

Homeschooling 101

Know and obey Washington State Homeschool laws to protect the rights of current homeschooling parents and to preserve that right for future generations of Washington homeschool families.

5 things you need to know to homeschool in Washington:

Qualify

There are four ways to qualify to homeschool in WA:

- 45 college quarter credits
- Take a Parent Qualifying Course***
- Hire a WA state certificated teacher to provide oversight
- Gain superintendent approval.

Detailed information on each qualification:

<https://washhomeschool.org/intro-homeschooling-part-2-qualifying/>

***Early bird registration available now until 8/31 for online Parent Qualifying Course for September 12, 2020 12-4PM: <https://washhomeschool.org/pqc/>

Declare

When a child under the age of 8 is formally withdrawn from school, they revert to being educationally free, and you do NOT file a Declaration of Intent for them until the age of 8. This form explains this and can be used to withdraw your child from the school:

<https://washhomeschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/LetterheadWithdraw2020.pdf>

Please do not file a Declaration of Intent until your child is 8 years old. This helps protect everyone's freedoms to delay formal schooling until that age (which more and more science is supporting).

Supporting research: <https://washhomeschool.org/delaying-formal-instruction/>

Compulsory attendance in WA is from 8-18. If you enroll a 6 or 7-yr old in school, they, too become subject to the compulsory attendance law until the point you formally withdraw them from a school. It is a VERY common misconception on the part of school officials that 5, 6, and 7-yr old children who have been in school are then obligated to submit a Declaration of Intent. They are NOT. They revert to being educationally free.

Cover the 11 Subjects

Reading, writing, spelling, language, math, science, social studies, history, health, occupational education, and art and music appreciation. You do not have to cover the 11 required subjects every day, every week, or even every year.

Washington State homeschool law states, ...”**all decisions relating to philosophy or doctrine, selection of books, teaching materials and curriculum, and methods, timing and place in the provision or evaluation of home-based instruction shall be the responsibility of the parent...**” (RCW 28A.200.020)

The homeschool law also states that “the legislature recognizes that home-based instruction is less structured and more experiential than the instruction normally provided in a classroom. Therefore, the provisions relating to the nature and quantity of instructional and related educational activities shall be liberally construed.” (RCW 28A.225.010)

This allows you, the parent, great latitude in how you decide to cover the 11 subjects. You may choose anything from a Classical education to Unschooling or anything in between.

Additional information:

<https://washhomeschool.org/intro-homeschooling-part-5-11-subjects/>

Test or Assess Annually

Each year, between 8 and 18, you must test or assess once annually. Testing usually refers to a standardized achievement test administered by a qualified individual. Assessments of a student’s academic progress have their own criteria and are written by a qualified individual.

Additional information:

<https://washhomeschool.org/intro-homeschooling-part-4-test-assessment/>

List of Test and Assessment providers:

<https://washhomeschool.org/test-providers-washington/>

Record Keeping

The law requires that parents keep their child’s immunization records, annual testing or non-test assessments, and “any other records that are kept relating to the instructional and educational activities,” as part of their educational records.

Additional information:

<https://washhomeschool.org/homeschooling/knowledge-power/record-keeping/>

Resources

Homeschool Support Groups and Cooperatives in King County:

<https://washhomeschool.org/homeschooling/support-groups-co-ops/region-7/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hsasupport>

Helpful Sites:

<https://washhomeschool.org/>

<https://hslida.org/post/thinking-of-homeschooling?>

Learning Style Quizzes:

<https://homeschoolon.com/the-learning-style-quiz/>

<https://hslida.org/post/what-s-my-child-s-learning-preference>

<http://eclectic-homeschool.com/what-is-my-childs-learning-style/>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/family/homeschool/pop-quiz-whats-your-childs-learning-style-11609344.html>

Used Curriculum Resources and Reviews:

<http://hspbooks.com/> Homeschool Potpourri is a used curriculum store in Kirkland.

<https://homeschoolclassifieds.com/>

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/#>

References

Stuber, Jen Garrison. "Intro to Homeschooling Part 1: Compulsory Attendance." *Washington Homeschool Organization*, 2020, washhomeschool.org/intro-homeschooling-part-1-compulsory-attendance/.

<https://washhomeschool.org/>

<https://washhomeschool.org/intro-homeschooling-part-1-compulsory-attendance/>

Chapter 28A.200 RCW HOME-BASED INSTRUCTION:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.200>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.225.010>