



Who We Are

The Education Alliance is a division of Family Council. Based in Little Rock, Family Council was established in 1989 in association with Focus on the Family and Dr. James Dobson. Family Council is a conservative research and education organization dedicated to upholding traditional values in accordance with biblical principles. Family Council and The Education Alliance are nonpartisan, non profit, and tax-deductible. We are governed by an independent

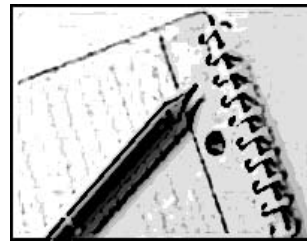
board of directors, and we are supported entirely by charitable gifts from the people of Arkansas. The Education Alliance was established as a division of Family Council in 1998. Since then, we have served as Arkansas' largest state-wide home school organization. In addition, we are the contact organization with the Home School Legal Defense Association. Our full-time staff is dedicated to serving the needs of homeschoolers across the state of Arkansas.

Why We Support Home Schooling:

1. Home schooling provides parents with the opportunity to fulfill their responsibility of ensuring their children are educated.
2. Home schools provide a one to one teacher to student ratio.
3. Home school teachers love their students unconditionally.
4. Home school curricula and teaching styles are designed specifically for each student.
5. Home schools provide the opportunity for spiritual and moral training.
6. Home schools provide a safe and orderly learning environment.

The Mission of the Education Alliance

Quality education for all Arkansas children is at the heart of our mission. We believe parents should be able to obtain a high quality education for their children through our system of public and private schools, as well as home schools. We believe parents have a God-given responsibility to ensure that their children are educated. Therefore, parents must be free to choose the type of education they believe is best for their child. We seek to promote, protect, and strengthen home schooling by serving as a statewide home school support organization dedicated to helping anyone interested in home schooling.



The mission of the Education Alliance is to meet the following needs:

Availability: Homeschooling needs to be an option for as many Arkansas parents as possible.

Regulation: Home schools need to be defended from unnecessary regulation.

Involvement: Parents who home school need to be informed about home school issues and involved in promoting, protecting and defending home schools.

Public Opinion: The general public needs to be educated about home schooling.

Public Policy: Laws that will assist home schooling need to be passed and laws that will hurt home schooling need to be defeated.

Support Groups: Arkansas needs a viable network of home school support groups in communities around the state.

Education Choice: Parents who choose to transfer their child from a home school to a public or private school need to be able to do so without discrimination.

Opportunities: Students who are enrolled in home schools need to be able to access educational and extracurricular opportunities the same as students enrolled in public or private schools.

Post High School Assistance: Home school students need help securing enrollment in institutions of higher learning, acceptance into the military and securing jobs without discrimination.

Accomplishments of the Education Alliance:

Since its organization under Family Council, the Education Alliance has doubled the size of its state-wide network of home school families to over 4,000.

The Education Alliance holds two home school graduation ceremonies with over 100 graduates each spring.

In 1999 and 2003, the Education Alliance lobbied the Arkansas Legislature, providing expert testimony and other information to defeat bad home school legislation.

The Education Alliance has also had the opportunity to work with the Arkansas Department of Education and other state agencies in efforts to improve education conditions around the state.

It has conducted media interviews on home schooling.

The Education Alliance also provides home school packets to parents who are considering the option of home schooling.

The E.A. staff works to provide free consulting and advice regarding anything related to home schooling.

High school transcripts are also available for a donation of any amount.

Monthly update letters are also sent to everyone on the mailing list, keeping people informed on current education issues.

The Education Alliance also provides free e-mail alerts to everyone on its e-mail list.

Over the last few years The Education Alliance staff has conducted numerous speaking engagements all over Arkansas.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Getting Started

1. What do I need to do to begin home schooling?

Answer: Fill out and turn in a notice of intent to your local public school superintendent.

2. Where do I get books to home school my child?

Answer: There are numerous places where you can order books. See the attached list of home school resources.

3. Are there any restrictions on which parents can home school their child?

Answer: Unless you are a registered sex offender, you can home school your child(ren) in Arkansas. Home school curricula are tailored to enable individuals without teaching degrees to be very successful homeschoolers.

4. Does the State of Arkansas oversee my home school?

Answer: No. They do maintain records for statistical data only.

5. Does the State of Arkansas require any specific home school curriculum?

Answer: No

6. Does the State of Arkansas require any certain number of home school hours per day or days per year?

Answer: No

7. Does the State of Arkansas require the parent to have any particular level of education in order to home school?

Answer: No

8. How can I contact other home school families in my area of the state?

Answer: Over 75 home school support groups cover most of the state. Please see the list of home school support groups on our website at www.arkansashomeschool.org

9. Does the State of Arkansas require me to keep any particular set of home school records such as test scores, etc?

Answer: No. However, it is a good idea to keep a record of work done by your home school student in case anyone were to ever question the quality of education you are providing in your home school.

10. Does the State of Arkansas require my home school student to take any mandated tests?

Answer: No

11. If I register my home schooled child for a certain grade, do I have to limit my curriculum to that specific grade?

Answer: No. One positive aspect of home schooling is that parents can tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of the child. This means that parents have the freedom to enroll their child in subjects from more than one grade level at the same time.

12. Can home school students skip grades or be held back?

Answer: Yes.

13. Can home school students start school a year late?

Answer: Yes.

14. Do homeschoolers have to enroll in kindergarten at the same age as public school students? You can find the Kindergarten Waiver at the Arkansas Department of Education website.

