tennessee school district under § 49-6-3050(b)(1) of intent to conduct a home school.
 - o For independent non-church related home schools in which a parent or guardian has given notice to the local school district, [Click Here](#) to download the confirmation enrollment notice form. The home school notice form must be completed and signed by the TN local school district and faxed to the number indicated on the form before HOPE Scholarship eligibility is established.

To access the code relevant to the *Tennessee Code Annotated*: [Click Here](#), then the following:

TCA §49-6-3050		TCA §49-50-801	
Title 49	Education	Title 49	Education
Chapter 6	Elem. & Sec. Educ.	Chapter 50	Miscellaneous
Part 30	Attendance	Part 8	Private Schools

For HOPE Scholarship eligibility, a homeschool student must:

- o Be enrolled as a homeschool student in a homeschool program for a minimum of one (1) year prior to graduating. The student must achieve a 21 Composite score or above, on a national test date for the ACT test or a 980 (math plus critical reading scores only) or above, on a national test date for the SAT test for HOPE Scholarship consideration. The student does not need to submit a grade point average as this is not a consideration. For more information, please call 1-800-342-1663 or (615)741-1346.

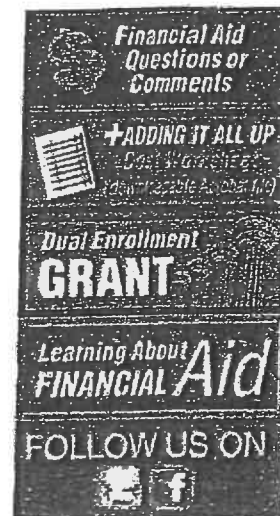
For General Assembly Merit Scholarship (GAMS) eligibility, a homeschool student must:

- o In addition to meeting the HOPE scholarship requirements, during the course of a homeschool program, be enrolled in at least four (4) college-level courses totaling at least twelve (12) semester hours and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0. The student must achieve a 29 Composite score or above, on a national test date for the ACT test or a 1280 (math plus critical reading scores only) or above, on a national test date for the SAT test for GAMS consideration.

Dual Enrollment Information:

The Dual Enrollment Grant program is defined as a grant for study at an eligible postsecondary institution that is funded from net proceeds of the state lottery and awarded to students who are attending high school and who are also enrolled in college courses at eligible postsecondary institutions for which they will receive college credit.

The Dual Enrollment Grant program is funded by the Tennessee Lottery and administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation. This program provides opportunities for students to begin working toward a college degree, while still pursuing a high school diploma, and



encourages post-secondary education and the acceleration of post-secondary attainment. For further information on Dual Enrollment, please [Click Here](#).

For additional information on the HOPE Scholarship, please [Click Here](#).

Suite 1510 Parkway Towers | 404 James Robertson Parkway | Nashville, TN 37243-0820 | (800) 342-1663

49-6-3050. Home schools.

(a)

(1) A "home school" is a school conducted or directed by a parent or parents or a legal guardian or guardians for their own children. Public school facilities may be used by home school participants with the approval of the principal of the school, but this permissive authority shall not be construed to confer any right upon the participants to use public school facilities. If approved, use shall be in accordance with rules established by the local board of education.

(2)

(A) Home schools that teach kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), where the parents are associated with and where students are enrolled with a church-related school, as defined by § 49-50-801, that are supervised by the church-related school's director and that administer or offer standardized achievement tests, are exempt from this section.

(B) Parent-teachers who register with an organization, as defined by § 49-50-801, for conducting a home school for students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) must possess at least a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education.

(3) A parent-teacher may enroll the parent's home school student or students in a church-related school, as defined in § 49-50-801, and participate as a teacher in that church-related school. Such parent-teacher shall be subject to the requirements established by the church-related school for home school teachers and exempt from the rest of this section.

