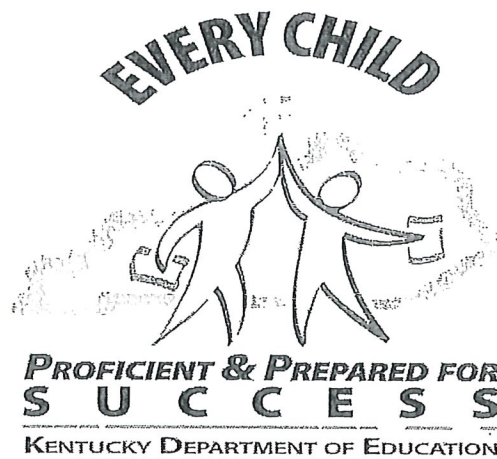


Kentucky Home School Information Packet



Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

www.education.ky.gov

Homeschooling in Kentucky

From time to time, for a variety of academic and non-academic reasons, parents feel that their children would achieve at a higher level if they were taught by the parents at home, or home-schooled. While professional educators feel that home-schooling children is an overwhelming undertaking and urge caution in deciding about their children's education, people who do decide to go ahead need information and assistance to become knowledgeable about what requirements, legal and otherwise, pertain to the establishment and daily operation of a home school.

Rights of the parent

The Kentucky constitution establishes the prerogatives of the parents to choose the formal education for the child. Therefore, parents may choose to have their child educated in a private school of their choice, including homeschool KRS 159.010

If a parent chooses this option, they take complete responsibility for educating their child. The parent/guardian selects the curriculum and educational materials. There is no state financial assistance for families who choose this option.

Commonly asked questions regarding homeschools

1. Who is responsible for providing the curriculum and the instructional materials for children being home schooled?

When a child is removed from the public school system, the total responsibility for the education of the child is borne by the parents. There are many websites devoted to curriculum and instructions for home school families. Parents may also choose to enroll in an online e-learning school. Click [here](#) for more information.

A parent may also choose to follow Kentucky Core academic standards when educating their child. These standards can be found [here](#).

2. Who is responsible for issuing the diploma for a child when they graduate from a home school?

It is the responsibility of the home school to issue the diploma.

Students from non-accredited or non-certified, private schools or homeschools do not receive a diploma recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education. When seeking employment or advanced education, home schooled students may need to complete the General Education Development or GED to show equivalence to a state recognized high school diploma.

3. Are home school students allowed to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by the public school?

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 home schools to participate but this decision is up to the individual school districts.

4. How are home school students treated under No Pass/No Drive?

KRS 186.440 gives home school students the same status as students attending public schools. For further information on No Pass/No Drive, contact Libby Taylor at (502) 564-3678.

Home school requirements

In Kentucky, home schools are considered to be non-public schools. The laws relating to non-public schools also apply to home schools.

Parents of children who are home schooled are required to do the following:

1. Notify the superintendent of the local school board in writing within 10 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. KRS 159.160 Establish a bona fide 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.
2. Record and maintain scholarship reports of each student's progress in all subjects taught at the same intervals as the local public schools. KRS 159.040 It is suggested 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 year after year. This may be of assistance in documenting the existence of the home school or the transfer of the child to another educational setting. A record of courses taken and grades received is also necessary.
3. Keep accurate attendance records of pupil attendance; the attendance records can be kept either in a notebook, on a computer or in another manner but must be readily available in case of an inquiry. KRS 159.040 The minimum number of school days 185 days or equivalent to 177 six-hour days.
4. In the event that there is a concern about your child's attendance, be open to inspection by directors of pupil personnel.
 - a. KRS 159.040 gives the director of pupil personnel the authority in their district to investigate any case of violating the compulsory attendance laws.
 - b. KRS 159.040 also states that the purpose for a director of pupil personnel visiting a home school is to ensure that the requirements of compulsory attendance are being met and not to determine the quality of the instruction. This inspection of school records may be conducted in a neutral site rather than in the home.
5. Teach those subjects that will educate children to be intelligent citizens. It is required that all instruction be offered in the English language. Subject similar to those taught in public school should be offered. Although it is the parents right to offer other subjects as well. Subjects taught should include reading, writing, spelling, grammar, history, mathematics, and civics. KRS 158.080 , KRS 156.160

Recognition of credits

When students who previously attended a homeschool or non- accredited secondary school, (any private school not certified pursuant to KRS 156.160, desire to enroll in a public school, the local public school district is responsible for proper placement and awarding credits for the non- accredited 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. Attaining 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. KRS 158.140

Home schools are not accredited by the State. Unless a home schooling family functions as a satellite classroom for an accredited school, the diploma awarded by a home school may not be recognized by other schools or agencies. Some home schooled children take the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) exam for the purpose of obtaining a standard credential. Other college-bound home school graduates take the SAT or ACT tests and usually have little problem with college admission.

Other resources

The Kentucky Department of Education recommends 3 very good options offered through Kentucky Public Schools for the completion of courses or a high school program through e-learning schools.