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/public-school-accountability/standards-monitoring/enrollment>

Answer: No. By turning in a kindergarten waiver form to the local public school district, parents may waive kindergarten for their child.

15. Can a grandparent or someone other than the parent teach a child?

Answer: Yes. The definition of a home school as described by Arkansas state law is that the home school must be provided by the parent. As long as the parent is overseeing the home school, it is perfectly acceptable for others (i.e. grandparents, tutors, etc.) to do the teaching.

16. Can a home school declare itself to be a private school and avoid state home school regulation?

Answer: An Arkansas court ruling from the 1980's stated that a home school could not be a private school. No other rulings exist on this matter.

17. How much does it cost to home school a student for one school year?

Answer: There is no set answer to this question. It is less expensive to teach a kindergarten student than one in high school. Some parents supplement their child's education with online classes on the internet. Some buy used books and others buy new ones. Some people borrow books and others utilize resources from their public library. As a general rule, parents can expect to spend around \$300 per year per child on books.

18. Does the State of Arkansas provide any books or other material for homeschoolers?

Answer: No

19. Can public school superintendents require parents to interview with him before being allowed to home school?

Answer: No

20. Can public school superintendents require proof of residency before accepting home school notices of intent?

Answer: No

21. Do parents who are transferring their child from a public school to a home school have to tell the superintendent why they are transferring?

Answer: No

22. Can my child(ren) participate in Interscholastic Activities. Yes, In accordance with ACT 1469 of 2013, a legally enrolled home school student may participate in interscholastic activities. Refer to the Home School Law.

http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Charter%20and%20Home%20School/Home%20School-Division%20of%20Learning%20Services/Home_School_Law_2015.pdf

Child Development

1. What about the socialization of my child?

Answer: Numerous opportunities for socialization exist outside of schools. Home school students can take advantage of these. Also, home school students are spared some of the negative socialization that goes on at a traditional school.

2. Will my child's development be affected if he or she has little contact with other children?

Answer: Isolating a child is not good. Most home school students are afforded sufficient time to play with other children through organized home school activities, church, scouting, or through friends and family. In addition, home school students have a greater opportunity to learn to relate to adults.

Transferring From Home School to Public or Private School

1. What if we decide to transfer our child from home school to public school?

Answer: Transferring from home school to public school in grades K – 8 is much easier than in grades 9-12. Most public schools will give credit for courses completed in a home school in elementary school. Some high schools refuse to give credit for home school courses completed in grades 9 -12. It would be wise to check with your local public school about their policy for home school students who transfer to their school.

2. What if we decide to transfer our child from a home school to a private school?

Answer: Each private school sets its own admission requirements. However, it is generally easier to transfer from a home school to a private school than to a public school.

High School Graduation, Diplomas, and College

1. If we home school through high school, how does my child graduate and obtain a high school diploma?

Answer: Several home school support organizations, including The Education Alliance, offer high school diplomas and graduation ceremonies. Most home school students participate in some type of high school graduation and receive a home school high school diploma. In addition, The Education Alliance offers transcripts (for a donation of any amount) to home school students who submit a list of the courses they have completed. There are still some employers and certain institutions of higher learning that will require students who graduate from a home school to pass a General Educational Development (GED) test. However, there are very few.

2. If we home school through high school, how does my child gain admission into college?

Answer: Most colleges have admission procedures for home school students. It is a good idea to check out those admission requirements during the student's 9th grade year and then re-check it during the student's 11th grade year. This will enable the student to take any specific courses that may be required for admission to a particular college or university. Generally speaking, a home school student with a good ACT or SAT test score will have little trouble gaining admission into most colleges or universities.

Special Needs Students

1. Can students with special needs be home schooled?

Answer: Yes. Students with special needs can be home schooled the same as any other students. See enclosed sheet for more information on home schooling students with special needs.

2. Do students with special needs have to take the state-mandated test?

Answer: No.

3. Can I obtain special education services for my home schooled child through the public schools?

Answer: A very small amount of federal funds are available for non-public school students to obtain special education services through the public schools. However these services are very difficult to obtain. Contact your local district regarding this matter.

Penalties

1. What if I fail to complete the notice of intent in time to register my child for home schooling?

Answer: Under Arkansas law, students not enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school are truant. Home school children whose parents fail to file the notice of intent are truant under Arkansas law. Truancy is a crime for which parents can be punished. Parents can be required to appear in court, fines can be levied, and social workers can be ordered to intervene in the home. In extreme cases, parents can be jailed and children placed in foster care.

2. What if I fail to provide an "adequate" level of education for my home school child?

Answer: Educational neglect is considered child abuse under Arkansas law. Though it is difficult to prove, parents who neglect the education of their children can be treated the same as any other parent who abuses their children. Parents can be fined, imprisoned, or supervised by the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Children can be placed in foster care, placed in public school, or overseen by the juvenile justice system.

Standardized Tests

1. How do home school students do on standardized tests when compared to their public school counterparts?

Answer: Every year for 20 years in a row, Arkansas home school students have outperformed their public school counterparts on standardized tests.

Home School testing was repealed in 2015 and became effective July 1, 2015.

If a parent chooses to test their student(s) they are responsible for contacting a provider and purchasing the test. **Seton Home Study School:** <http://www.setontesting.com>, **A Beka Testing:** <http://www.abekatesting.org>, **Bob Jones University:** <http://www.bjupress.com>, and **Brewer Testing Services:** <http://www.brewertesting.com>

Academics

1. Can home school students take courses at the local public school?

Answer: Home school students are allowed to take academic courses at the local public school if the local school board approves it. Most public schools in Arkansas make no provision for home school students to take classes at the public school. However, there is a funding formula in place where the school can receive funding for the child taking that course.

