



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

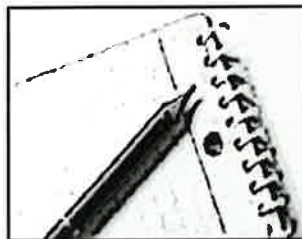
board of directors, and we are supported entirely by charitable gifts from the people of Arkansas. The Education Alliance was established as a division of Family Council in 1998. Since then, we have served as Arkansas' largest state-wide home school organization. In addition, we are the contact organization 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-for-accreditation/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/divisions/public-school-accountability/standards-systems-support/enrollment>

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

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

Home School Resources

Curriculum and Supplements

A Beka Books

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

www.abeka.com

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
www.thebjvstore.com
903-793-5111, 800-264-2482

American School

2200 E. 170th Street
Lansing, IL 60438
708-418-2800

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. 340
Anderson, IN 46016
888-524-4724

<https://www.apologia.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

1590 Island Lane, Suite 44
Fleming Island, FL 32003
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

2001 Elka Lane
Madison, WI 53704
608-249-0004
www.cornerstonelearningconnections.com

Driver Ed in a Box

1539 South Mason Rd, #62
Katy, TX 77450
888-315-1546, 800-562-6405
www.drivedinabox.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
<https://www.theworkspeople.com/index.html>

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 20878
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

2106 Vintage Court
McKinney, TX 75070
214-856-3975
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

712 Wisconsin Avenue
Boscobel, WI 53805
608-618-2181
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

34207 Enos Drive
Halsey, OR 97348
800-761-0234
<http://www.milestonebooks.com/>

Saxon Publishers, Inc.

125 High Street
Boston, MA 02110
617-3515000
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
866-233-1692
www.scholastic.com

ShillerMath

661 W. Germantown Pike Plymouth
Meeting, PA 19462
203-210-5208
www.shillermath.com

Sonlight Curriculum, Inc.

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

Teaching Textbooks

6501 Broadway Extension, Suite 300
Oklahoma, 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

VideoText Interactive

3120 Broadmoor Drive
Bryan, TX 77802
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

3200 Old Brick Road
Vanceboro, NC 28580
252-244-0728
888-268-5087 (orders only)
www.thebackpack.com

Home School Classifieds

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

Home School Super Center

www.Homeschoolsupercenter.com
888-689-4626

Homeschool Central

10503 Maumelle Blvd. Suite A5
North Little Rock, AR 72113
www.hscentralbooks.com

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

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

Resources for Special Needs Families

American Council of the Blind

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

Arc Autism Now

National Autism Resource &
Information Center
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
855-828-8476
<https://autismnow.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

1341 West Liberty Road
Sykesville, MD 21784
410-549-5707
www.caringcommunities.org

Center for Development and Disability

2300 Menaul Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
www.cdd.unm.edu

Children & 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
505-272-3000
www.cdd.unm.edu

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

1300 I Street, NW Suite 400E
Washington, DC 20005
202-785-4268
[www://nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

National Association of the Deaf

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

National Association for the Dually Diagnosed

132 Fair Street
Kingston, NY 12401
845-331-4336
www.thenadd.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.ndsccenter.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 Invisible Child Foundation

PO Box 4067
Parker, CO 80134
800-949-4232
www.invisiblechild.org

The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps

1875 Eye Street NW, Suite 582
Washington, DC 20006
202-429-2080
www.tash.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:
 - SAT 1200
 - ACT composite score of at least 26
 - Pre-ACT 10 score of at least 26
 - PSAT score of at least - 1200
 - PSAT 10 score - 1170
 - PSAT 8 score of – 1020
 - PSAT 9 score of - 1090
 - Iowa (ITBS) – 90% composite score
 - Stanford Achievement 90% composite score
 - CLT – 88
 - CLT 10 – 91
 - CLT 8/9 - TBA
 - Terra Nova 2 (CAT[^]) 2nd Ed – 90% composite score
- 4) Proof they are a legal home school student in the state of Arkansas (Notice of Intent).

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

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.

**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
RULES GOVERNING THE EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM ACCOUNT
PROGRAM
August 1, 2023**

1.00 Purpose

- 1.01 The purpose of these rules is to establish guidelines for the initial implementation and operation of the Educational Freedom Account (EFA), established to provide children in the State of Arkansas with educational options to achieve success in their education.