(b) Except for home schools operated under subdivision (a)(2) or (a)(3), a parent-teacher conducting a home school shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) Provide annual notice to the local director of schools prior to each school year of the parent-teacher's intent to conduct a home school and, for purpose of reporting only, submission to the director of schools of the names, number, ages and grade levels of the children to be home schooled, the location of the school, the proposed curriculum to be offered, the proposed hours of instruction and the qualifications of the parent-teacher relative to subdivision (b)(4). Information contained in the reports may be used only for record keeping and other purposes for which similar information on public school students may be used in accordance with guidelines, rules and regulations of the state board of education. The director of schools or the director's designee shall ensure that attendance teachers are informed of parents' rights to conduct a home school pursuant to § 49-6-3001(c)(4), subsection (a) and § 49-50-801 upon employment of the attendance teachers and at the beginning of each school year;

(2) Maintenance of attendance records, subject to inspection by the local director of schools, and submission of these records to the director of schools at the end of each school year;

(3) Instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for the same number of instructional days as are required by state law for public schools;

(4) Possession of a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education by the parent-teacher;

(5)

(A) Administration by the commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee, or by a professional testing service that is approved by the LEA, to home school students of the same state board approved secure standardized tests required of public school students in grades five

(5), seven (7) and nine (9); however, the test for grade nine (9) shall not be the high school proficiency test required by § 49-6-6001;

(B)

(i) Tests administered by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall be at the same time tests are administered to public school students, and shall be administered in the public school that the home school student would otherwise be attending, or at whatever location students at such school are tested. Tests administered by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall be administered without charge. The parent-teacher may be present when the home school student is tested in grade five (5). Both parent-teacher and home school student shall be under the supervision of the test administrator;

(ii) Tests administered by a professional testing service shall be administered within thirty (30) days of the date of the statewide test. Tests administered by a professional testing service shall be administered at the expense of the parent-teacher;

(iii) All test results from either administration by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, or by a professional testing service, shall be provided to the parent-teacher, the director of schools and the state board of education;

(6)

(A) Consultation between the director of schools and the parent-teacher if the home school student falls three (3) to six (6) months behind the home school student's appropriate grade level, based on the test required in subdivision (b)(5);

(B) If a home school student falls six (6) to nine (9) months behind the home school student's appropriate grade level in the home school student's reading, language arts, mathematics or science test scores or such of these areas, regardless of the term used on the test, as are actually tested for the student's grade level, based on the tests required in subdivision (b)(5), the parent shall consult with a teacher licensed by the state board of education and having a certificate or endorsement in the grade level or course or subject matter in which consultation is sought. The parent and teacher shall design a remedial course to help the child obtain the child's appropriate grade level. The parent shall report the remedial course for the child to the local director of schools;

(C)

(i) If a home school student falls more than one (1) year behind the home school student's appropriate grade level in the home school student's comprehensive test score for two (2) consecutive tests based on the tests required in subdivision (b)(5) and if the child is not learning disabled in the opinion of a teacher licensed to teach at the child's grade level, the local director of schools may require the parents to enroll the child in a public, private or church-related school, in accordance with this part, and the parents shall have all rights provided by law to respond to this requirement;

(ii) If a test indicates that a home school student is one (1) year or more behind the home school student's appropriate grade level, the same test shall be administered to the child not more than one (1) year later, notwithstanding the required testing schedule in subdivision (b)(5)(A); and

(7) [Deleted by 2023 amendment.]

(8) Submission by the home school student entering public schools to the evaluation test provided for in § 49-50-801, if the local system requires the test, or the tests required by the state board of education for transfer students.

(c) In the event of the illness of a parent-teacher, or at the discretion of the parent-teacher, a tutor, having the same qualifications that would be required of a parent-teacher teaching the grade level or course, may be employed by the parent-teacher.

(d) The department of education shall provide annually to home schools with which they have contact information about meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease at the beginning of every school year. This information shall include the causes, symptoms and the means by which meningococcal disease is spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children. This information may be provided electronically or on the department's website. Nothing in this subsection (d) shall be construed to require the department of education to provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease.

(e)

(1)

(A) If any of the public schools established under the jurisdiction of an LEA are members of an organization or an association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition, and if such organization or association establishes or maintains eligibility requirements for home school students desiring to participate in interscholastic athletics at a member school, then the LEA shall permit participation in interscholastic athletics at those schools by home school students who satisfy the eligibility requirements established by the organization or association.

