

GUNNISON WATERSHED SCHOOL DISTRICT RE1J  
800 North Boulevard  
Gunnison, CO 81230

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NOTIFICATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
NON-PUBLIC HOME-BASED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

In accordance with [Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 22, Article 33, Section 104.5](#), this program will include no less than 172 days of instruction averaging four (4) instructional contact hours per day. The following children are participating in this program. Materials and books for use in this type of program are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PLACE OF RESIDENCE</u>

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Each child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be evaluated when such child reaches grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven. Each child shall be given a nationally standardized achievement test to evaluate the child's academic progress, or a qualified person shall evaluate the child's academic progress, and the test or evaluation results shall be submitted to the local school of residence or an independent or parochial school within the state of Colorado. If the test results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, the name of such school shall be provided to the local school district of residence. Upon return to public school, testing will be concluded to determine placement.

Signature of parent or guardian below indicates understanding and willingness to comply with Colorado statutes regarding participation in non-public home-based education for student(s) listed above.

<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature of Parent or Guardian</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p>
<hr/>	Name of Parent or Guardian
<hr/>	Mailing Address
<hr/>	City, State, Zip Code
<hr/>	Home Phone Number

Please return this form to the Superintendent's Office, 800 N. Boulevard, Gunnison, CO 81230 or email to [kfuller@gunnisonschools.net](mailto:kfuller@gunnisonschools.net).

## **File: IHBG - Home Schooling**

It is a goal of the Board to promote the most positive learning experience for all children of the district. Acknowledging both the right of parents to provide instruction for their children at home and the fact that children in any educational setting will benefit from the combined efforts of all the adults involved, the district has established the following objectives for its relationship with home-schooled students and their parents:

1. To improve the mutual understanding and communication between home-schooling parents and school personnel.
2. To provide support for home-schooling parents and students so that the students' learning opportunities are maximized.
3. To enable a smooth transition for students returning to the public school setting from the home-schooling environment.

The superintendent will establish procedures that provide direction and guidance when a parent or guardian of a student below the age of 16 wants to establish a home-schooling educational program for the child. These procedures will be in accordance with state law and Board policy. The superintendent will appoint a staff member in each building to serve as the home-schooling liaison, whose responsibility it will be to see that this policy and corresponding procedures are applied in a manner that recognizes:

1. The need for flexibility as well as uniformity and consistency based on the needs of students.
2. The value of nurturing a positive relationship with home-schooling families over the long term.
3. The right of home-schooling students and their parents to be treated with the same respect and dignity as their public school counterparts are.

Resident students participating in home-schooling educational programs may participate in district extracurricular and interscholastic activities if they meet the requirements of state law and Board policy.

Any student who has been declared habitually truant at any time during the last six month of attended public school before the proposed enrollment in a homeschooling educational program may not be enrolled unless the parents first submit a written description of the curricula to be used along with the written notification required by law.

A student from a home-based program may re-enter the district's schools at any time. With the consent of the student's parent/guardian, the district shall place the student at the grade level deemed most appropriate by the district. All students from home-based programs must demonstrate proficiency in the district-adopted content standards at their appropriate placement level. The district may test the student to determine placement.

The district shall accept the transcripts and high school credits earned from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and district academic standards, the district shall require submission of the student's work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, the district may administer testing to the student to verify the accuracy of the student's transcripts. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

The superintendent will establish an advisory committee consisting of homeschooling parents, administrators, teachers, and the superintendent/designee to review and make recommendations about pertinent aspects of the district's homeschooling program.

Adopted: September 26, 1994

Revised: September 8, 1997

March 12, 2001

January 14, 2002

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. [22-7-1006.3](#) (3)(b) (home school students not required to take state assessments, even when the student attends a district school for a portion of the school day and is included in the district's pupil count)

C.R.S. [22-32-116.5](#) (extracurricular and interscholastic activities)

C.R.S. [22-33-104.5](#) (home-based education law)

C.R.S. [22-33-104.5](#) (3)(f) (scores on nationally standardized tests or evaluations are not considered when measuring school performance and determining accreditation)

C.R.S. [22-33-107](#) (compulsory attendance law)

CROSS REFS.: [IKF](#), Graduation Requirements

[JFBAA](#), Admission of Resident Students (Less Than Full-Time)

## **File: IHBG-R - Procedures for Home-School Program**

The district administration shall be guided by the following procedures to implement policies and state statutes pertaining to home-school education programs and students.