2.00 Definitions

- 2.01 “Account holder” means the parent of a participating student, or a participating student who has attained the age of majority, who signs the EFA agreement and is responsible for complying with all of the requirements of the EFA.
- 2.02 “Agreement” means a contract signed by an applicant outlining their contractual obligations as the account holder of an EFA and the acceptable uses of EFA funds.
- 2.03 “Applicant” means a prospective participating student or the prospective participating student’s parent, when he or she is applying to the EFA Program on behalf of the student.
- 2.04 “Department” means the Arkansas Department of Education.
- 2.05 “Division” means the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- 2.06 “Education Service Provider” means a business, nonprofit organization, or other entity, not to include a nonpublic or public school, which offers educational materials or services that are qualifying expenses reimbursable by EFA funds pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18- 2503(11)(A).
- 2.07 “EFA” means an individual funding account that is managed by the Department of Education for the care of and in the name of a participating student.
- 2.08 “EFA funds” means money from one or more EFAs.
- 2.09 “EFA Program” means the Educational Freedom Account Program established pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-2501, et seq.

- 2.10 “Foster care” means the placement of a child by the Department of Human Services into custodial care by a group home, group facility, or a relative or nonrelated caregiver on a twenty-four-hour-a-day basis.
- 2.11 “Nationally Norm-Referenced Test” means a standardized test designed to compare and rank test takers in relation to one another as determined by comparing scores against the performance results of a statistically selected group of test takers, typically of the same age or grade level, who have already taken the exam.
- 2.12 “Norming studies” means a series of statistical methods applied to the raw data collected from standardized tests to determine the reliability and validity of the data in calculating the norm-referenced scores.
- 2.13 “Office” means the Office of School Choice, as established within the Department.
- 2.14 “Parent” means either:
- 2.08.1 A biological or adoptive parent;
 - 2.08.2 A legal guardian or custodian;
 - 2.08.3 A person standing in loco parentis to a participating student; or
 - 2.08.4 Another person with legal authority to act on behalf of a Participating Student
- 2.15 “Participating school or service provider” means a school or other service provider that is approved by the Department to receive EFA funds.
- 2.16 “Participating student” means an eligible student for whom an EFA has been approved and established.
- 2.17 “Standard Application Form” means the form created by the Department to be used by applicants seeking to establish an EFA on behalf of a Participating Student.
- 2.18 “State Board” means the Arkansas State Board of Education.
- 2.19 “Student with a disability” means a student who has been:
- 2.19.1 Identified as having a disability consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1401 et seq. as it existed on January 1, 2023; or

3.00 Student Eligibility

- 3.01 An individual who is a resident of the State of Arkansas and the parent of a student who is eligible to enroll in a public elementary or secondary school may apply on behalf of a prospective participating student, to participate in the EFA Program for the 2023-2024 school year if the prospective participating student is:
 - 3.01.1 A student with a disability as defined by Section 2.19 of these Rules.
 - 3.01.2 Considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2023;
 - 3.01.3 A student in foster care, as defined in Section 2.10 of these Rules, or has been in foster care and subsequently achieved permanency through adoption, reunification, or permanent guardianship;
 - 3.01.4 The student participated in the Succeed Scholarship Program, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-901 et seq., during the 2022-2023 school year;
 - 3.01.5 A child of active-duty military personnel, as identified by Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States Code;
 - 3.01.6 Is enrolling in kindergarten for the first time; or
 - 3.01.7 A student who was enrolled in the previous school year in a:
 - 3.01.7.a Public school that has a rating of “F” under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-2105 and 6-15-2106 and State Board of Education rules; or
 - 3.01.7.b Public school district classified as in need of Level 5 — Intensive support under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-2913 or 6-15-2915.

