

Homeschool

101

# TN State Laws for Homeschooling

## **\*\*\*\*Option 1: Independent home school.**

### **1. Ensure that you have the required teacher qualifications.**

You must have at least a high school diploma or a GED.

### **2. Submit a notice of intent.**

Before the start of the school year, you must submit a notice of intent to the superintendent of your local school district (also called a local education agency, or LEA) “for purpose of reporting only.” (If you move to Tennessee during the school year, you should file your notice of intent within a reasonable time after arriving in the state.) Your notice must include the names, number, ages, and grade levels of the children you are homeschooling, the location of your school, the curriculum to be offered (no particular subjects are required), the proposed hours of instruction, and your educational qualifications. A notice of intent form is available on the Tennessee Department of Education’s website.

### **3. Submit proof of immunization.**

Proof that your child has been immunized or has a medical or a religious exemption from immunization must be attached to your notice of intent.

### **4. Provide the required hours of instruction.**

You must teach at least four hours per school day for 180 days each academic year.

### **5. Maintain attendance records.**

You must maintain attendance records, which must be available for inspection by the local superintendent and must be submitted to the superintendent at the end of each school year. An attendance reporting form is available on the Tennessee Department of Education’s website.

### **6. Test your child in grades 5, 7, and 9.**

In grades 5, 7, and 9, your child must take a standardized test administered by the commissioner of education, by someone designated by the commissioner, or by a professional testing service approved by the LEA. You may be present with your child during the 5th-grade test.

***Here is what to do if your child’s test score is low:*** If your child’s test score is six to nine months behind his or her appropriate grade level in reading, language arts, mathematics, *or* science, you must submit a “remedial course” to the local superintendent. The remedial course must be designed by you and a Tennessee-certified teacher who is certified or endorsed in the grade level, course, subject matter in which your child is being remediated.

Additionally, if your child’s test score is more than one year behind his or her appropriate grade level for two consecutive, required tests, and if your child is not learning disabled, the local superintendent may require you to enroll your child in a public, private, or church-related school.

## TN State Laws for Homeschooling

### **\*\*\*\*Option 2: Church-Related School**

#### **1. Enroll in a church-related school.**

Your child must be enrolled in the CRS and your homeschooling must be “supervised” by the director of the CRS.

#### **2. Submit proof of immunization to the CRS.**

You must submit proof to the CRS that your child has been immunized or has a medical or a religious exemption from immunization.

#### **3. Comply with policies established by the CRS.**

You must meet any teacher qualification, recordkeeping, and testing requirements established by the CRS. These requirements may vary depending on the CRS you choose and your technical relationship with the CRS

# TN State Laws for Homeschooling

## **\*\*\* Option 3: Category III Distance Learning School**

“Category III” schools are non-public schools that are accredited by one of the following: any accreditation division of AdvancED (the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)), the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA), the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), any accrediting association recognized by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Commission on Accreditation (e.g., the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)) or the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA) according to the procedures and criteria established by the association. Category III schools must report student attendance information to the director of the public school system where the student lives

---

You may homeschool by enrolling your child in one of the three types of schools described above. As a general rule, you are required to teach your child for at least 180 days per school year, and you must be a parent or legal guardian of the child you are enrolling. (You may employ a tutor who has the same educational qualifications that you are required to have to do some or all of the teaching.)

# Why I Homeschool

- \*Flexibility

- \*Don't like the direction public schools are going

- \*My child's needs weren't being met by the school

- \*I want to be able to teach about God

- \*I want my children home with me

- \*Child(ren) is/are getting bullied in school

- \*Medical reasons

- \*No real reason just want to homeschool

# Advantages to Homeschooling

- 1. Individualized education.** The public school system uses a cookie-cutter approach to education. With homeschooling you can design the perfect education – specifically for your child.
- 2. Low student-teacher ratio.** With homeschooling you can teach your children individually, with your other children, or a little of both. When possible, I try to teach my kids together, giving them slightly different instruction and assignments depending on their age. There is still time however for individual 1:1 education.
- 3. Teach to your child's learning style.** A lot of homeschool curriculum takes learning styles into consideration and teaches to the different learning styles. If you're developing a lesson on your own, and your child is a visual learner, it's easy to incorporate visual elements into the lesson.
- 4. Teach to your child's interests.** If you can teach to your child's learning style and to his/her interests, I don't see how you can go wrong. Your child will be interested and engaged, and s/he will enjoy learning. If your child has a specific interest in animals, you can gear your reading, science, writing, and other subjects around animals. When your child then becomes interested in aviation, it's easy to pivot and teach about aviation. A teacher in a school setting just can't do this for 20+ students.
- 5. Hands-on education.** Homeschoolers learn by doing and so much learning is hands-on. I believe homeschoolers experience much more than their public school students (who are tied to desks and textbooks).