2. Can home school students take courses at a private school?

Answer: Yes, if the private school approves it.

3. Can home school students participate in regional science fairs, spelling bees and other similar competitions that are not sanctioned by the Arkansas Activities Association?

Answer: Yes, if the sponsoring organization allows it.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

1. What opportunities for extracurricular activities exist for homeschoolers?

Act 1469 of 2013 allows home schoolers to try out for extracurricular activities at their local public school.

This law requires a school let home schooled students try out or sign up for extracurricular activities if the students demonstrate academic eligibility; requires students be present at school for no more than one class period—which many extracurricular activities might require anyway; sets standards by which home schooled students participating in extracurricular activities meet and maintain participation eligibility. A copy of the law is in the back of this packet.

Schedule

1. When can a home school student drop out of school?

Answer: Like students at public and private schools, home school students must remain in school until their 18th birthday or until they graduate from high school.

2. Can home school students work during the day?

Answer: Yes. There are no state requirements regarding when a home school student must attend classes.

3. Can home school students take holidays at times that are different from public schools?

Answer: Yes. Many home school families conduct school year-round and enjoy taking holidays at times when other students are in school.

Other Questions

1. Can public school superintendents encourage their “undesirable” students to leave public school and begin home schooling?

Answer: Yes

2. Can home school children be out of the home during normal school hours?

Answer: Little Rock and some other cities may have a daytime curfew for children. These do not apply if they are accompanied by a parent or if they have legitimate business such as a teenager on his or her way to or from work. Otherwise, there is nothing illegal about home school children being outside during the day. Allowing home school children to roam the neighborhood during normal school hours may provide anyone who does not approve of home schooling with a reason to contact authorities.

3. How many home school students are there in Arkansas?

Answer: The number of home school students increases each year. At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, over 19,000 students were enrolled in Arkansas home schools.

4. If I stop home schooling, do I have to report this to my local school district?

Answer: No

Home School Resources

Curriculum and Supplements

A Beka Books
PO Box 17600
Pensacola, FL 32522-7750
800-874-3592

www.abeka.org

Norm reference testing

Accelerated Christian Education
P.O. Box 2707
Hendersonville, TN 37077-2707
800-925-7777

www.aceministries.com

Advanced Training Institute International
One Academy Blvd.
Big Sandy, TX 75755
630-323-2842

<https://atii.org/>

Alpha Omega Publications
804 North 2nd Avenue, East
Rock Rapids, IA 51246
800-622-3070

www.aop.com

American Baptist Book Store
4605 N State Line Avenue
Texarkana, Texas 75503
903-793-5111, 800-264-2482
<http://www.abaptist.org/bookstore.html>

American School
2200 E. 170th Street
Lansing, IL 60438
708-418-2800, 866-260-7221
www.americanschoolofcorr.com

Apologetics Press
230 Landmark Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36117
800-234-8558
www.apologeticspress.org

Apologia Educational Ministries, Inc.
1106 Meridian Plaza, Ste. 220
Anderson, IN 46016
888-524-4724
www.highschoolscience.com

Astronomy Delight
15 Greentree Drive
South Hyde Park, NY 12538
845-229-4434
www.astronomydelight.com/education/homeschools.html

Bob Jones University Press
1430 Wade Hampton Blvd.
Greenville, SC 29609
800-845-5731

www.bjup.com

Norm reference testing

Bridgeway Homeschool Academy
334 2nd Street
Catasauqua, PA 18032
800-863-1474
<https://www.homeschoolacademy.com>

Cadron Creek Christian Curriculum
4329 Highway 15
Silver City, NM 88061
575-534-1496
www.cadroncreek.com

Calvert School
105 Tuscany Road
Baltimore, MD 21210
410-243-6054
www.calvertschoolmd.org

Charlotte Mason Schools International
PO Box 2976
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
855-338-5433
www.amblesideschools.com/main/charlotte-mason

Christian Liberty Academy School System
502 W. Euclid Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
800-348-0899
www.homeschools.org

Christian Light Education
PO Box 1212
Harrisonburg, VA 22803-1212
800-776-0478
www.clp.org

Citizens' High School
188 College Drive P. O. Box 66089
Orange Park, FL 32065-6089
800-736-4723, 904-276-1700
www.citizenschool.com

Classical Conversations
255 Air Tool Drive
Southern Pines, NC 28387
910-684-5665
www.classicalconversations.com

Clonlara School
1289 Jewett
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-769-4511
www.clonlara.org

Cornerstone Learning Connection
2801 International Lane #110
Madison, WI 53704
608-770-9914
www.cornerstonelearningconnections.com

Digital Interactive Video Education
PO Box 1324
Magnolia, TX 77484
888-841-3456
www.rainbowresource.com

Driver Ed in a Box
1539 South mason Rd, #62
Katy, TX 77450
888-315-1546
www.driveredinabox.com

Easy Grammar
PO Box 25970
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
800-641-6015
www.easygrammar.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Educators Book Depository of Arkansas
6700 Sloan Drive
Little Rock, AR 72206
501-490-0007
<http://www.educatorsbook.com/>
Textbooks- same as used in public schools. Must have ISBN number before calling.