4.00 Student Application

- 4.01 To apply to participate in the EFA Program, a parent shall fully complete the Standard Application Form available at the Department’s website and the Department’s offices at (4 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201), beginning June 20, 2023, and ending August 1, 2023.
 - 4.01.1 The Standard Application Form may be submitted by mailing the application via the United States Postal Service to the Department, submitting the application to the Department via email or submitting the application online at the Department’s website

- 4.01.2 The Standard Application Form may only require the collection of such information and documentation as is necessary to establish the applicant's residency in the State of Arkansas and the applicant's eligibility pursuant to the criteria set in Section 3.01 of these Rules.
- 4.01.3 The Department may assist an applicant in completing the Standard Application Form as needed.
- 4.01.4 The Office of School Choice may determine eligibility of applications received after August 1, 2023, provided Program funds remain available. In such cases, account funding may be prorated to cover qualifying expenses for less than the full duration of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 4.02 The Office shall determine an applicant's eligibility to participate in the Program under Section 3.01 and notify the Applicant on a rolling basis as applications are received. The notification shall inform applicants how they may activate the account and the amount of EFA funding the Participating Student will receive. Priority for accepting student applications shall be made in the following manner:
 - 4.02.1 The Office shall approve all student qualifying applications pursuant to Section 3.01.4 of these Rules.
 - 4.02.2 The Office shall approve all other applications that meet one or more of the qualifying criteria in Section 3.01 of these Rules on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - 4.02.3 The Office shall continue to approve student applications that meet the qualifying criteria set by Section 3.01 of these Rules for the 2023-2024 school year and successive school years, as funding remains available and the conditions for eligibility are met by the applicant pursuant to Section 6 of these Rules.
- 4.03 Once a completed Standard Application Form has been approved by the Office, the applicant shall complete the enrollment procedures set by the Department to become enrolled in the EFA Program, including execution of an Agreement to participate in the Program as outlined in Section 5 of these Rules.

5.00 Agreement and Funds Transfer

- 5.01 Upon notification by the Department that an EFA may be established, the applicant shall sign an Agreement outlining the applicant's contractual obligations as the account holder upon enrolling in the EFA Program, including the acceptable uses of EFA funds and expense reporting requirements. The Agreement may be executed with a wet or electronic signature. The Agreement shall remain

in effect until one or more of the conditions for terminating eligibility are met under Section 6 of these Rules.

5.02 In the Agreement, the Department shall provide account holders with the following:

5.02.1 A written explanation of qualifying expenditures for EFA funds, as outlined in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2503(11)(A);

5.02.2 A written explanation of the responsibilities of account holders, as outlined in Section 5.03 of these Rules;

5.02.3 The following written explanation: “Participation in the EFA is a parental placement under 20 U.S.C. § 1412, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) if a child with a disability is enrolled in a non-public school. Parental placement of children with disabilities in a private school constitutes a waiver of procedural rights to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in connection with their private school enrollment, in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 300.148(a) and pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 300.137(a), while participating in the EFA program”; and

5.02.4 A written explanation of the respective duties of the Department and, if applicable, of any vendor or other supplier the Department has contracted with to administer all or part of the Program.

5.03 In the Agreement, the account holder shall:

5.03.1 Agree not to enroll the participating student full-time in a public school while the student is participating in the EFA Program;

5.03.2 Acknowledge that upon enrolling in the EFA Program, the parent waives the participating student’s entitlement to a free appropriate public education, including special education and related services, from their public school district of residence, so long as the child remains in the EFA Program; and

5.03.3 Agree to use EFA Funds on behalf of the Participating Student strictly for qualifying expenditures, as outlined in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2503(11)(A) during the 2023-2024 school year.

5.04 The Agreement shall:

5.04.1 Be submitted to the Department, along with all required information, before the first EFA payment is disbursed, pursuant to Section 5.05 of these Rules; and

- 5.04.2 Be signed by the account holder and a designee of the Department prior to becoming effective.
- 5.05 After the Agreement is fully executed by the account holder and the Department, the Department shall make four (4) equal payments in quarterly installments from the participating student's EFA to the participating school or service provider. Payments shall only be suspended at such time as one or more criteria to terminate the Agreement are met under Section 6 of these Rules.
- 5.06 The total allocation to each participating student's EFA for the 2023-2024 school year shall be \$6,672, unless either:
 - 5.06.1 The total qualifying expenditures, as outlined in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2503(11)(A), published by the participating school or service provider where a participating student is enrolled equal an amount less than \$6,672. Any excess funds allocated to the private school shall be refunded to the Department.
 - 5.06.2 The participating student is eligible under Section 3.01.4; in which case the allocation shall total the same amount awarded to the student as a Succeed Scholarship during the 2022-2023 school year.
- 5.07 The Department may withhold up to five percent (5%) of the funds allocated to each EFA for the purpose of the EFA Program administration.