(B) If a public school established under the jurisdiction of an LEA offers students the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletic competition without the school being a member of an organization or an association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition, then the LEA shall permit participation in interscholastic athletics at such school by home school students who are zoned to attend the school. This subdivision (e)(1)(B) does not prevent or interfere with the application and enforcement of eligibility requirements of an organization or association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition as set forth in subdivision (e)(1)(A) if the school at which the home school student desires to participate is a member of such an organization or association.

(2) This subsection (e) does not guarantee that a home school student trying out for an interscholastic athletics team will make the team or supplant the authority of coaches or other school officials in deciding who makes the team. This subsection (e) is intended to guarantee only that the home school student shall not be prohibited from trying out for an interscholastic athletics team, if the student is eligible under the rules of the organization or association, solely by reason of the student's status as a home school student.

(3) This subsection (e) shall not be construed to limit or supplant the authority of the organization or association to determine eligibility and to establish, modify and enforce its rules and eligibility requirements, including those applicable to home school students.

(f)

(1) As used in this subsection (f):

(A) "AP" means the advanced placement program offered by the College Board; and

(B) "PSAT/NMSQT" means the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test administered by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

(2) Each public school that administers the AP and PSAT/NMSQT examinations shall provide notice of the dates on which the school will administer the examinations on the school's website. The notice shall include:

(A) The availability of AP and PSAT/NMSQT examinations; and

(B) The availability of outside financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the AP and PSAT/NMSQT examinations.

- (3) Home school students shall be permitted to take the AP and PSAT/NMSQT examinations at any public school offering such examinations.
- (g) If a home school student participates in an LEA-sponsored interscholastic activity or event or an LEA-sponsored extracurricular activity, then the LEA may request and receive proof that the student received a health service or examination that is required for the LEA's students to participate in the activity or event by law generally.

49-50-801. Church-related schools.

- (a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "church-related school" means a school operated by denominational, parochial or other bona fide church organizations that are required to meet the standards of accreditation or membership of the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools, the Association of Christian Schools International, the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Tennessee Association of Non-Public Academic Schools, the Tennessee Association of Church Related Schools, the Association of Classical and Christian Schools, the Tennessee Alliance of Church Related Schools, or a school affiliated with Accelerated Christian Education, Inc.
- (b) The state board of education and local boards of education are prohibited from regulating the selection of faculty or textbooks or the establishment of a curriculum in church-related schools.
- (c) The state board of education and local boards of education shall not prohibit or impede the transfer of a student from a church-related school to a public school of this state. Local boards may, however, place students transferring from a church-related school to a public school in a grade level based upon the student's performance on a test administered by the board for that purpose. In local school systems where the local board of education requires tests for students transferring to that system from another public school system, the same test shall be administered to students transferring to such system from church-related schools.
- (d) Church-related schools shall be conducted for the same length of term as public schools.
- (e)
- (1) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as prohibiting church-related schools from voluntarily seeking approval by the state board of education nor prohibiting the state board of education from extending such approval when it is voluntarily sought.
- (2) This section does not prohibit a nonpublic school that meets the standards of accreditation of one (1) or more of the organizations identified in subsection (a) from operating as a Category II nonpublic school if the school meets the requirements established by the department of education and the state board of education for a Category II nonpublic school.

Tennessee Home Education Table

	Independent Home School	Category IV Church- Related Satellite (or Umbrella) School	Category III On-line School
Authority	TCA 49-6-3050	TCA 49-5-801	SBE Rules & Regulations 0520-2-7
Intent to Home School Form	Yes	No	No
Parent Educational Background Requirements	K-12 HS Diploma or GED	K-8 None 9-12 HS Diploma or GED	None
Parent submits documentation to LEA	Yes	No	No
School submits documentation to LEA	N/A	Yes	Yes
Hours required	4 per day	No requirement	No requirement
Spring testing	5 (including writing), 7, & 9	No requirement	No requirement
Diploma	Recognized by state and local government entities	Recognized by state and local government entities	Fully-recognized Diploma
Re-entry to public	Placement test given	Placement test given	Automatic re-entry
Withdrawal Codes	10	06	05