**6. Teacher dedication.** Who wants your children to succeed more than you do? Before we homeschooled, my kids had some not-so-good, and some very good teachers. But even the good ones weren't as invested in my kids as I am. Investment matters.

**7. Ability to help a struggling child.** If your child struggles in a subject or has a learning disability, you can focus on the issue, do research, try things, and overcome the problem. You can address issues early on. How often are issues addressed quickly in public school?

**8. Ability to help a gifted child.** So often gifted children are bored in public school. If you have a gifted child, you can encourage his/her abilities, hire tutors, etc. *A mind is a terrible thing to waste* – how many wonderful minds are turned off by school, early on?

**9. Lots of opportunities for children to learn, think, and act independently.** Children who are homeschooled learn to think independently and to embrace education on all levels. Learning becomes a life-long skill.

**10. A consistent education.** Because homeschoolers manage their child's education over *years*, there is a consistency to it (perhaps in curriculum choices, what is stressed, etc.) – and homeschoolers can implement and work towards long-term goals. (I want my kids to be exceptional coders so we include more difficult coding classes, or new coding languages every year).

**11. Exceptional teaching materials.** Homeschoolers have access to the best and most up-to-date teaching materials. Since many materials are on-line, they are updated frequently (unlike physical textbooks). And as mentioned previously, teaching materials can be chosen based on a child's interests and capabilities, which makes them truly exceptional for each child.

**12. More efficient use of time.** Homeschools use time more efficiently than do public schools. Homeschoolers can usually accomplish more learning in less time than those being educated in regular schools.

**13. Flexibility for the family.** Homeschoolers can arrange their schedules around their family's needs. If someone becomes sick, if an emergency arises, etc., it's easy to change the schedule. I know homeschoolers that are on the road with their trucker father and homeschoolers that are presently homeschooling in Europe. Now, that's flexibility! ☐

**14. More opportunities for experiences.** This goes hand in hand with increased efficiency and family flexibility. We go on one field trip per week, and if we're studying something major, like the Civil War, we go to battlefield locations, etc. I admit it, sometimes we plan family vacations around what we're studying. In addition to field trips, my kids have the time and the ability to do volunteer work, to barter their services, to take dance and music lessons, to meet with community mentors, etc.

**15. Close family relationships.** Homeschool families spend more time together. This is time learning, growing, and laughing together. Of course, a strong family bond is one of the outcomes.

**16. More opportunities for physical activity.** Formal exercise, playing outside, sports, dance and karate lessons, household chores, and more – homeschool kids have the opportunity (and the flexibility) to be active throughout the day – not just during 10-15 minute breaks.

**17. Well rested kids.** I've been reading articles about kids' need for sleep – especially teenagers. My kids have time to get the rest they need. They're not getting up early to catch a bus in the dark, and they're not staying up until midnight to complete homework for the next day. Plus, if they want to take a nap at 1:00 pm they can. Isn't flexibility wonderful?

**18. Better diet.** I have more control over what my kids eat – have you seen school lunches? Even if I packed their lunches, I have no idea what they'd trade for.

**19. Less peer pressure.** Now, that's a bonus/advantage!

We will now discuss a few disadvantages of homeschooling...

# Disadvantages of Homeschooling

**1. A lot of work-** In addition to the domestic responsibilities of your role as a parent, you're now a teacher, tutor, curriculum researcher, and principal.

**2. Less time for yourself** - Not surprisingly, the workload of homeschooling—and kids home all day—is likely to leave you with less time for yourself. Some homeschooling parents say they don't have time to shower, let alone exercise or take care of their own needs.

For parents who are used to a quiet, kid-free environment during the day, this aspect of homeschooling can be a major adjustment.