6.00 Term of EFA Eligibility

- 6.01 For purposes of continuity of educational choice, a student who enrolls in the EFA Program shall remain eligible until the participating student meets one of the following criteria, whichever occurs first:
 - 6.01.1 Enrolls full-time in a public school.
 - 6.01.2 Graduates from high school. The student may continue in the EFA Program until such time as he or she receives a high school diploma or receives a passing score on all subtests of the General Educational Development (GED) test.
 - 6.01.3 Reaches twenty-one (21) years of age. The student may complete the school year in which he or she reaches the age of twenty-one (21), provided the student shall not be enrolled in the EFA Program past June 30 after reaching twenty-one (21) years of age.
- 6.02 Regardless of meeting one or more of the criteria listed in the previous subsection, the Department may immediately and permanently remove any participating student from eligibility for a EFA if the account holder fails to comply with the

terms of the Agreement in Section 5 of these Rules or any other applicable laws, rules or procedures, or if the account holder is found to have substantially misspent EFA Funds. The account holder may appeal the Department's decision pursuant to the procedures outlined in Section 9 of these Rules.

- 6.03 The account holder may remove the participating student from enrollment in a participating school or service provider and place the student in a public school. The account holder shall complete the procedures for withdrawal from the EFA Program set by the Department.

7.00 Participating Schools and Service Providers

- 7.01 A private school shall notify the Department of its intent to participate as a participating school or service provider in the EFA Program. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2507, the Office shall certify a private school as a Participating School or Service Provider if the private school is located in the State of Arkansas and:

7.01.1 Complies with one of the following:

7.01.1.a Meets accreditation requirements established by the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, Inc., or its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board; or

7.01.1.b Is an associate member of, or has applied for accreditation from, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, Inc., or its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board. A private school that is not fully accredited while participating in the EFA Program shall report annually to the State Board, or its designee, the school's progress towards accreditation.

7.01.2 Meets one or more of the following criteria:

7.01.2.a Has been in operation for at least one (1) school year:

7.01.2.b Provides a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that the school is insured and has sufficient capital or credit to operate in the upcoming school year; or

7.01.2.c Files with the Department a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal to the account funds needed by the school for any quarter.

7.01.3 Attests in writing to the following:

- 7.01.3.a The private school does not discriminate on any basis prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, as it existed on January 1, 2023;
- 7.01.3.b All private school personnel who are allowed direct contact with participating students have cleared a background check and fingerprinting process;
 - 7.01.3.b.1. Participating schools have until May 30, 2024, to comply with the fingerprinting requirement for all school employees.
- 7.01.3.c The private school does not employ any individual who may reasonably pose a risk to the appropriate use of EFA Program funds if disbursed;
- 7.01.3.d The private school only employs or contracts teachers who hold at least baccalaureate degrees or have equivalent documented experience, as determined by the Department;
- 7.01.3.e The private school holds valid occupancy of buildings as required by the relevant municipality in which the private school is located; and
- 7.01.3.f The private school operates according to its published disciplinary procedures that, at a minimum, outline the terms and conditions when a student may be expelled.

7.02 A private school will be ineligible to participate in the EFA Program if:

- 7.02.1 When approved under Section 7.01.1 of these Rules, the private school loses its accreditation status;
- 7.02.2 When approved under Section 7.01.2 of these Rules, the private school is ineligible or unable to continue the accreditation process, as determined by the accrediting association;
- 7.02.3 The private school violates the terms of Section 7.01.3 of these Rules;
- 7.02.4 The private school fails to adhere to the tenets of its published disciplinary procedures before expelling a Participating Student; or