1. The first year and each year thereafter, 14 days before beginning the program, the parent/guardian of a resident student who is to be educated in a home school program must submit to the superintendent's office in writing, on a form provided by the district, the name, age, place of residence, information pertaining to the student's program of studies, hours of instruction, and proposed method of evaluation.
  - a. This information - along with the results of the student's formal evaluation - will be reviewed annually by the superintendent's office or a counselor or principal of each appropriate school.
  - b. Parents must to ensure that each student in a home-school program shall be evaluated when the student is in the third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh grades. The student's academic progress shall be assessed either by giving a nationally standardized achievement test or by submitting an evaluation of the student conducted by a qualified person as defined in state law.
  - c. If the student's composite score on the test is above the 13th percentile, the student shall continue to be eligible for the home-school educational program. If the score is at or below the 13th percentile, the parent/guardian shall be given the opportunity to have the student retested using an alternate version of the same test or a different nationally standardized test selected by the parent/guardian from a list supplied by the State Board of Education.
  - d. If the evaluation conducted by a qualified person indicates that the student is making sufficient academic progress according to ability, the student shall continue to be exempt from compulsory attendance.
  - e. If the composite score on a retest continues to be at or below the 13th percentile or if the evaluation conducted by a qualified person indicates that the student is not making sufficient academic progress, the district shall support the parent/guardian in enrolling the student in a district school or another educational program accredited by the state of Colorado.
2. A record of each student on an approved home-school program will be maintained in the superintendent's office.
3. The parent/guardian of the student is required to maintain a permanent record which includes - but is not limited to - the student's attendance and immunization records and test and/or evaluation results. This record must be made available to the school district if and when the parent/guardian wishes to enroll the student in the district's regular educational program. Placement in grades Kindergarten through two will be by age provided all other academic records are complete and appropriate.
4. If such enrollment for grades three through twelve occurs following at least one semester of home-school instruction, the district shall assess the student's proficiency level in the adopted content standards for the purpose of placing the child in the proper grade and/or the awarding of high school credit if applicable. Testing and/or a body of evidence indicating completed course work will be used to determine such placement or credit.
  - a. At the high school level a transcript of credit from an accredited program of studies may be substituted for the testing required for placement. However, the school may decide to test the student to verify the accuracy of these transcripts, using Math and Reading Levels Tests (MAP)

and the local district writing sample with the previous years prompt. The school may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

b. At the middle school level all returning students will be assessed using Math and Reading Levels Tests (MAP) and the local district writing sample with the previous years prompt.

c. In grades three through five placements will be determined by age, but the Reading Levels Tests (MAP) will also be administered for teacher informational purposes.

d. Tests will be scheduled and given by site. The test administrator at each site will be determined by the building principal. Interpretation of the test results will be the responsibility of building principal or designee. The decision on grade placement and/or the awarding of credit shall be made by the building principal, with input from the counselor and staff at the appropriate grade level as requested.

5. A resident student previously approved for home-school instruction may apply to the appropriate secondary principal for participation in the district's regular education program on a part-time basis. Elementary school students, grades 1-5, will not be eligible for part-time status. At the secondary level a home-school or private school student may register for regularly scheduled classes, but must register for a minimum of two fulltime classes per semester. Approval will be granted by the building principal on a space-available basis only.

If the home-school student is accepted on a part-time basis, all school rules and policies pertaining to student behavior and attendance will be applied as they are for full-time students. No full-time regular education resident student shall be displaced from his/her program due to the attendance of a home school student on a part-time basis.

6. A resident child who is participating in an approved home-school program may participate in any district extra-curricular and interscholastic activity offered to students at the comparable grade level. Such a child must abide by all district and state eligibility requirements for participation in the sport or activity except that pertaining to attendance in school. The student will not be permitted to participate if declared academically ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities while a public school student within the past two years. All school rules which apply to regular students participating in the activity will apply in the same manner to a home-school participant. In addition, in order to satisfy the athletic eligibility requirements at the middle school and high school levels, home-school students will be required to submit a weekly log detailing appropriate instruction and academic progress to the building athletic director.

Approved: September 26, 1994

Revised: September 8, 1997

January 14, 2002

August 14, 2015

# Homeschool in Colorado

## Homeschool Overview

*Homeschool is considered a non-public schooling option. Therefore, CDE is not able to advise on homeschool matters. However, we are able to share resources and general information as seen below. We encourage you to please contact the school district where you have or plan to file your intent to homeschool with regarding questions.*

Under Colorado Revised Statute, (§ 22-33-104.5, C.R.S.), home-based education is defined and provides guidelines for the public. While the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) cannot interpret state statute or advise on homeschool matters, CDE encourages review of the following information and resources.