Empowering Writers
731 Main Street, Suite 117
Monroe, CT 06468
866-285-3516
www.empoweringwriters.com

Geography Matters
2561 Highway 235
Nancy, KY 42544
800-426-4650
www.geomatters.com

Grammar Works People
25234 Co. Rd. 55
Henning, MN 56551
218-583-2826
www.grammarworks.com
<http://www.theworkspeople.com/>

GRIGGS University International Academy
8903 U.S. Hwy 31
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1950
800-782-4769
<http://www.griggs.edu>

Handwriting Without Tears
806 West Diamond Ave, Suite 230
Gaithersburg, MD
888-983-8409
www.hwtears.com

Hewitt Homeschooling Resources
3140 Evergreen Way
Washougal, WA 98671
800-348-1750
www.hewitthomeschooling.com

Holy Cow Science
9015 Brunswick Rd.
Rosemark, TN 38053
901-568-2360
www.holycowscience.com

How Great Thou Art
PO Box 48
McFarlan, NC 28102
800-982-DRAW (3729)
www.howgreatthouart.com

Institute for Excellence in Writing
PO Box 6065
Atascadero, CA 93423
800-856-5815
www.writing-edu.com

James Madison High School
6625 The Corners Parkway, Ste.500
Norcross, GA 30092-3406
(800) 349-6861
www.jmhs.com

Keystone National High School
920 Central Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1564
800-255-4937
www.keystonehighschool.com

Kolbe Academy
1600 F Street
Napa, CA 94559
707-255-6499
<http://www.kolbe.org/>

KONOS
5441 County Roads 424
Anna, TX 75409
972-924-2712
www.konos.com

Landmark's Freedom Baptist Curriculum
2020 East Hinson Ave.
Haines City, FL 33844
863-422-2037
www.landmarkbaptistchurch.org

Laurel Springs School
1615 West Chest Pike
West Pike, PA 19382
800-377-5890
<http://laurelsprings.com/>

Lighthouse Christian Academy
P. O. Box 508
Nashville, TN 37007
866-746-6534
<http://www.lcaed.com/?content=main>

Math-U-See
PO Box 8888
Lancaster, PA 17604
888-854-6284
www.mathusee.com

Miller Pads and Paper
2840 Neff Rd.
Boscobel, WI 53805
608-375-2181
www.millerpadsandpaper.com

The Moore Foundation
P.O. Box 543
Dufur, OR 97021
541-467-2444
www.moorefoundation.com

My Father's World Books
PO Box 2140
Rolla, MO 65402
573-202-2000
www.mfwbooks.com

Rainbow Resources
655 Township Road 500 E
Toulon, IL 61483
888-841-3456
www.rainbowresource.com

Rod and Staff
3095 Lawrence 2090
LaRussell, MO 64848
417-246-5640

Saxon Publishers, Inc.
9205 Southpark Center Loop
Orlando, FL 32819
800-225-5425
www.hmhco.com/at-home/homeschool

Seton Home Study School
1350 Progress Drive
Front Royal, VA 22630
866-280-1930
www.setonhome.org
Norm reference testing

Scholastic Book Fairs
557 Broadway
New York, New York 10012
800-724-6527
www.scholastic.com

ShillerMath
661 W. Germantown Pike Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
888-556-6284
www.shillermath.com

Sonlight Curriculum, Inc.
8042 S. Grant Way
Littleton, CO 80122
800-903-1675
www.sonlight.com

Teaching Textbooks
6710 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
866-867-6284
www.teachingtextbooks.com

Time 4 Learning
6300 NE 1 Ave, Suite 203
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33334
888-771-0914
<http://www.time4learning.com/>

Total Language Plus
5345 CR 8800
West Plains, MO 65775
417-256-1805
www.totallanguageplus.com

TRISMS Homeschool Curriculum
1203 S. Delaware Pl.
Tulsa, OK 74104
918-585-2778
www.trisms.com

VideoText Interactive
PO Box 19761
Indianapolis, IN 46219
800-254-3272
www.videotext.com

Visual Manna
PO Box 553
Salem, MO 65560
573-453-6364
www.visualmanna.com

Used Curriculum Providers

The Back Pack

PO Box 125
Ernul, NC 28527
252-244-0728
888-268-5087 (orders only)
www.thebackpack.com

Educator' Exchange

10755 Midlothian Turnpike, Ste. 308
Richmond, VA 23235
804-837-9666

Fetch Book

www.fetchbook.info

Home School Classifieds

516 Nobscot Road
Knoxville, TN 37919
www.homeschoolclassifieds.com

Home School Super Center

www.Homeschoolsupercenter.com
888-689-4626

Homeschool Potpourri

12815 NE 124th St, Ste. F
Kirkland, WA 98034
425-820-4626
www.hspbooks.com

Second Harvest Curriculum

409 West 2nd
McCook, NE 69001
308-350-0335
www.usedhomeschoolbooks.com

Shekinah Curriculum Cellar

1815 Whittington Road
Kilgore, TX 75662
903-643-2760
www.shekinahhomeschool.com

Used Homeschool Curriculum

www.Usedhomeschoolcurriculum.com

**You can also find books at amazon.com and on ebay.com*

Resources for Special Needs Families

Alliance for Full Participation

301-706-6252
www.allianceforfullparticipation.org

American Council of the Blind

1703 N Beauregard St, Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22311
800-424-8666
www.acb.org

American Society for Deaf Children

800 Florida Ave, NE #2047
Washington, DC 20002
800-942-2732
www.deafchildren.org

Association of Late-Deafened Adults

877-907-1738 Voice
708-358-0135 TTY
www.alda.org

Auditory-Verbal International, Inc.