- 7.02.5 The private school fails to comply with all applicable state laws and rules governing private schools, and with all applicable health and safety laws and rules.
- 7.03 A participating private school shall notify the Department within thirty (30) days after losing accreditation or taking any action rendering the school ineligible to participate in the EFA Program pursuant to Section 7.02 of these Rules. A private school may apply for reinstatement if it returns to compliance with Section 7.01 of these Rules.
- 7.03.1 The Department shall determine whether the private school is not in compliance with Section 7.01 of these rules. The Department shall issue a formal notice of its determination to the private school.
- 7.03.2 A private school applying for reinstatement under this section shall provide documentation to the Department of the private school's efforts to come back into compliance with Section 7.01 of these rules. The private school may request a hearing before the state board or may elect to waive its hearing and submit evidence to the Department.
- 7.03.3 Upon receipt of the evidence, the Department shall issue a decision on the private school's reinstatement in writing to the private school.
- 7.04 The Office's approval of a Participating School or Service Provider shall serve as statewide approval of such provider for purposes of the EFA Program. A listing of each participating school and service provider's name, the qualifying materials, services offered, and any relevant credentials shall be available on the Department's website, in a format easily accessible to the public.
- 7.04.1 Private schools who were approved under the Succeed Scholarship program outside of the State of Arkansas may continue to receive funds for participating Succeed Scholarship students for the remainder of the Participating Students' remaining eligibility.
- 7.05 Participating schools and service providers shall not refund, rebate, or share EFA funds directly with account holders. Funds shall only be refunded to the EFA of a participating student from which the expenditure was made.
- 7.06 The Department may suspend or terminate a participating school or service provider from participating in the EFA Program if the Department determines the school has failed to comply with the requirements of the Act or these Rules.
- 7.07 Nothing shall be construed to expand the regulatory authority of the Department to impose additional regulations on participating schools and

service providers beyond those expressly set out in these Rules to enforce the requirements of the EFA Program.

- 7.07.1 A participating school or service provider shall not be required to alter its creed, practices, admissions policy, or curriculum to receive approval from the Department or to accept payments from an EFA.

8.00 Monitoring and Compliance

- 8.01 During the 2023-2024 school year, the Department shall:

8.01.1 Conduct or contract with an unaffiliated auditor to conduct a random audit of EFAs to ensure monies were used only for expenses that were approved or allowed at the time the expense was made.

8.01.2 Maintain a copy of the audit plan and all associated audit reports.

- 8.02 During the 2023-2024 school year, the Department shall conduct or contract with an unaffiliated auditor to conduct a random financial audit of participating schools and service providers. If selected, to satisfy the requirements of this subsection, a participating school or service provider shall submit to an auditor chosen by the Department, a financial audit of the entity conducted by a certified public accountant within six (6) months of the most recently completed fiscal year. The audit shall include a statement that the report is free of material misstatements and fairly represents the Participating School's or Service Provider's maximum total tuition and fees.

- 8.03 The Department shall establish or contract for the establishment of an anonymous online fraud reporting service and an anonymous telephone hotline for reporting fraud. Individuals may notify the Department of any alleged violation by an account holder or participating school or service provider of state laws, rules, or procedures relating to the EFA Program. The Department shall conduct an inquiry into any report of fraud or make a referral for an investigation to the Arkansas Attorney General or the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of the Inspector General. 8.04 The Department shall forward to Arkansas Legislative Audit:

8.04.1 All audits conducted under this section that identify a potential misuse of EFA funds; and

8.04.2 Referrals of all cases involving fraud and/or substantial misuse of account funds for investigation to the Arkansas Attorney General or the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of the Inspector General.

9.00 Appeals Process

- 9.01 The following determinations can be appealed:

- 9.01.1 An applicant may appeal the Office's determination that the student is not eligible for the EFA Program.
- 9.01.2 An account holder may appeal an official determination that the account holder has misspent EFA funds or the removal of the participating student from the EFA Program.
- 9.01.3 An applicant school may appeal the Office's determination that a private school is not qualified to be a participating school or service provider.
- 9.01.4 A participating school or service provider may appeal the Department's suspension or termination of the Participating School or Service Provider from the EFA Program.
- 9.02 All appeals shall be submitted on the appeal forms provided on the Department's website. If an appeal is not submitted on the appropriate appeal form, the appeal shall be denied.
- 9.03 Appeals shall follow the following two-step process:
 - 9.03.1 Step one appeals shall be reviewed by the Department. Step one appeals must be submitted to the Department within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Department electronically sending the determination that is being appealed. The day that the Department sends the determination will not count as part of the foregoing fourteen (14) calendar days. The Secretary of Education or the Secretary's designee shall make a determination and issue an electronic notification to the appealing party within forty-five (45) calendar days of receiving the step one appeal.
 - 9.03.2 If the Secretary of Education or the Secretary's designee denies the step one appeal, the appealing party may file a step two appeal. Step two appeals shall be reviewed by the State Board. Step two appeals must be submitted to the Department within thirty (30) calendar days of the Department electronically sending the step one determination. The day that the Department sends the step one determination will not count as part of the foregoing thirty (30) calendar days.
- 9.04 If the deadline to submit an appeal falls on a weekend or state holiday, the appeal shall be considered timely submitted if it is received by the next business day after the weekend or state holiday.
- 9.05 If an appeal is not timely submitted, the appeal shall be denied.
- 9.06 The State Board shall hear the appeal at its next scheduled meeting, so long as the appeal is received seven (7) calendar days before the meeting date.