Barren Academy of Virtual and Expanded Learning (BAVEL)

Contacts: Phillip Napier

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

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

Jefferson County eSchool

Contacts: Artie Dietz or Amber Merrifield

Telephone: 502-485-7800

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

Kentucky Education Television (KET)

Contacts: Deborah Harris or Linda

Hofacker

Telephone: 800-333-9764

Website: www.dl.ket.org/

For more information on e-learning opportunities, contact Darlene Combs at 502-564-4772

Kentucky Non-Public School Commission

Another local resource that can answer questions regarding certification for nonpublic schools.

They can be reached at: <http://www.knpssc.org/>

For more information on non-public schools/ homeschools contact Neil Watts or Amy Jacobs at (502)564-3791.

Sample letter of intent to homeschool

Mr. and Mrs. Jones
123 Your Street
Your Town, KY 00000
Today's date, 2012

Director of Pupil Personnel
Your County Schools
123 Schools Street.
Your town, KY 40000

Dear Sir:

This letter is to inform you that we will be homeschooling our children during the 2012 -2013 academic school year. Below is a list of our school age children and information about our school.

Name	Age
1. Jonny Jones	14
2. Jimmy Jones	12
3. Jessica Jones	10
4. Joy Jones	8

School will take place in our home.

Names of Parents/ teachers:

Jack and Jenny Jones
123 Your Street
Your Town, KY 00000
(Optional phone number)

Sincerely,

Jack Jones
Jenny Jones

PLEASE NOTE: It is best to send this letter via certified mail, preferably 10 days before school begins and no later than 2 weeks after the beginning of the public school year. It is acceptable to send the letter later in the school year if you start to home school mid-year or if you move in to the area mid-term. In either case, be prompt.

II. Best Practice Approach to Home School Verification

In the interest of the education of all children in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and based upon the laws as they relate to compulsory attendance of school age children and their right to an education, whether in a public or private/home school, the following best practice approach is suggested as a way both public and private/home school personnel may approach the question of ensuring that all children are enrolled in a bonafide school.

A. Parents/Guardians of school age children, by law, must notify the public-school district of the enrollment of their child(ren) in a private or parochial school within the first two weeks of each public-school year. Home school representatives of Christian Home Educators of Kentucky and the officers of the Kentucky Directors of Pupil Personnel Association agree that in the absence of any mitigating factors the school(s) which have properly notified public school districts should be presumed to be in compliance with the law and operating a bonafide school; thus, necessitating no further investigation.

B. It is the responsibility of the local director of pupil personnel or his/her designee to investigate any evidence which would suggest that a child(ren) is not enrolled in a bonafide school. The investigation is for the sole purpose of determining that a bonafide school does exist and in no way is intended to investigate and approve the education provided by the school. Any investigation could include, but is not limited to, phone calls, home visits (the privacy of the home must be recognized and no visit inside the home may be conducted without the consent of an adult resident or a duly issued warrant), review of academic and attendance documents, etc.

C. Circumstances/evidence which would cause a public-school district to have concern about whether a bonafide school did exist, thus causing an investigation to occur, would include, but is not limited to:

1. Notification, after the public-school year has begun and at any time other than a semester break, by parent/guardian of intent to withdraw their child(ren) from the public school for the purpose of home schooling; (This would not apply to students moving in from out-of-district.)
2. Notification by the parent/guardian of intent to home school their child(ren) when disciplinary action (i.e. truancy, expulsion, notification relative to driver's license, etc.) was being contemplated or had begun;
3. Request from an agency or individual to determine if the child(ren) are in school. Requests from an agency concerned with child welfare (i.e. juvenile court, Department of Social Service, etc.) should be investigated as a matter of course. Requests made by a private citizen should proceed only as it relates to probable cause and/or legal requirements;
4. Notification (as required by law) by the parent/guardian of their intent to home school their child(ren) was not received by the public-school district within two weeks of the start of the public-school year;
5. Evidence of a compelling nature which would suggest the inability of the parent or proposed teacher to operate/maintain a bonafide school.

Should there be any disagreement on the part of the directors of pupil personnel and parents/guardians, it is anticipated that common sense rules will be used to ascertain the information requested by either party. Everyone should have a clear understanding of what are the rights and obligations of the directors of pupil personnel and parents/guardians to ensure that all school age children are enrolled in a bonafide school.

Home School Letter of Notification

Date: _____

_____ (Name of School, i.e. Shining Stars Academy, Smith Home school, etc.)

_____ (Address)

_____ (City, State, ZIP)

Phone Number: _____

_____ (Parent Names)

Dear Director of Pupil Personnel:

This letter is to inform you that we will home school our children, listed below, during the _____ academic school year pursuant to all the applicable Kentucky Revised Statutes.

Name(s)	Age(s)	Name(s)	Age(s)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Our school is located in our home at the above address.

The school administration, on behalf of the students enrolled therein, expressly prohibit the release of any and all information contained in this notice, including directory information as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1232g (a)(5)(A), without the prior written consent of parents of the students or of students who have reached the age of majority. See 20 U.S.C. 1232g (a)(5)(B).

Thank you,

_____ (Signature)

We recommend sending this letter via certified mail, return receipt requested. Keep the returned receipt in your files as proof that you sent the Letter of Intent. Do not send additional information like test scores, social security numbers, etc.