815-332-1515
www.auditory-verbal.org

Autism Society of America

4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814
800-328-8476
www.autism-society.org

Caring Communities Inc/World of Possibilities

866-CARING-4
www.caringcommunities.org

Center for Development and Disability

2300 Menaul Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
505-272-3000
www.cdd.unm.edu

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

4601 Presidents Drive, Suite 300
Lanham, MD 20706
800-233-4050
www.chadd.org

Council for Exceptional Children

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22202
888-232-7733
www.cec.sped.org

Council for Learning Disabilities

11184 Antioch Road, Box 405
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-491-1011
www.cldinternational.org

Families Together Inc.

913-287-1970
www.familiestogetherinc.org

Institute for Disability Studies

118 College Drive #5163
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
601-266-5163
www.usm.edu/disability-studies/ids-contact

International Dyslexia Association

40 York Road, 4th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21204
410-296-0232
<https://dyslexiaida.org/>

International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association

PO Box 321
Stow, MA 01755
855-IMDSA-21
www.imdsa.org

Learning Disabilities Association

4156 Library Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
412-341-1515
www.lidaamerica.org

National Association for Gifted Children

1331 H Street, NW Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20005
202-785-4268
www.nagc.org

National Association of the Deaf

8630 Fenton Street, Suite 820
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-587-1788 Voice
301-587-1789 TTY
www.nad.org

National Challenged Homeschoolers

208-267-6246

www.NATHHAN.org

National Down Syndrome Congress

30 Mansell Court, Suite 108

Rosewell, GA 30076

800-232-6372

www.ndscenter.org

National Down Syndrome Society

800-221-4602

www.ndss.org

National Federation of the Blind

200 East Wells Street

Baltimore, MD 21230

410-659-9314

www.nfb.org

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1200

Bethesda, MD 20814

301-657-2248 Voice

301-657-2249 TTY

www.shhh.org

Spina Bifida Association of America

800-621-3141

www.spinabifidaassociation.org

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted

PO Box 1184

Schenectady, NY 12301

844-488-SENG

www.sengifted.org

The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps

1875 Eye Street NW, Suite 582

Washington, DC 20006

202-429-2080

www.tash.org

The Invisible Child Foundation

P.O. Box 4067

Parker, CO 80134

800-949-4232

www.invisiblechild.org

The National Association for the Dually Diagnosed

132 Fair Street

Kingston, NY 12401

845-331-4336

www.thenadd.org

United Cerebral Palsy

1825 K Street, NW, Suite 600

Washington, DC 20006

800-872-5827

www.ucp.org

Eta Sigma Alpha

National Home School Honor Society

The purpose of Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among home school students. To achieve this purpose, Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society shall provide opportunities for the development of an intellectual climate that will stimulate the exchange of ideas and ideals, foster scholarship, and promote academic excellence. Eta Sigma Alpha shall also advocate homeschooling as a viable and successful educational methodology and act as a liaison for homeschooling to the general public, colleges/universities, and the media.

Eta Sigma Alpha is the first honor society established exclusively for homeschooled students. Founded in 1999 by Joanne E. Juren, M.Ed., Executive Director of the Home Education Partnership of Texas, it has grown into a national organization.

As a former public school administrator, Juren contacted the National Honor Society with the intent of forming a homeschool chapter for her sons and others in a local support group in 1997. When told that NHS did not accept homeschool students, Juren decided to start a new honor society for homeschoolers. The new society was named Eta Sigma Alpha; Eta is the Greek letter “h,” Sigma is the Greek letter “s,” and Alpha means “first.” Therefore, Eta Sigma Alpha means “first home school” honor society. Mrs. Juren wants to make it clear that “Eta Sigma Alpha isn’t just another honor roll,” because there is a community service requirement and there are elected positions such as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Eta Sigma Alpha has grown rapidly. Currently, there are at least 75 chapters and some groups have as many as 50 or 60 members.

The Arkansas Home School Honor Society, formally known as the Kappa Gamma Chapter of Eta Sigma Alpha, was established in 2003. To become a member, students must have:

- 1) Completed the 9th grade.
- 2) Obtain at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and
- 3) Receive any ONE of the following:
 - a) SAT combined score of at least 1800,
 - b) New SAT (March 2016) – 1200
 - c) ACT composite score of at least 26,
 - d) PSAT score of at least - 1200
 - e) PSAT 10 score -1200
 - f) PSAT 8/9 score of - 1200
 - g) Iowa (ITBS) – 90% composite score
- 4) Proof they are a legal home school student in the state of Arkansas.

For more information or to request an application, contact the Education Alliance office at 501-978-5503 or info@arkansashomeschool.org.

Portions of this article were taken from The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, written by Erin McRee, a 14 year-old homeschooler from Arizona. www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT NOTICE OF INTENT

Note: Turn in your family Home School Notice of Intent form at your local school superintendent's office NO LATER THAN **August 15th**. You may MAIL OR FILE ONLINE with your local superintendent's office by the AUGUST 15 deadline. (**DO NOT MAIL THESE FORMS TO THE EDUCATION ALLIANCE!!!**)

Fill in the **Student Information** as required. "Type of School Last Attended," the choices are public, private, parochial or home school. Circle one, list the name of the school and address last attended.

Notarization: This is required **ONLY IF** your student will be applying for a GED or driver's permit or license. If you do have a student who, during the school year, will be applying for a driver's permit or license, you must have the intent notarized (which can generally be done in the superintendent's office or your local bank). A copy of this notarized intent will be required by the state police examiner when the student applies for the permit or license.

WHAT IS REQUIRED BY LAW?

The Home School Law states that the "notice must include the name, date of birth, grade level, and the name and address of the school last attended, if any, of each student involved; and the location of the home school."

Requests for any other information may be considered optional.