**3. Inability to work** - All the work of homeschooling is guaranteed to take up hours of your day. Therefore, as a homeschooling parent, you may not be able to work outside the home, or you may have to cut your hours significantly. For some households, this may be a financial deal-breaker. (this may not be true in all households .. Many successful single parents have homeschooled)

**4. Too much togetherness-**While many families find that homeschooling boosts good vibes between siblings and parents, there *is* such a thing as too much togetherness.

**5. Missing out on certain opportunities-**Despite the enormous flexibility of homeschooling, in some ways, it can limit opportunities for your child. For high schoolers, for example, a homeschool curriculum may not be able to provide the same variety of electives as a large public school. (After all, most of us don't have a metal shop in the backyard.)If your child wants to pursue subjects you can't easily teach at home, you'll have to be diligent about seeking alternatives.

The same holds for social opportunities. As a homeschooler, it's up to you to provide social interaction your child won't get from school dances, assemblies, and everyday classroom partner work.

**6. Facing judgment and bias-**Let's be honest: Homeschooling doesn't necessarily have a reputation for being cool and modern. Unfortunately, plenty of biases and stereotypes exist around homeschooling and the folks who choose it.

If you decide to educate at home, you might get some flak from family members (or even strangers) who think you're going full *Little House on the Prairie* mode or that your kids won't actually learn anything. You may need to develop a thick skin toward other people's judgments of your decision to educate at home.

# Styles of Homeschooling

- Classical Education for Homeschool
- Charlotte Mason Style Homeschool
- Montessori for Homeschool
- University Model Homeschool
- Unit Studies
- School at Home
- The Delight Directed Approach
- Eclectic Homeschool
- Unschooling

\*\*\*\*There are other styles of homeschooling these are just the most popular \*\*\*

# **Classical Education**

## **Who might this work best for?**

Home educators who are “less concerned about whether students can handle iPads than if they can grasp Plato” might enjoy the classical education model. It emphasizes truth, goodness and beauty over rote memorization of facts and leads educators and their students to explore classically regarded books and resources. It also gives the learner a palpable feeling of continuity with other students through the ages. Classical education’s main goal is to cultivate a passion for lifelong learning, to seek sound logic over chaos, and to focus on depth of learning over breadth.

# **Charlotte Mason**

## **Who might this work best for?**

Families who relish a cheerful, beauty-in-simplicity approach might be drawn to Charlotte Mason. Time-pressed families might also benefit, as her books recommend spending 5-15 minutes per subject with elementary grades and extending to 45 minutes with older children. It would also work for families of children with an auditory learning style. The Charlotte Mason method stresses oral narrations of information and book summaries over handwriting, which can cause children to get bogged down in the mechanics of the letters rather than getting the beauty of the words into their hearts. Nature and music studies are also a big part of Charlotte Mason’s teachings.

# **Montessori for Homeschool**

## **Who might this work best for?**

Plan-ahead families who like a quiet, balanced environment might be drawn to Montessori principles. According to The Montessori Notebook, “If you are laissez-faire at home where your child can do what they like, eat what they want and go to bed as they wish, they may find the limits of the Montessori classroom too constraining. And if you are strict at home, and your child is used to cooperating via rewards, stickers and time outs, they could find it difficult to control themselves with the freedom in the Montessori classroom.

“Montessori schools are most suited to children in families where there is respect for the child, the parent set few but clear limits, and the child learns to respect and follow these limits.”

# **University Model Homeschool**

## **Who might this work best for?**

The University Model suits families who are drawn to homeschooling but cannot afford for one parent to daily teach the kids due to scheduling issues. In this method, parents receive the assurance (and the extra accountability) that professional guidance can provide.

# **Unit Studies**

## **Who might this work best for?**

Unit studies benefit families with multiple children in different age ranges: they can learn about a subject together, yet have flexibility to be customizable to their own learning levels. However, there may be more time investment in creatively expanding on certain interests.

# **School at Home**

## **Who might this work best for?**

Families who get comfort from predictable schedules and curriculum that is already made in advance might enjoy this type of schooling style. It also might be a good method to help families who are new to homeschooling transition from being in a public school environment until they are able to establish their own schooling rhythms. School-at-home could also be helpful for parents who have backgrounds in teaching at public schools and help them to impart knowledge to their kids in the way that they excel and have personal experience in.

# **The Delight Directed Approach**

## **Who might this work best for?**

Teach confidently and use your child interests to direct further studies in a natural way. Some would argue that this approach is similar to Natural Learning/ Unschooling, with the child as the director making decisions on what he or she will pursue or not pursue in learning.

