

Colorado statute recognizes that home-based instruction is a legitimate alternative to classroom attendance for the instruction of children. Home school instruction is subject to minimal controls by the district.

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

You must provide a 14-day written notification explaining your intent to home school to the public school district office (not the local school) in which you reside and do so each year thereafter if the program is maintained. (3)(e)

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

Contact one of the support groups (listed on back), bookstores, or a supply house and they may be able to provide you with information on how to obtain these. Home schooling 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 4 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 and the 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) The superintendent shall give the parent 14 days written notice to produce records required by law if he has probable cause to believe the program is not in compliance with the law. (3)(d)

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

Your child must be tested or evaluated every 2 years beginning at the 3rd grade level (grades 3,5,7,9, and 11) at your expense. For locations of testing, contact Metropolitan State College of Denver at 303-556-3677. (3)(f) If the student's composite score on the test is above the 13th percentile (5)(a)(I), or if the evaluation indicates that the student is making sufficient academic progress according to his/her ability (5)(a)(II); the student shall continue to be exempt from compulsory attendance. If the test or evaluation results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, the name of the school shall be provided to the district. The tests should be completed by May 1 and requested information submitted to:

Jill Rogers, Information Specialist
Student Services Department
Englewood Schools
4101 Bannock St.
Englewood, CO 80110

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

There is no state diploma and district diplomas are presented only to students who have attended a public high school in the district. Some companies selling home schooling curricula offer a diploma at the completion of their program or the parent can make a diploma to present at completion of the program.

Students who have completed high school level course work through home schooling and who desire to graduate from an Englewood high school must:

Complete a minimum of 60 credit hours of course work at the high school including two semesters as a senior.

Complete all proficiencies and credit requirements as established in district policy by the Board of Education. The principal shall determine if any home schooling programs satisfy these requirements. To make this determination, the principal may request that the student demonstrate her/his knowledge or skills through testing; and may request documentation of time spent on the subject.

If a child re-enters the public school system, the school district may test the child to determine the proper grade placement of the child. (4)

Resident students participating in home-based education programs may participate in district extracurricular and interscholastic activities if they meet the requirements of state law and Board policy. (5)(b)

Any student who has been declared habitually truant at any time during the last six months he/she attended public school before proposed enrollment in a home-based educational program may not be enrolled unless the parent/guardian first submits a written description of the curricula. (3)(b)