****Please note that some of the Home School Law was changed during the 2017 Legislation Session. The Arkansas Department of Education is working to update and release the Rules Governing Home School. The information listed (below) is outdated but still has valuable information that can be used.***

*ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING HOME SCHOOLS

August 2007

1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1.01 These regulations shall be known as Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Home Schools.

1.02 These regulations are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-15-501 et seq., 25-15-201 et seq., and Act 824 of 2007.

2.00 PURPOSE

It is the purpose of these regulations to set reasonable guidelines for the operation of Home Schools.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these rules and regulations:

3.01 A "home school" is a school provided by a parent or legal guardian for his or her own child.

- 3.02 A "testing window" is an established testing calendar as determined by the Arkansas Department of Education.
- 3.03 "Alternate testing procedures" refers to any testing date(s) and/or location(s) within the testing window and approved by the education service cooperatives and Pulaski County school districts for home school students.
- 3.04 "A norm-referenced test (NRT)" is any testing instrument required by state law, rule or regulation to measure the performance/achievement of Arkansas students relative to the performance of the achievement of students who comprise the norming or standardization group for a particular commercial instrument.
- 3.05 An "individualized education program (IEP)" is a written record of decisions reached between parent/guardian and school personnel jointly describing the educational program for a child with a disability.
- 3.06 "Current school year" is the official period of time for pupil/teacher interaction within the school district policy which follows the requirements in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106 (Repl. 1993) (Uniform dates for beginning and ending a school year).

4.00 GENERAL

- 4.01 Under Arkansas law children between the ages of five (5) and seventeen (17) on or before September 15 of that year, in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201 (Supp. 1997), as amended by Act 570 of 1999 must attend school.
- 4.02 A parent/guardian who intends to home school a child in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201 [as amended] must enroll the child in a home school at the beginning of each school year but no later than August 15 for the fall semester, or by December 15 for the spring semester, or, subject to the provisions of Sections 4.03 and 4.04, fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing. The superintendent or local school board may waive the fourteen (14) day waiting period.
- 4.03 No public school student shall be eligible for enrollment in a home school if the student is currently under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy including, but not limited to, excessive unexcused absences. Exceptions to this requirement are outlined in Section 4.04.
- 4.04 Public school students who are under disciplinary action by the local school district shall be eligible for enrollment in a home school if:
 - 4.04.1 The superintendent or local school board chooses to allow the child to enroll in a home school;
 - 4.04.2 The disciplinary action against the student has been completed or at the end of a school semester, whichever occurs first; or
 - 4.04.3 The student has been expelled.
- 4.05 Parent/guardian may elect for a child, who will not be kindergarten age in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201, [as amended], not to attend kindergarten by filing a Kindergarten Waiver form with the local school district office.

- 4.06 Home school students who enroll in a public, private or parochial school during the time they are home schooling cannot re-enter home schooling until new Notice of Intent and Waiver forms are completed and returned to the local school district.
- 4.07 Home school students who are in the required grade levels for which the state mandates norm-referenced testing and who are no more than two (2) years beyond the normal age for the required grade levels must take a standardized norm-referenced test as identified by the Arkansas Department of Education, and the results will be used for reporting purposes only.
- 4.08 Any student who refuses to participate in the required testing program shall be subject to the applicable Arkansas laws regarding truancy. This Section shall not be applicable to any parent that can present written acknowledgement that their child has been enrolled in a public, private or parochial school within thirty (30) days of the administration of the state-mandated tests.
- 4.09 Books, curricula or materials are not required to be furnished by the Arkansas Department of Education, local school district or education service cooperative. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to purchase all books, curricula or materials that they use in home schooling.

5.00 NOTICE OF INTENT

- 5.01 Parents or Guardians who plan to home school must file written notice by completing and returning the printed current year Notice of Intent and Waiver forms to the public school superintendent's office of their local school district by August 15 for the beginning of each school year, or by December 15 for the spring semester, or, subject to the provisions of Sections 4.03 and 4.04, fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing the child from the local school district during the school year. Parents or guardians must sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their child(ren) during the time that parent chooses to home school. The Notice of Intent and Waiver forms are valid for the entire school year if filed at the beginning of the school year or for the remainder of the school year if filed during the school year. There are no exceptions to these filing requirements except as outlined in 5.02.
- 5.02 Parents or guardians moving into a school district during the school year must file the current year printed Notice of Intent and Waiver forms with their local public school superintendent's office within thirty (30) calendar days of establishing residency within the district.
- 5.03 The required Notice of Intent and Waiver forms must be the printed current year forms obtained from your local superintendent's office and must include the following information for reporting and test administration purposes only:
 - 5.03.1 The name, date of birth and grade level of each child and the name and address of the public, private, home school or parochial school last attended, if any, for each student.
 - 5.03.2 The location of the home school (mailing address).
 - 5.03.3 A brief description of the basic core curriculum to be used and the subjects to be taught.
 - 5.03.4 Schedule of instruction to be followed (hours per day; days per week; number of weeks).
 - 5.03.5 The education qualifications of the parent/guardian/teacher(s).

- 5.03.6 Parents or guardians shall deliver written notice in person to the superintendent of their local school district the first time such notice is given.