## **Eclectic**

### **Who might this work best for?**

If you find yourself feeling passionate about different resources, borrowing from different styles, but not wanting to settle down with one particular school of thought, you might be an eclectic homeschooler. Instead of being a full-fledged style of homeschool, eclectic homeschooling is more like a philosophy of using a variety of sources to carefully and directly pinpoint your family's learning needs. It takes more time than some of the other styles since it is self-directed by the home educator. It may be useful for parents of children with learning difficulties in certain areas so that the parent can cater to the child's strengths and weaknesses. Eclectic homeschooling is also the most cost-effective of all the methods since it can be designed to fit any budget.

## **Unschooling**

### **Who might this work best for?**

Parents who believe that learning should be child-led, who dislike routines, and who have varying schedules that cannot work with more traditional homeschool styles might be drawn to unschooling.

“A child may learn something from—or in spite of—the adults in his world, but learning is centered within the child himself. Learning is not the result of teaching; therefore parents should not focus on being teachers. Instead, the parent's role is to closely connect with the child, noting his/her interests and then providing opportunities for the child to pursue that interest. This does not mean designing an integrated unit on spiders for a kid who's into bugs (let's count the legs, let's learn how to spell spider, let's read a book about them!). Instead, the parent brings as much as possible into the child's world to support that child's passion—however long-lasting or brief it may be. This may mean borrowing books and videos, setting out a magnifying glass, or capturing that hairy guy on the ceiling in a glass jar instead of squishing it ... get the idea?”

– Unschoolers.org

# How do I get started?

1. Look up homeschooling laws in your state.
2. Decide on an approach/style/homeschool method.
3. Research and choose your curriculum.
4. Create a homeschool plan/schedule.
5. Set up your homeschool space.
6. Get connected, find support.
7. Cherish the moments.

# How Do I Plan for the School Year?

## How do I organize lessons?

- Gather materials and make sure you have all the bases covered
- Most curriculums tell you how to teach it
- But you don't have to follow the book
- Don't be afraid to change curriculums if it's not working
- The goal is for your child to learn, not finish the book

# What Records Do I Need to Keep?

- Grades, Tests, Classes and Attendance (if your Umbrella does not keep it for you)
- Immunization records
- Summary of all field trips taken (and how they tied into your studies)
- List of outside classes or extracurricular activities your child participated in (chess club, sporting activities, dance class, and more)
- A portfolio of sample work for every year (essays, book reports, science projects, etc.)
- Summary of accomplishments and recognitions (Eagle Scout award, 4-H awards, and more)
- List of community service projects (volunteer work, church-related work, work with charitable organizations, etc.)
- One last note – don't get obsessed with paperwork and don't get overwhelmed. You don't have to record everything. However, the more info you keep, the easier it will be to summarize your year, realize how much your children have grown academically, and most importantly, you and your children will be in a much better position to toot your own horns, and exclaim to the world – "Homeschooling is great and this is what we've learned."

# What about Socialization?

The common misconception when it comes to homeschoolers is that they are not socialized, when in fact, the opposite is true. The picture of a homeschooler stuck at the kitchen table while Mom hovers over is as inaccurate as they come, as homeschoolers spend more time out and about than their public school counterparts. When homeschooling parents include their kids in all sorts of community activities, it pays off with a well rounded, socialized child. So, let's bust some myths about homeschool socialization!

If you think about it, traditional school does not encourage children to socialize naturally. Classes are divided into age and academic brackets, and include students from the same geographic area and from similar socio-economic backgrounds. With many students to instruct, teachers suppress socially active children so they don't disturb the class.

Conversely, homeschooled children interact with a larger pool of people, including those of different ages and backgrounds, and they become socially mature at an earlier age.

Can I really  
do this?

# **TRUST YOURSELF – YOU’VE GOT THIS**

Don’t doubt yourself. Homeschooling is not as hard as some people would lead you to believe.

The first year is the experiment year. You and your child will learn what works and what doesn’t, and you’ll both be better for it. Trust the process. The best way to learn how to homeschool is to homeschool.

Make a list of all the reasons you’re homeschooling. On a tough day (and there will be tough days), refer back to your list. Remember all the great reasons you’ve chosen to homeschool. Then continue on

# LET YOUR KIDS LEARN AT THEIR OWN PACE AND IN THEIR OWN WAY

Listen to your children and go at their space. Don't compare your children to any other children (it's a hard habit to break, because the public school system does it constantly, and that's probably the system you grew up in).