- Homeschooling is considered non-public education, and therefore is not accredited by CDE or by a local school district. CDE is not able to receive letters of intent or help with homeschool set-up or planning. Please send letters of intent to a school district.
- The parent/legal guardian who oversees a homeschool program is responsible for selecting books, supplies, tests, curriculum selection, and any costs associated. A student completing homeschool through a homeschool program is different than a student enrolled at an online school or a public school that allows a student to complete their education at home.
- There are a variety of external organizations that provide support for homeschool families throughout the state. [This link will direct you to the list of resources](#) that have provided their information for this purpose.
- It is important that families, or family support, review and interpret homeschool statute and reach out to their chosen school district with any further questions regarding homeschool matters, including (but not limited to) services for Special Populations, participation in sports or extracurricular activities, and requirements for attendance, assessments, or curriculum.

## Getting Started with Home School

A letter of intent must be submitted 14 days before beginning the homeschool program to a Colorado school district of a family's choosing. The family does not submit the letter of intent to CDE. The letter of intent must include the name, age, place of residence, and number of attendance hours for each child that will be participating. Should you begin your homeschooling during the school year, you may prorate the 172 days of instruction requirement against the attendance already completed. Written notification must be re-submitted to a Colorado school district each year.

### *Homeschool Requirements*

Colorado law states that homeschooling must include, but are not limited to, the subjects of communication skills of reading, writing, and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States. Homeschool students must receive no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging 4 contact hours per day. The selection of curriculum is at the discretion of the parent who is overseeing the homeschooling.

### *Records*

Records for each child participating in homeschool must be kept on a permanent basis by the parent who is overseeing the education.

- The records must include, but are not limited to, attendance, test and evaluation results, and immunization records as required by C.R.S sections [25-4-901](#), [25-4-902](#), and [25-4-903](#).
- The records must be produced and provided to the school district that received the written notification, not the state of Colorado, at the school district's request.

- Records verification requests (including transcripts and diplomas) must go to the parent who oversees the homeschooling, or to the district the family filed the letter of intent with.
- CDE does not receive or house any records related to homeschool.

### **Assessments**

Students that are participating in homeschooling must have academic progress evaluated in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. CDE is not able to advise on the selection of assessments and there is not a list of allowable assessments. Please contact the school district with which your letter of intent is filed for further questions.

- Students are not required to take the state standardized test, but can take a nationally standardized achievement test or a qualified person, as described in [C.R.S. 22-33-104.5\(3\)\(f\)](#), can be selected by the parent to evaluate the student's academic progress.
- According to homeschool law, the assessments that homeschool students must take are either a nationally standardized achievement test or an evaluation of academic progress administered by a qualified person that the parent selects.
  - A qualified person is someone who has a Colorado teacher license, is a teacher in an independent or parochial school, is a licensed psychologist, or has a master's degree in education.
  - The parent works with the qualified person to determine what the evaluation of academic progress would be for the student. Local homeschool support groups may also have more information on what those evaluations of academic progress could be.
  - The test or evaluation results, whichever is appropriate, shall be submitted to the school district where the letter of intent was filed.

### **Additional Homeschool Information**

The links below include a copy of Colorado Homeschool Law, how to get started homeschooling your student, and a resources link to home school organizations that provide information on networking, support groups, curricula, and testing.

- [FAQs Regarding Homeschool](#)
- [Laws Pertaining to Homeschool](#)

### **Homeschool Contact: Janyse Skalla**

[Home\\_School@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Home_School@cde.state.co.us)

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# Frequently Asked Questions about Home Schooling