6.00 TESTING REQUIRED – ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

- 6.01 Test administration of home school students shall be under the direction of the education service cooperatives and the Pulaski County school districts. Achievement testing will be held during the testing window identified by the Arkansas Department of Education.
- 6.02 The education service cooperatives and Pulaski County school districts will ensure that all test materials are secure before testing, between and following test administration and provide the Arkansas Department of Education, for approval by the Director, with a common set of procedures for test administration of home school students in the required grade levels. These common set of procedures must include security measures to ensure that appropriate testing conditions and protocol have been followed as specified in the test administration materials.
- 6.03 Each student enrolled in home school who is considered to be in the required grades or no more than two (2) years beyond the age appropriate grade will be tested by using the State identified norm-referenced achievement test.
- 6.04 Parents/guardians or groups of home school parents/guardians requesting alternate testing procedures, protocols, locations and/or timeframe must be submitted in writing three (3) weeks prior to the testing window to the education service cooperatives or the Pulaski County school districts and testing must remain within the State identified testing dates. If approved, alternate testing procedure costs, other than the testing materials, shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- 6.05 Alternate testing procedures and protocol will be arranged by the education service cooperatives and Pulaski County school districts.
- 6.06 Requests from parent/guardian whose child(ren) cannot test on Saturdays due to religious reasons will be accommodated. Parent/guardians must indicate in the appropriate section at the time they file their Notice of Intent that their child(ren) cannot test on Saturdays due to religious reasons.

7.00 TEST RESULTS

Test results for home school students will be used for reporting purposes only. The parent/guardian will receive the individual student profile. The Arkansas Department of Education will receive the administrative summaries. The administrative summaries will not contain personally identifiable information.

8.00 TRANSFER OF STUDENTS

- 8.01 Students transferring from a home school to a school which is accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education shall be evaluated by the staff of the accredited school to determine proper placement. As part of the ongoing assessment process, a State identified norm-referenced achievement test shall be one of the instruments utilized.
- 8.02 Home Schools are not accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education. There are no grades, credits, transcripts or diploma provided by the Arkansas Department of Education, education service cooperative or by the local school district for students enrolled in home school.

8.03 Any home school student who re-enters a local school district must attend classes for at least nine (9) months immediately prior to graduation before the student can become eligible to receive a high school diploma from the local school district.

9.00 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

9.01 By way of these regulations, it shall be the policy of the State Board of Education that school districts provide a genuine opportunity (see 34 C.F.R. Sec. 76.651(a)) to students who are home-schooled with disabilities, as defined in state regulations, to access special education and related services from the district where they reside. This policy is not to be construed as conferring the procedural protections and rights under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to such students and their parent/guardians.

9.02 Each student with disabilities in the required grades who participates in the norm-referenced testing program shall, upon notification in the application for testing, be eligible for any or all modifications allowed by the test procedures. The use of such modifications will be approved by the educational services cooperative director or his designee.

10.00 DRIVER'S PERMIT/LICENSE

A student enrolled in a home school shall present proof of home schooling in the form of a notarized copy of the Notice of Intent along with an application for an instructional permit or driver's license. The parent/guardian has the responsibility of providing the notarized copy.

*** Legislation is current through the 2013 Regular Session and updates ***
*** received from the Arkansas Code Revision Commission through ***
*** October 9, 2013. ***

Title 6 Education
Subtitle 2. Elementary And Secondary Education Generally
Chapter 15 Educational Standards and Quality Generally
Subchapter 5 -- Home Schools

6-15-501. Definition.

As used in this subchapter, "home school" means a school provided by a parent or legal guardian for his or her own child.

HISTORY: Acts 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 40, § 2; 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 42, § 2; A.S.A. 1947, § 80-1503.5; Acts 2007, No. 824, § 1.

6-15-502. Rules, regulations, and procedures for monitoring and enforcing provisions.

(a) The provisions of § 6-18-201(a) shall be self-executing, and the State Board of Education shall have no authority to promulgate rules, regulations, or guidelines for the enforcement or administration thereof.

(b) The state board is empowered to make such reasonable rules and regulations required for the proper administration of this subchapter which are not inconsistent with the intent of this subchapter.

HISTORY: Acts 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 40, § 3; 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 42, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 80-1503.6; Acts 1987, No. 260, § 1; 1995, No. 522, § 1; 1997, No. 400, § 2; 1999, No. 1117, §§ 1, 2.

6-15-503. Prerequisites to home schooling.

(a) (1) Parents or guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children must give written notice to the superintendent of their local school district of their intent to provide a home school for their children and sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their children during the time that the parents choose to home school:

(A) At the beginning of each school year but no later than August 15;

(B) By December 15 for parents who decide to start home schooling at the beginning of the spring semester; or

(C) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing the children from the local school district and at the beginning of each school year thereafter. The superintendent or the local school board of directors may waive the fourteen-day waiting period.

(2) Within thirty (30) calendar days of establishing residency within the school district, parents or guardians moving into the school district during the school year must give written notice to the superintendent of their local school district of their intent to provide a home school for their children and sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their children during the time that the parents choose to home school.

(3) The notice must include:

(A) The name, date of birth, grade level, and name and address of the school last attended, if any, of each

student involved;

- (B) The location of the home school;
- (C) The basic core curriculum to be offered;
- (D) The proposed schedule of instruction; and
- (E) The qualifications of the parent-teacher.

(4) Parents or guardians shall deliver written notice in person to the superintendent of their local school district the first time such notice is given.

(b) This information may be used only for statistical purposes and test administration.

(c) Each local school district shall report the statistical data required by this section to the Department of Education each year.

(d) (1) No public school student shall be eligible for enrollment in a home school if the student is currently under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy, including, but not limited to, excessive unexcused absences.

(2) Public school students who are under disciplinary action by the local school district shall be eligible for enrollment in a home school if:

(A) The superintendent or local school board of directors chooses to allow the child to enroll in a home school;

(B) The disciplinary action against the student has been completed or the school semester has ended, whichever occurs first; or

(C) The student has been expelled.

