

Kentucky Department of Education

Homeschool Information

(Revised May 2016)



Kentucky Department of Education
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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
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HOMESCHOOLING IN KENTUCKY

A homeschool student is one whom the family has withdrawn from public school pursuant to KRS 159.030 and chosen to educate through a private or home setting. Section 5 of the Kentucky Constitution establishes that parents may choose the formal education for their child. Over thirty years ago, the Supreme Court of Kentucky determined that the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) may not prescribe standards for homeschooling. Kentucky classifies homeschools as non-public schools; therefore, the laws relating to non-public schools also apply to homeschools.

KDE does not accredit or certify homeschools and does not provide any financial assistance; however, KDE desires to provide accurate and thorough information about requirements that pertain to the establishment and daily operation of a homeschool.

HOMESCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Parents of children who are homeschooled are required to do the following:

- ✓ Notify the superintendent of the local school board in writing within ten days of the beginning of the school year of their intent to homeschool their child(ren) each year they homeschool. The letter must include the name, ages and residence of each child in attendance of the homeschool. See KRS 159.160. *A sample letter of intent has been included in this informational packet.*
- ✓ Establish a bonafide school for the children to attend. When informing the district superintendent of your desire to homeschool, create a 'school' name. This will be used for future records and diplomas.
- ✓ In Kentucky, under state law, all children must be enrolled in school between the ages of six (6) and 16. If a child is six (6) by October 1, he or she MUST be enrolled in primary school. Children can begin primary school at age five, but only if their 5th birthday is on or before October 1 of the current school year. A four-year-old who will turn five by October 1 can enroll in primary school. See KRS 159.010 for further explanation.
- ✓ Record and maintain scholarship reports of each student's progress in all subjects taught at the same intervals as the local public schools. See KRS 159.040. KDE suggests that the person responsible for instruction keep a portfolio that contains samples of the best work done by each child in several areas of study and maintain the portfolio each year the student is homeschooled. This may be of assistance in documenting the existence of the homeschool or the transfer of the child to another educational setting. A record of courses taken and grades received is also necessary.
- ✓ Keep accurate attendance records of pupil attendance. The attendance records can be kept in a notebook, on a computer, or in another manner, but must be readily available in case of an inquiry. See KRS 159.040. The minimum school term is 1062 instructional hours in no fewer than 170 student attendance days.
- ✓ Subjects taught should include reading, writing, spelling, grammar, history, mathematics, science, and civics. It is the parents' right to offer other subjects, as well. See KRS 158.080, KRS 156.160.
- ✓ It is required that all core instruction be offered in the English language.

OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. The parent is responsible providing the curriculum and the instructional materials for children being homeschooled.**

The responsibility for the education of the homeschooled child is borne completely by the guardians. The guardians select the curriculum and educational materials. There are many websites devoted to curriculum and instructions for homeschool families.

- 2. Students from non-accredited/non-certified private schools or homeschools do not receive a diploma recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).**

It is the responsibility of the homeschool to issue a diploma to the student. Although homeschools operate legally under Kentucky statutory law, the KDE has limited governance over the establishment of such schools or their day-to-day operations. Because of this, the KDE does not issue diplomas to, or officially recognize homeschool diplomas. It is important to note that homeschools cannot seek traditional accreditation. Homeschools will not be found on the Kentucky list of certified schools. Unless a homeschooling family functions as a satellite classroom for an accredited/certified school, other schools or agencies may require documentation or other verification before accepting homeschool diplomas.

Some homeschooled children take the General Education Development (GED®) exam to obtain a standard credential after turning 18. Other college-bound home school graduates take the SAT or ACT tests.

- 3. Participation in extracurricular activities sponsored by the public school is decided upon by individual school districts.**

State law only requires the public school district to allow opportunity for a student to participate in extracurricular activities if the student is enrolled in the public school district. Some districts are willing to allow homeschools to participate, but this is decided by individual school districts.

- 4. No Pass/No Drive for homeschooled students is the same as for students attending public schools (KRS 186.440).**

For further information, please call 502-564-4772 or visit <http://education.ky.gov/school/pages/no-pass-no-drive.aspx>.

5. Enrolling/re-enrolling in public schools (recognition of credits):

When students who previously attended a homeschool or non-certified secondary school (any private school not certified pursuant to KRS 156.160(3)) desires to enroll in a public school, the local public school district is responsible for proper placement and awarding credits for the non-certified private school.

If the student does not hold a properly certified transcript, the schools may place the students using one of two methods:

- 1. Pass a similar examination given to other students receiving credit for the course.*
- 2. Student must attain a "C" average in the course by the 12th week of school.*

Those courses successfully completed by examination or performance shall be counted toward minimum high school graduation requirements in the local school district. See KRS 158.140.

6. Students who complete a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law qualify for federal student aid (grants, loans, and work-study funds).

For a homeschooled student to qualify for a college or career school education, he/she must complete a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law (or-if state law does not require a homeschooled student to obtain a completion credential-completing a high school education in a homeschool setting that qualifies as an exemption from compulsory attendance requirements under state law). See the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid [website](#) for complete information regarding eligibility.

RESOURCES

- **E-Schools:** Kentucky Department of Education certifies two e-schools offered through Kentucky public schools, as well as the diplomas they provide:

Barren Academy of Virtual and Expanded Learning (BAVEL)

Contact: **Phillip Napier**

Telephone: 270-670-3739 or 270-670-3301

Website: <http://www.bavel.org/>

Jefferson County e-School

Contact: **Artie Dietz** or **Amber Merrifield**

Telephone: 502-485-7800

Website: www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Programs/eSchool/index.html

- **Kentucky Core Academic Standards:** If you choose to follow the Kentucky Core Academic Standards, please visit the following web address:
<http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/docs/pages/kentucky-core-academic-standards-new.aspx>
- **KDE District and School Directory:** <http://openhouse.education.ky.gov/Directory>
- **KDE contact information for non-public schools and homeschools:**

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