## Homeschool FAQs

### What should I know about homeschooling?

- Homeschooling is deregulated in the state of Colorado. Therefore, the parent or guardian is taking on all the responsibility for the student's education including but not limited to the acquisition of books, supplies, tests, and maintaining permanent records. The parent assumes the role of the primary instructor.
- There is no public funding available for homeschool.
- Homeschooling falls under non-public education and is not accredited by the Colorado Department of Education or a local school district.
- A nonpublic, home-based education shall include no less than one hundred seventy-two days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day. (22-33-104.5(3)(c), C.R.S.)
- Homeschool students are not required to take Colorado's standardized tests; however the parent may request of their local school district that their child participate. Colorado specific assessments do not fulfill the requirement for homeschool students to take a nationally standardized test.
- A parent who intends to homeschool does not need to provide written notification of the program to a school district until the child is 6 years old. (22-33-104.5(3)(e), C.R.S.) It should be noted that the parent does not need to "establish the program until the child is seven years of age; or continue the program or provide notification after the child is sixteen years of age." (CRS 22-33-104.5 (3)(e)(II) and 22-33-104.5 (3)(e)(III))

### How do I register my child for homeschool?

- The parent or guardian must provide written notification explaining the intent to homeschool his or her child. Notification can be given to any [Colorado public school district office](#).
- This written notification must be given 14 days before the parent or guardian establishes the homeschooling. (22-33-104.5(3)(e), C.R.S.)
- The notification must list the child's name, age, place of residence, and attendance hours.
- Written notification must be re-submitted to the school district each year.
- If the written notification is not submitted to the school district the student resides in, it is advisable to notify the residing school district as well to avoid truancy action.

### What requirements or qualifications must I have to homeschool my child?

You must be the child's parent, legal guardian or an adult relative designated by the parent. (22-33-104.5(3)(a), C.R.S.) No other qualifications or licenses are required.

NOTE: If your child is enrolled in a homeschool co-op program and those running the program may conduct an evaluation for educational progress, those teaching your child must be qualified. The law refers to a qualified person in the context of having a student evaluated NOT taught. CRS 22-33-104.5 (2)(c) " "Qualified person" means an individual who is selected by the parent of a child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program to evaluate such child's progress and who is a teacher licensed pursuant to article 60.5 of this title, a teacher who is employed by an independent or parochial school, a licensed psychologist, or a person with a graduate degree in education." (22-33-104.5(2)(c), C.R.S.)

### What are the requirements for attendance?

Attendance shall include no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day. (22-33-104.5(3)(c), C.R.S.)

**What subjects do I have to teach?**

Subjects shall include, but is not limited to communication skills of reading, writing and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States. (22-33-104.5(3)(d), C.R.S.)

**What kind of records do I have to keep?**

Your records must include but are not limited to, attendance data, test and evaluation results, and immunization records. Such records may be requested by the school district that receives the letter of intent to homeschool (22-33-104.5(3)(g), C.R.S.) School districts cannot request records without probable cause and must give 14 days written notice. CRS 22-33-104.5(3)(g): "Such records shall be produced to the school district that received the notification required by paragraph (e) of this subsection (3) upon fourteen days' written notice if the superintendent of said school district has probable cause to believe that said program is not in compliance with the guidelines established in this subsection (3)."

**What kind of test is my child required to take? Who pays for it? Where do I get the test?**

The homeschool student must either take a nationally standardized achievement test when he/she reaches grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven to evaluate academic progress, or a qualified person must evaluate the student's academic progress at the parent's expense. It is the parent's obligation to report the test or evaluation results to either the school district that receives the letter of intent to homeschool, or report the test or evaluation results to an independent or parochial school.

\* If the parent submitted the test or evaluation results to an independent or parochial school, the name of the school must be provided to the school district that receives written notification. (22-33-104.5(3)(f), C.R.S.)

NOTE: If your child is enrolled in a homeschool co-op program, it is still the parent's obligation to report test/evaluation results to the school district.

**Is my homeschooled child required to take a state assessment test?**

No. Homeschooled students are required to take a nationally standardized test, not the state assessments. However, if a parent or legal guardian requests it, a district may permit a homeschooled student to take the state assessment and provide the results of the assessment to the parent or legal guardian. The test is given only to homeschooled students whose parents request that the child participate in the testing. (22-7-409 (III)(1.3)(b), C.R.S.)

**Is there a state diploma or can my child earn one from the district?**

There is no state diploma. District diplomas are presented only to students who have attended a public high school in the district. Some companies selling homeschooling curricula offer a diploma at the completion of their program. A parent or guardian can purchase a diploma at an office supply store or make a diploma on a computer to present at the completion of the program. Homeschool programs are not accredited by the state of Colorado or local school districts.

**Does my homeschooled child have to take the GED?**

No. The parent may graduate the student by simply issuing a diploma. However, taking the GED (High School Equivalency) is an option.

**Is there any funding available for home schooling?**

At the time of this update, there is no funding available.

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