You don't have to teach by the book, and you don't have to focus on paper lessons. Learning goes beyond books and pencils.

Your children don't have to learn *everything*. Kids in public school don't learn *everything* – frequently, they don't finish a textbook before moving onto the next grade.

Pushing too much will make your children dislike learning, and they will learn less rather than more.

# THERE IS NO ONE RIGHT WAY TO HOMESCHOOL

There is no one “right” way to homeschool, and how you homeschool will change as your children grow, and as you get to know what works and what doesn’t work in your homeschool.

Even though there is no “right” way to homeschool, try not to do “school at home.”

Teach your kids *how to* learn, instead of focusing on rote memorization that is often stressed in public school. —

Try lots of different things. Don’t feel pressure to commit to any one curriculum or style.

You don’t have to do 4.5 hours of work a day, and you don’t have to complete every subject every day.

You’re in charge of your own schedule. Plan it how you want/need.

Add in extra/flex days. Take the time to find what works for you and your family.

# FAQ

**Can a parent withdraw a child from public school to home school at any point in the school year?** Yes you can

**If a student is 18 years old, can they withdraw themselves as an independent home school student?**

No, they can't even they are 18

**Is a power of attorney sufficient as proof of legal guardianship?** No, Legal guardianship is appointed by a judge through a court of law.

**Can a student who has attended an independent home school during the kindergarten year enter the first grade in a public school?** Yes, but they may have to take a placement test

**What rights do home school students have for special education services from the local school district?** Students who are home schooled are entitled to the same special education services as children who are placed in private schools by their parent or legal guardian. Students with disabilities who are placed by their parents or legal guardian in a private school or home school are not entitled to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) through an individualized education program (IEP). The school district is responsible for providing equitable services to home school students who are determined eligible as a child with a disability. This is accomplished through a "services plan" and is generally a type of related service, such as speech therapy, as determined by the school district where the student is registered to home school. Parents and legal guardians should contact their local school district for complete information

**Can a home school student graduate early?** Yes. Home school students can graduate early so long as they meet the early graduation guidelines of the district where they live. State Board of Education Policy 2.103 states, "A student who does not participate in the Move on When Ready program may still graduate earlier than the end of their senior year of high school, provided the student meets all graduation requirements outlined in Section 1 of this policy and any additional requirements for early graduation set by the LEA."

**Are home school students allowed to participate in JROTC?** Yes. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2031(h)(1), high schools are required to allow home school students to enroll in JROTC. The federal law states, “Each public secondary educational institution that maintains a unit under this section shall permit membership in the unit to homeschooled students residing in the area served by the institution who are qualified for membership in the unit (but for lack of enrollment in the institution). “

**Is the state curriculum mandated for independent home school students?** No. Parent-teachers are responsible for selecting and purchasing the curriculum used in their independent home school. Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050 provides little guidance specific to the curriculum a parent or legal guardian must use. The law states that the parent or legal guardian shall submit the proposed curriculum to the director of schools, however it does not specify what that curriculum should be. Parents should keep in mind the testing requirement in grades 5, 7, and 9 in which their child will be tested on the grade level state curriculum in reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies. Those subjects should be included in the proposed curriculum to ensure students will be prepared for testing in those areas.

**Is the local school district responsible for testing students enrolled in church-related home school umbrella programs or accredited online schools?** No. The local school district is responsible for testing only those students registered as independent home school students. The church-related umbrella program or accredited online school is responsible for testing its enrolled students.

**Can a parent of an independent home school student in grades 5, 7, or 9 choose to provide some other form of assessment rather than the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP)/EOC?**

No. Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(b)(5)(A) states that home school students will be administered “...the same state-board-approved, secure standardized tests required of public-school students in grades five (5), seven (7), and nine (9).” In Tennessee, the state-board-approved test is the TCAP.

**Are home school students allowed to take classes or participate in extracurricular activities at a public school?** Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(a)(1), “Public school facilities may be used by home school participants with the approval of the principal of the school, but this permissive authority shall not be construed to confer any right upon the participants to use public school facilities. If approved, use shall be in accordance with rules established by the local board of education.” 8.

