

Frequently Asked Questions about Home Schooling

What should I know?

Homeschooling is deregulated in the state of Colorado; therefore you're taking on all of the responsibility for your student's education including acquisition of books, supplies and tests.

How do I get started, what do I do first?

You must provide a 14-day written notification explaining your intent to homeschool to any Colorado public school district office (not the state) and do so each year thereafter for each year the program is maintained. (3)(e). You'll need to make your school district of residence aware of the district where you've registered to avoid truancy action. The notification must list the child's name, age, place of residence and number of hours of attendance of each child enrolled. Registration forms are available at the Basil T. Knight Center, 2523 Patterson Road.

Where do I get textbooks, materials and resources to home school my child, and what does it cost?

District #51 does not provide textbooks, materials and resources for you. Grade Level learning objectives aligned to the district content standards, list what is taught specifically at each grade level and are available on District #51's web page whose web address is www.D51school.org , Parent Link, Content Standards link. Homeschooling costs vary because you can purchase entire programs from private companies or create your own curriculum. **The parent assumes all costs.**

What requirements or qualifications must I have to home school my child?

You must be the parent, guardian or adult relative of the child. There are no other qualifications or requirements. (2)(a)

What are the requirements for attendance?

Your program shall include no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day. (3)(c)

What subjects do I have to teach?

Your program shall include, but is not limited to:
Communication skills of reading, writing and speaking
Mathematics
History
Civics
Literature
Science
Constitution of the United States. (3)(d)

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. (3)(g)

Do I have to test my child and who pays for the test? Where do I get the test?

Your child must be tested or evaluated every two years beginning at the third grade level (third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh). District #51 offers home school students the opportunity to participate in the Spring CSAP test as well as the NWEA level test. If you have questions, please contact the Assessment Office of District #51 at 254-5324. (3)(f)

Is my homeschooled child required to take the CSAP test?

The district shall permit a home school student to take the CSAP and provide the results of the assessment to the parent or legal guardian. The CSAP test, however, is standards based test and does not meet the requirement for testing homeschooled students. The test is given only to homeschooled students' whose parents request that the child participate in the testing. To arrange to participate in the test, parents need to call their boundary school and let the Principal know that the student would like to be included and request the testing schedule. 22-7-409 (III)(1.3)(b)

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

There is no state diploma and District #51 diplomas are presented only to students who have attended at least one full semester or trimester as a senior in a district high school and have earned no less than two credits in that school. Some companies selling homeschooling curricula offer a diploma at the completion of their program or the parent can make a diploma to present at completion of the program.

Questions continued-

Does my homeschooled child have to take the GED?

Taking the GED is an option not a requirement. Contact the Mesa County Work Force Center to obtain information on classes and or the pre-test at 248-0871. To take the test, contact Mesa State College Testing Center – Terri Wise, Coordinator 255-2750. The cost of the test is \$75.00 cash/credit card only – no checks accepted. Tests are usually given weekly.

Is there any funding available for homeschooling?

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