

Welcome

to MHEA's Homeschool Toolkit

Congratulations on the beginning—or continuation—of your homeschool journey. In addition to being a parent, you are the teacher, principal, superintendent, and entire board of education of your own homeschool. Educationally, you are an independent agent ... free to choose your child's subjects, curricula, and schedule.

Mississippi Home Educators Association (MHEA) is here to help you on this journey. We are a Christian statewide homeschool resource organization that has existed since 1983, and we are here to enable, equip, and encourage you with your homeschooling needs. Please read the following descriptions and check out the links in the pages below.

In addition, please consider ...

Subscribing to our e-newsletters <https://www.mhea.net/home>

Liking us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mshomeeducators>

Following us on Instagram <https://instagram.com/mheagram>

Attending our events:

Capitol Day <https://www.mhea.net/capitol-day>

Camp Dixon <https://www.mhea.net/camp-dixon>

Calling or emailing us if you have questions:

662-494-1999

mheanet@gmail.com

Three Simple Steps to Homeschooling in Mississippi

NOTE: If your child is enrolled in a public, private, or other school, coordinate withdrawal through the principal's office or other school official.

1. **FILL OUT** the Mississippi Department of Education's Certificate of Enrollment—
https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Offices/MDE/OAE/OCSA/certificate_of_enrollment_03.25.2024_0.pdf — to comply with the Mississippi homeschooling law.

This form must be submitted every year by September 15 for each child you homeschool that year.

You may still withdraw a child from public or private school and homeschool them after the September 15 date.

2. **SUBMIT** the completed form to your local Student Attendance Officer AFTER making a copy for yourself. If you don't know who your Student Attendance Officer is, call MDE's Office of Compulsory School Attendance at 601-359-5743 and ask for the details.
3. **LEARN** *how* to teach, *when* to teach, *which* curricula to use, and many other homeschool issues by watching the 60-minute crash course video on homeschooling in Mississippi. Also, check out the multi-page handout in pdf form below the video: <https://www.mhea.net/how-to-homeschool> .

Caution: There are scammers with bogus sites claiming to be online homeschool programs. Make sure you pick a reputable site that has existed many years with good reviews. Check out a list here:
<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-extras/online-schools-and-courses>

Thankfully, Mississippi has a homeschool-friendly law that simply requires us to fill out one form each year for every child we home educate that year.

Here's an easy-to-read at-a-glance version of our law: <https://hsllda.org/legal/mississippi>

For a more detailed look at the law, click here:

https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Page_Docs/home-school---ms-code-37-13-91_0.pdf

You might have a local homeschooling support group in your area that possibly offers field trips, co-op classes, dances, graduation, and many other options. Check them out here:

<https://www.mhea.net/support-groups>

If your child struggles with any form of special needs, check out Home School Legal Defense Association's info at <https://hsllda.org/teaching-my-kids/special-needs>

You can also check out the homeschool heroes at SPEDHomeschool:

<https://www.spedhomeschool.com/free-downloads>

SPECIAL ALERT: If you homeschool a few years during grades K-8 and then send your child to public school, the school will likely administer a placement test to your child to see what grade he/she is ready for in their system.

GREATER ALERT: If you homeschool during some of the high school years and then choose to enroll your child in public school for the rest of high school, TALK TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ABOUT HOW THEY'LL HANDLE THIS SITUATION.

Public schools struggle to compare homeschool courses that have been completed with public school courses needed for the school's diploma, and many schools will place everyone back in 9th grade regardless of their age.