- 9.07. Any appeal shall be held in an open hearing, and the decision of the State Board shall be in an open session.
- 9.08. The following procedures shall apply to State Board hearings for a step two appeal:
- 9.08.1 All persons wishing to testify before the State Board shall first be placed under oath by the Chairperson of the State Board.
- 9.08.2 The Department, and when appropriate, the Office, shall have up to twenty (20) minutes to present its case to the State Board. The Chairperson of the State Board may allow additional time if necessary.
- 9.08.3 The appealing applicant, account holder, Participating School, or Service Provider shall have up to twenty (20) minutes to present its case to the State Board. The Chairperson of the State Board may allow additional time if necessary.
- 9.08.4 The State Board may pose questions to any party at any time during the hearing.
- 9.08.5 The State Board shall then discuss, deliberate, and vote upon the matter.
- 9.08.6 The State Board will grant or deny the appeal based upon the totality of evidence presented.
- 9.08.7 The State Board may announce its decision immediately after hearing all arguments and evidence or it may take the matter under advisement and announce its decision at a later date, provided that all discussions, deliberations, and votes upon the matter take place at a public hearing. The State Board shall provide a written decision to the applicant, account holder, Participating School, or Service Provider within fourteen (14) days of announcing its decision under this section.

10.00 Procurement and Contracting

- 10.01 In compliance with all state procurement laws and procedures, the Department retains the authority to contract with a vendor or other supplier for the purpose of administering all or parts of the Program, including but not limited to:
- 10.01.1 Implementing a system to collect and compile response data from the Standard Application Form.

- 10.01.2 Compiling the legislative report regarding the implementation of the Educational Freedom Account, to be submitted no later than September 30, 2024, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2510.

11.00 Program Evaluation

- 11.01 Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2509(a)(1), participating schools and service providers shall administer the following to all participating students who are enrolled on a full- time basis during the 2023-2024 school year:
- 11.01.1 An examination identified by the State Board that is required for students attending public schools; or
- 11.01.2 A nationally norm-referenced test that measures, at minimum, achievement in literacy and mathematics and provides information that compares the performance of students against the performance of a sample of students from across the country. The Department shall provisionally approve a test for use in the 2023-2024 school year if the participating school or service provider administered the test to students during one or more of the previous three (3) school years.
- 11.02 A participating student who is determined by a participating school or service provider to need an exemption to standardized testing due to the nature of the student's disability, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2509(a)(2), is not subject to the requirement of Section 11.01.
- 11.02.1 The participating school or service provider in which a student is enrolled full-time, or otherwise the parent of a participating student, shall allow an exempt participating student to take an alternate assessment approved by the State Board or prepare a portfolio that provides information on the participating student's progress to his or her parent.
- 11.03 Each participating school or service provider that enrolls one (1) or more participating students shall provide the following information to the Department no later than June 30, 2024, and each June 30 thereafter on an annual basis:
- 11.03.1 A list of participating students who have taken an examination or norm-referenced test pursuant to Section 11.01 of these Rules, and the achievement results for each student; and
- 11.03.2 A list of participating students who are exempt from standardized testing due to the nature of the student's disability, pursuant to Section 11.02 of these Rules, and the alternate assessment results or summary of portfolio information provided for each student.

