

Home Schooling Frequently Asked Questions

The following information provides answers to questions frequently asked about home schooling in Missouri:

Q: Does the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulate home schooling?

A. The Department does not regulate home schooling. The statutory requirements regulating home schooling are on the Department's website: dese.mo.gov.

Q. Do parents or a guardian for parents have to notify or register with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education if they choose to home school?

A. There is no registration for home schooling. Parents **do not** have to notify the Department if they are home schooling their child. Parents who home school their child are responsible for keeping the records outlined in Section 167.031 RSMo.

Q. Does the state provide curriculum, materials or funding for home schooling?

A. The state does not offer any curriculum, materials or funding for home schooling. The parents determine the curriculum that will be used.

Q. Does the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have information it can send to parents about home schooling?

A. No. The Department provides the statutory requirements regarding home schooling on its website: dese.mo.gov.

Q. What do parents have to do to start home schooling their child?

A. If a child is currently enrolled in a public school, parents should withdraw their child from school. Parents **do not** have to contact the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Q. If a student leaves public school for home schooling, does the district need to report the student as a dropout to the Missouri Literacy Council?

A. No. A student leaving a public school for home school is not considered a dropout. Neither the district nor home school parents need to notify the Department that they are home schooling.

Q. What if parents who have home schooled their child want to enroll their child in a public school?

A. The public school will follow the policy adopted by their local board of education to determine the placement of the child.

Q. Is home schooling legal?

A. Section 167.031, RSMo, states:

A parent, guardian or other person in this state having charge, control, or custody of a child between the ages of seven years of age and the compulsory attendance age for the district shall cause the child to attend regularly some public, private, parochial, parish, home school or a combination of such schools not less than the entire school term of the school which the child attends.

Q. What does it mean that home schooling is not accredited?

A. Since home schooling is not regulated, it is considered an unaccredited form of education.

Q. If parents home school their child through high school, who issues the diploma?

A. The only accredited equivalent to a diploma is a high school equivalency certificate.