HISTORY: Acts 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 40, § 4; 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 42, § 4; A.S.A. 1947, § 80-1503.7; Acts 1995, No. 522, § 2; 1997, No. 400, § 3; 1999, No. 1117, § 3; 2003, No. 1793, § 1; 2007, No. 617, §§ 7, 8.

6-15-504. Enrollment or reenrollment in local schools.

(a) (1) Each local school district may assess any home-schooled student who enrolls or reenrolls in the school district in order to determine proper educational placement.

(2) A local school district that chooses to assess a home-schooled student who enrolls or reenrolls in the school district may use the same assessment that the school district uses when a student who has attended another public school or private school enrolls or reenrolls.

(b) A home-schooled student who enrolls or reenrolls in a local school district shall attend classes for at least nine (9) months immediately before graduation before the student can become eligible to receive a high school diploma from the school district.

HISTORY: Acts 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 40, § 4; 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 42, § 4; A.S.A. 1947, § 80-1503.7; Acts 1995, No. 522, § 2; 1997, No. 400, § 3; 1999, No. 1117, § 3; 2003, No. 1793, § 1; 2007, No. 617, §§ 7, 8; 2015, No. 832, § 1.

6-15-505. [Repealed.]

6-15-506. [Repealed.]

6-15-507. Ineligibility of home schools for local, state, or federal funds.

(a) (1) Home schools authorized by this subchapter are not entitled to local, state, or federal funds allocated to a public school district.

(2) For purposes of this section, eligible children with disabilities identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., in home school settings shall be given the same consideration afforded to students in private school settings for special education services as provided for in that act.

(b) School districts providing services to home school students shall be eligible for local, state, or federal funds allocated or approved for such services.

HISTORY: Acts 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 40, § 8; 1985 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 42, § 8; A.S.A. 1947, § 80-1503.11; Acts 1997, No. 400, § 6; 2003, No. 1793, § 2.

6-15-508. Home schooling prohibited if a sex offender resides in the home.

(a) No child may be home schooled if any person residing in the home with the child is required to register under the Sex and Child Offender Registration Act of 1997, § 12-12-901 et seq.

(b) Upon petition to the sentencing court from the child's parent or guardian, the sentencing court may enter a written order specifically waiving the restriction in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) This section shall not apply if the child to be home schooled is the person registered under the Sex and Child Offender Registration Act of 1997, § 12-12-901 et seq.

HISTORY: Acts 2001, No. 1787, § 1.

6-15-509. Participation of home-schooled students in interscholastic activities.

(a) The General Assembly recognizes that all students should have equal access to interscholastic activities as a complement to the academic curriculum.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Athletic activity" means a varsity sport or another competitive sports-related contest, game, event, or exhibition that involves an individual student or teams of students either among schools within the resident school district or between schools outside of the resident school district;

(2) "Home-schooled student" means a student legally enrolled in an Arkansas home school;

(3) "Interscholastic activity" means an activity between schools subject to regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association that is:

(A) Outside the regular curriculum of a school district, including without limitation an athletic activity, a fine arts program, or a special interest club or group; and

(B) Taught by an individual with a minimum of a high school diploma;

(4) "Parent" is a legal guardian or legal custodian;

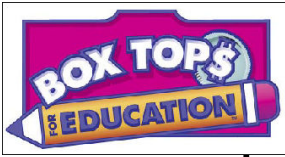
(5) "Resident school" is the school to which the student would be assigned by the resident school district; and

(6) "Resident school district" means the school district in which the home-schooled student's parent resides as determined under § 6-18-202.

(c) A home-schooled student shall not participate in interscholastic activities at a public school other than the student's resident school.

- (d)** A resident school district may permit a home-schooled student to participate in an interscholastic activity if:
- (1)** For the purpose of subsection (g) of this section, the home-schooled student reports to the resident school district within the first eleven (11) days of the fall or spring semester of the resident school district; and
 - (2)** The home-schooled student or his or her parent advises the principal of the resident school in writing of the student's request to participate in the interscholastic activity before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled in the resident school.
- (e)** The principal of the resident school shall permit a home-schooled student to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity of the resident school if the student or the student's parent:
- (1)** Before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled in the resident school, provides to the principal a notice of the student's desire to pursue participation; and
 - (2)** Informs the principal in the notice that the student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining:
 - (A)** A minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test in the previous twelve (12) months; or
 - (B)** A minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.
- (f)** If a home-schooled student's written request to participate in the interscholastic activity is approved under this section, the student:
- (1)** Although not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic activity, shall have an equal opportunity to try out and participate in interscholastic activities without discrimination; and
 - (2)** Shall not participate unless he or she meets the criteria for participation in the interscholastic activity that apply to students enrolled in the resident school district, including:
 - (A)** Tryout criteria;
 - (B)** Standards of behavior and codes of conduct;
 - (C)** The academic criteria under subdivision (e)(2) of this section;
 - (D)** Practice times;
 - (E)** Required drug testing;
 - (F)** Permission slips, waivers, and physical exams; and
 - (G)** Participation or activity fees.
- (g)** A home-schooled student who participates in an interscholastic activity may be:
- (1)** Required to be at school not more than one (1) period per school day; and
 - (2)** Transported by the resident school district to and from interscholastic activities as the resident school district transports other students who are enrolled in the resident school.
- (h)** A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home-schooled shall not participate in an interscholastic activity in the resident school district for a minimum of three hundred sixty-five (365) days after the student withdraws from the member school.

HISTORY: Acts 2013, No. 1469, § 1.



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