- 11.03.3 If the school is a high school, the number of Participating Students who graduated from high school in a given year and the number of AP tests taken by Participating Students.
- 11.04 The Department shall approve the use of a nationally norm-referenced test for participating students, if it meets the following criteria:
- 11.04.1. The assessment has norming studies that show dates of the studies, definition of the populations sampled, the procedure used to draw the samples, sample sizes, participation rates, and any weighting or smoothing procedure used to make the sample data better represent the population. Norming studies must have been conducted within the last ten (10) years, with five (5) years being preferable;
 - 11.04.2. The assessment is internally consistent and reliable and must be reported for content sub-domains (e.g., mathematics, reading) at a minimum score of 0.80, and that reliability data be reported for each grade level;
 - 11.04.3. For any open-ended, constructed-response items, rater agreement information (e.g., exact rater agreement rates, intraclass correlations, or kappa coefficients) is reported;
 - 11.04.4. The standard error of measurement and conditional standard error of measurement (at various test score levels) are reported;
 - 11.04.5. The test developer includes a clear description of the construct to be measured, the purpose of the test, intended interpretation of the scores/other test results, and intended test-taking population;
 - 11.04.6. Documentation includes conceptual, empirical, and theoretical evidence that the test meets its intended purposes and support the intended interpretations of test results for the intended populations; and
 - 11.04.7. Documentation includes evidence that each test is aligned with rigorous content standards and serves as an adequate measure of K-12 student achievement in core academic areas.
- 11.05 The Department shall administer a survey to account holders to assess their satisfaction with the Department's administration of the EFA Program and their experience with participating schools and service providers. The survey shall collect no more than one (1) response from each account holder, beginning no later than February 1, 2024, and ending no sooner than March 31, 2024.

Emergency Clause

Whereas Act 237 of 2023 requires that the State of Arkansas through the Department of Education to administer the Educational Freedom Account program through rules promulgated by the State Board of Education no later than the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year; and

Whereas, the emergency promulgation of the Rules Governing The Educational Freedom Account Program is necessary for the Department to prepare for the implementation of the program before the 2023-2024 school year begins; without which the State cannot efficiently administer the program, empower parents, or hold participating schools accountable. The rules are specifically necessary to ensure processes for determining the eligibility of students and service providers, conducting account and program audits, and enrolling participating students before the 2023-2024 school year begins.

THEREFORE, the State Board of Education hereby determines pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204 that immediate peril to the welfare of the State, specifically students and parents, will result without emergency promulgation of these Rules.

*** Current through all laws of the 2018 Fiscal Session and 2018 Second Extraordinary Session, including changes and corrections by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission.***

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 legal guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children shall give written notice to the superintendent of their local school district of their intent to provide a home school for their children and agree that the parent or legal guardian is responsible for the education of his or her children during the time the parent or legal guardian provides a home school for the children:

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

(B)

(i) 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.

(ii) The superintendent or the local school district 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 legal guardians moving into the school district during the school year shall give written notice to the superintendent of their local school district of their intent to provide a home school for their children and agree that the parent or legal guardian is responsible for the education of his or her children during the time the parent or legal guardian provides a home school for the children.

(3) The notice shall include:

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

(B) The mailing address and telephone number of the home school;

(C) The name of the parent or legal guardian providing the home school;

(D)

(i) A statement of plans to participate during the school year in public school interscholastic activities under § 6-15-509.

(ii) A failure to provide the information under subdivision (a)(3)(D)(i) of this section does not preclude the student from participating in public school interscholastic activities under § 6-15-509;

(E) A statement of plans to seek a high school equivalency diploma during the current school year;

(F)

(i) A statement of plans to seek a driver's license during the current school year.

(ii) If a parent or legal guardian includes the information under subdivision (a)(3)(F)(i) of this section, the notice shall include a notarized signature of the parent or legal guardian; and

(G) A signature of the parent or legal guardian.

(4) A written notice under this subsection may be given:

(A) Electronically, including without limitation by email;

(B) By mail; or

(C) In person.

(b) The information provided to the superintendent of the student's local school district under subsection (a) of this section:

(1) Is confidential and not subject to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq.; and

(2) May be used only for statistical and recordkeeping purposes as required by law.

(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 district 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.

(e) The department and the student's local school district shall not create additional criteria or require additional information for a student to attend a home school beyond that provided in this section.

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; 2017, No. 635, § 1.

