

Homeschool Basics These guidelines are for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. Always verify requirements with the Ohio Department of Education and consult legal counsel if needed.

1. Confirm age range and eligibility

Ensure the child is between ages 6 and 18 (or the age your district requires for school attendance) to use the home-education exemption under Ohio law. If the child is enrolled in public or private school, initiate withdrawal and then begin home education.

2. Submit a Notice of Intent / Exemption Letter

Within five calendar days after withdrawing, moving into a new district, or beginning mid-year, send written notice to your district superintendent. Each year by August 30, or within the five-day window if starting later, submit or renew your notice. The notice must include: parent or guardian name and address, child's name and birthdate, home address, and an assurance that required subjects will be taught.

3. Select and implement a curriculum covering required subject areas

Instruction must cover English language arts, mathematics, science, history, government, and social studies. Choose materials, approaches, and methods that fit your family's learning philosophy, whether academic, arts-based, nature-focused, or trades-oriented.

4. Define your learning environment and schedule

Ohio does not mandate a set number of hours or days. Parents should still create a regular and consistent instructional routine. A weekly or monthly schedule helps parents stay organized and maintain steady structure for their child's learning.

5. Maintain records and documentation

Keep copies of the annual notice to the superintendent, any acknowledgment letters, curriculum outlines, work samples, project logs, and assessments. While detailed attendance logs are not required, maintaining records supports future transitions such as returning to public school or preparing for college.

6. Understand assessment and testing obligations

Ohio does not automatically require standardized testing or portfolio reviews for homeschoolers under Section 3321.042. Districts may request proof of education if there is evidence that required instruction is not being provided. Parents may choose to administer assessments to track progress for personal reference.

7. Stay aware of changes in law and maintain compliance

Review the Ohio Revised Code and education-related updates, such as Section 3321.042. Stay aware of district policies or new procedures that may affect your home education program.

8. Communicate with your district as needed

Inform your superintendent of your program start and any changes such as address changes or withdrawals. If your child returns to public or non-chartered school, ensure proper placement and transition steps are followed.

9. Plan for long-term educational goals

If your child plans to pursue higher education, prepare transcripts, portfolios, and documentation that reflect their academic work. Regularly review your child's interests and goals, including college, vocational training, apprenticeships, and career development.

10. Embrace the philosophy and intention behind your homeschooling choice

Align your curriculum, routines, and community engagement with your values of conscious learning, personal growth, inner well-being, and real-world skills. As a parent-teacher, commit to your own growth and awareness. Your presence and clarity shape the learning environment as much as the curriculum itself.