**Are home school students allowed to participate in public school athletic programs?** An *independently registered home school student* may participate in public school athletic programs if allowed by the local education agency (LEA). For interscholastic athletic competition, LEAs must allow home school students to participate under certain conditions: see Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(e) below. This does not apply to students attending a Category IV church-related school or a Category III accredited online school. Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(e) states:

(1) If any of the public schools established under the jurisdiction of an LEA are members of an organization or an association that regulates interscholastic athletic competition, and if such organization or association establishes or maintains eligibility requirements for home school students desiring to participate in interscholastic athletics at a member school, then the LEA shall permit participation in interscholastic athletics at those schools by home school students who satisfy the eligibility requirements established by the organization or association.

(2) This subsection (e) does not guarantee that a home school student trying out for an interscholastic athletics team will make the team or supplant the authority of coaches or other school officials in deciding who makes the team. This subsection (e) is intended to guarantee only that the home school student shall not be prohibited from trying out for an interscholastic athletics team, if the student is eligible under the rules of the organization or association, solely by reason of the student's status as a home school student.

(3) This subsection (e) shall not be construed to limit or supplant the authority of the organization or association to determine eligibility and to establish, modify and enforce its rules and eligibility requirements, including those applicable to home school students.

**Can a parent or legal guardian of an independent home school student in grades 5, 7, or 9 choose to have their student tested somewhere other than their local school system?** Yes. Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(b)(5)(A-B) states that tests can be administered by a professional testing service within thirty (30) days of the date of the statewide test and at the expense of the parent-teacher. The student must take the same state board approved secure standardized test required of public-school students. Currently, the approved test is the TCAP. The testing center must be approved by the school district. Test results must be shared with the parent-teacher, the director of schools, and the state board of education.

**Which end-of-course exams are required of 9th grade independent home school students?** If a home school student in grade 9 is taking a course for which there is an end-of-course test, that student should be required to take that end-of-course exam. That will mean some 9th grade students, depending on the courses they are taking, will have fewer tests to take that year than others.

**Who is responsible for issuing a diploma or transcripts for a home school student?** Transcripts and diplomas should be issued by the school where the student was enrolled. Parent teachers are responsible for creating and issuing transcripts and diplomas for independent home school students. Students attending a home school umbrella program, or an accredited online school will be issued transcripts and diplomas from the non-public school.

**How do I know if an accredited online school is approved in Tennessee?** To be an acceptable accredited online school for a student residing in Tennessee, the school must be accredited by an agency that has been approved by the Tennessee State Board of Education. The board of education has authorized these accrediting agencies to approve Category III non-public schools for students in Tennessee. To identify which agencies are approved, visit the Home School webpage and click on the Accredited Online Schools List. The approved agencies are listed at the top of the page.

**Can I hire a tutor for my home school student?** Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(c) states, “In the event of illness of a parent-teacher, or at the discretion of the parent-teacher, a tutor, having the same qualifications that would be required of a parent teacher teaching the grade level or course, may be employed by the parent-teacher.” This does not allow the parent-teacher to substitute the tutor’s credentials for the parent-teachers credentials when registering the child for independent home school. The parent or legal guardian must still meet the requirements for home schooling.

**Can my home school child take the ACT or PSAT at the local public school?** Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(f)(3) allows independent home school students to take the AP and PSAT/NMSQT examinations at any public school offering the examinations. Independent home school students wanting to take the ACT or SAT can sign up to take these assessments at any open testing location. More information is available on the ACT and SAT websites.

**Do credits transfer for home school students?** The Tennessee State Board of Education has approved rules for the transfer of credits for students enrolled in non-public or home school. Students enrolled in a Category IV church-related home school umbrella or registered as independent home school students may be required to take placement tests when transferring to a public or non-public school. Students enrolled in a Category III accredited school will receive transfer credit for work completed when transferring to a public school or a Category I, II, or III private school if the school from which the student is transferring supplies an appropriately certified transcript to the enrolling school.

**Can a home school student participate in TN Promise?** Yes. According to the Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions at Tennessee Promise Scholarship (tn.gov), “A high school senior, beginning with the class of 2015, who graduates from an eligible Tennessee high school, completes a Tennessee home school program, or prior to his or her 19th birthday, obtains a GED or HiSET diploma. Students will apply by the November deadline of their high school senior year or the year in which he/she will obtain the GED/HiSET and begin working with a mentor and attending mandatory meetings in their counties.”