Home Education Fact Sheet

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce Development

https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohio-Education-Options/Home-Schooling/Fact-Sheet-Home-Education.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US

Parents/Guardians do not need approval to home educate their children.

Ohio law requires all children between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend school. It is the right of parents or guardians to determine the appropriate education for their child(ren). In Ohio, parents or guardians who wish to educate a child at home must notify their local public school district superintendent and meet the requirements of Ohio law to provide home education.

Parents must notify the superintendent of their district of residence of their intent to home educate their children.

You can start this process by sending a notification directly to your local school district. The notification form is on our webpage under Home Education

Notification must be made within five calendar days after commencing home education, moving into a new school district, or withdrawing from a public or nonpublic school, and by the thirtieth day of August each year thereafter. The notice shall provide the parent's name and address, the child's name, and an assurance that the child will receive education in the subject areas required by ORC 3321.042(C).

The child's exemption under this section is effective immediately upon receipt of notice. The district superintendent shall provide a written acknowledgement of the superintendent's receipt of the notice to the parent or guardian not later than fourteen calendar days after receiving the notice.

Note: Failure to notify the school district of residence that a family is home-educating its child(ren) may result in truancy.

Home educated children are permitted to participate in sports and other activities in their district of residence.

Ohio law allows home educated students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities in public schools. An "extracurricular activity" is a pupil activity program that is run by a school or school district and is not included in a graded course of study. Activities include any offered at the district school that your child would attend if enrolled in the public school district where the family resides. More information is available in ORC Section 3313.5312.

If your school district does not offer a particular activity, then your child may request to participate in another district's program. The superintendent of the other school district may choose to allow your child to participate as an out-of-district student.

Note: Home educated students must meet the same non-academic and financial requirements as any other student participating in the activity. Fees and ability in sports, where there are cuts, apply.

Parents who home educate their child(ren) may issue their child(ren) and diploma.

In Ohio, diplomas are issued by the educator. School districts do not issue diplomas or seals for home educated students. As such, the parent or guardian issues their home educated child(ren) a diploma (and any accompanying seals). The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce does not provide a 2 | Home Education Fact Sheet | 2025 template to be used, but parents may use a template they find online or create a diploma on their own. More information is available in ORC Section 3313.6110.

When applying for employment or college admission, the home education diploma should be accompanied by the written acknowledgement of the superintendent's receipt of the notice for the student's final year of home education. More information is available at our Information for Colleges or Employers document.

Home educated children may (re)enroll in their district of residence.

A child that is being enrolled in a public school following any period of home education shall be placed in the appropriate grade level, without discrimination or prejudice, based on the policies of the child's district of residence. ORC 3321.042(D).

Children attending private online schools based outside of Ohio are not considered home educated.

If your student is enrolled in an online school that is based out-of-state, you do not need to provide a notice. In these instances, your child(ren) are considered out-of-state students, and they are subject to the testing and graduation requirements of the state where the school is located.

Note: If you are unsure whether the student is enrolled in this type of out-of-state, online school, please contact the school to confirm whether you have purchased curriculum or enrolled your child in the school.

Special needs children who are home educated are not eligible to receive services for their IEP from their district of residence.

Home educated children may potentially be eligible for either the Jon Person Special Needs Scholarship or the Autism Scholarship Program. They will need to find an approved provider to apply for the scholarships. With your student's status as a home-educated student, the parent or guardian is responsible for providing the student's high school diploma. This is a separate process from the scholarship program. For more information, please visit the preceding links.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, nationality, age, disability, or ethnic background.