

FAQ

Where Do I Start?

1. Contact your local school board and let them know you plan to homeschool this school year.
2. Fill out your Notice of Intent
3. Submit your Notice of Intent to the school board along with a homeschool letter - [Sample Letter](#)
4. You will then receive an acceptance letter (and keep this with you).

heav.org and hslida.org are great resources to help you get started.

Is it too late for our family to start homeschooling this year?

Families can start their homeschool year at any time. Some families homeschool year-round, while others might follow a traditional school schedule and start around August or September.

At what age can I homeschool my child?

You can homeschool your child anytime. Each state has different compulsory attendance requirements so be sure to check with yours. Some parents start homeschooling as early as kindergarten, while others have their children attend public school for a few years and then decide to homeschool for varying reasons. There really is no right or wrong age to homeschool. It all depends on your family's needs.

Are homeschool programs accredited?

Accreditation applies to institutions like virtual schools or a brick-and-mortar school. Not all curriculum provides accreditation. Check out this link for more information regarding accreditation: <https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com>

Are homeschool expenses tax-deductible?

Homeschool expenses are not tax-deductible, however, there may be tax breaks on the state level, so be sure to check with your tax professional. If you are looking to save on your homeschooling expenses, sometimes businesses provide discounts for teachers as well as homeschoolers, so it never hurts to ask.

Are homeschool diplomas legal?

Yes. Since homeschooling is legal in all states, a homeschool diploma issued by a parent is a legal, valid document. Keep in mind though, each state has its own graduation requirements. <https://heav.org/begin-homeschooling/homeschooling-high-school/graduating-from-homeschool/>

Where is homeschool legal?

Homeschooling is legal in every single state. However, be sure to check with your state's department of education since homeschooling requirements vary by state. In the state of Virginia, you must contact your local school board and ask for a "NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOMESCHOOL".

Are homeschooled students less social?

Not necessarily. Socialization is becoming one of the biggest non-issues in homeschooling. Nowadays, there are many homeschool groups and co-ops for families to be a part of. In addition, depending on where you live, some public schools allow homeschoolers to take part in electives, sports, and other activities.

Can homeschool students go to college?

Of course! In fact, many colleges and universities seek out homeschooled students. Being homeschooled and going to college are not mutually exclusive. Homeschoolers planning to attend college should be prepared to provide transcripts and/or results from the SAT and/or ACT to their college of choice.

Are homeschool diplomas accepted by colleges?

Most colleges and universities accept homeschool diplomas, however, they do not require a diploma to apply for admission. Typically, postsecondary institutions will request high school transcripts and/or results from the SAT and/or ACT depending on the school's requirements. Each college/university has different admission requirements, so be sure to inquire beforehand.

Can homeschool students get scholarships?

Yes! Homeschooled students, just like traditionally-schooled students, are eligible for financial aid when attending college. In addition to merit-based scholarships, there are also scholarships for homeschool graduates available based on athletics, location, need, specific demographics, and more.

Can homeschool students take AP exams?

Yes, however a few requirements must be met. First, in order for a course to be labeled as AP on a transcript, it must be pre-approved by the College Board AP Central. In addition, correspondence with the AP Central and approval notices for each AP Course must be included with high school transcripts to colleges. Homeschoolers can enroll in online AP courses and make arrangements with an AP coordinator at a local public or private school to register for and take an AP exam. Annual testing takes place in May, so it's important to plan ahead. The cost is \$375 for each exam.

<https://www.virtualvirginia.org/about/fees-and-billing/>

What about testing?

In the State of Virginia, you are required to provide assessment testing. You can easily do this on your own. Seton Testing is very popular and easy to use and is accepted by all local schools.

For assessment purposes, you can certainly test your own children. The curriculum you choose may include quizzes, tests and assessments. There are also many free or for-purchase placement and assessment tests available online.

Can homeschool students play sports?

Depending on your state's homeschool laws, and sometimes even district, some public schools will allow homeschooled students to participate in their sports programs as long as certain requirements are met. Homeschoolers can also check with their local homeschool groups and co-ops, parks and other athletic and sports organizations. In the state of Virginia, it may be only private schools that allow homeschoolers to join. There are great sports organizations such as ACTS sports - they offer most sports.

What homeschool curriculum is best for my child?

This all depends on how your child learns best. Are they into technology and prefer to learn with an online program? Do they like to write things out and use workbooks and textbooks? There are lots of options available. Some families find that using different programs and resources gives their children a well-rounded education and keeps them engaged. See the resources tab on the Bridge homeschool page for curriculum options. Another great resource is cathyduffyreviews.com.