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

(a) A local public school district:

(1) Shall afford a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in a public school the same rights and privileges enjoyed by other public school students; and

(2) Shall not deny a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in a public school any of the following solely on the basis of having attended a home school:

(A) Award of course credits earned in the home school;

(B) Placement in the proper grade level and promotion to the next grade level;

(C) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a diploma or graduation;

- (D) Participation in any academic or extracurricular activity;
- (E) Membership in school-sponsored clubs, associations, or organizations; or
- (F) Scholarships.

(b) To enroll or re-enroll in a public school, a home-schooled student shall submit to the public school:

- (1) A transcript listing all courses taken and semester grades from the home school; and
- (2) A portfolio of indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress, including without limitation:

- (A) Curricula used in the home school;
- (B) Tests taken and lessons completed by the home-schooled student; and
- (C) Other indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress.

(c) A public school shall place a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the public school at a grade level and academic course level equivalent to or higher than the home-schooled student's grade level and academic course level in the home school:

(1) As indicated by the home-schooled student's:

- (A) Transcript listing all courses taken and semester grades from the home school;
- (B) Score of at least the thirtieth percentile on a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment taken in the past year; and
- (C) Portfolio of indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress, including without limitation:

- (i) Curricula used in the home school;
- (ii) Tests taken and lessons completed by the home-schooled student; and
- (iii) Other indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress; or

(2) By mutual agreement between the public school and the home-schooled student's parent or legal guardian.

(d) If the student is unable to provide a nationally recognized norm-referenced test score, the school shall:

- (1) Assess the student using a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment; or
- (2) Waive the nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment requirement.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, if the home-schooled student does not meet the requirements of subsection (c) of this section, the public school shall have sole authority to determine the home-schooled student's grade placement and course credits based on the same methods used when a student who attended another public or private school enrolls or re-enrolls in the public school.

(f) A public school may waive all requirements under subsections (b) and (c) of this section and enroll the student by mutual agreement with the parent or guardian.

(g) A home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in a local public school shall attend classes for at least nine (9) months immediately before graduation before the student can become eligible to graduate from the public school with a diploma.

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; 2017, No. 863, § 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:

(A) Legal guardian; or

(B) 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) (1)

(A) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, a home-schooled student shall not participate in interscholastic activities at a public school other than the student's resident school.

(B) A home-schooled student may participate in interscholastic activities at a public school other than the home-schooled student's resident public school by mutual agreement between the resident public school and any other public school where the home-schooled student wishes to participate.

(2) A home-schooled student approved under subdivision (c)(1)(B) of this section to participate in interscholastic activities at a public school other than the home-schooled student's resident public school may begin participating:

(A) In an interscholastic activity that is not an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate; and

(B) (i) (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2)(B)(ii) of this section, in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity one (1) calendar year after being approved to participate.

(b) A home-schooled student under subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i)(a) of this section may immediately participate in rehearsals, tryouts, practices, auditions, classes, or other endeavors associated with the interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity.

(ii) A home-schooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate if the home-schooled student is approved to participate by July 1 of the school year for which the home-schooled student will be enrolled in grade seven (7).

(3) A home-schooled student shall not participate in interscholastic activities at more than one (1) public school at the same time.

(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.

(i)

(1) A public school shall provide a reasonable alternative to any prerequisite for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity that the home-schooled student is unable to meet because of his or her enrollment in a home school.

(2) The alternative under subdivision (i)(1) of this section shall provide the home-schooled student with the same opportunity to participate in an interscholastic activity as a public school student.

HISTORY: Acts 2013, No. 1469, § 1; 2017, No. 592, §§ 1-3.

6-15-510. Participation in interscholastic activities at private schools -- Definitions.

(a) 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 between schools;

(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 the school, 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; and

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

(b) A private school may approve a home-schooled student to participate in an interscholastic activity if:

(1) The home-schooled student or his or her parent notifies the administrative head of the private school in writing:

(A) Of the student's request to participate in the interscholastic activity before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled in the private school; and

(B) That the student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining:

(i) 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

(ii) A minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education; and

(2) The home-schooled student lives within a twenty-five-mile radius of the private school.

(c) 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 private school, including:

(A) Tryout criteria;

(B) Standards of behavior and codes of conduct;

(C) The academic criteria under subdivision (b)(1)(B) of this section;

(D) Practice times;

(E) Required drug testing;

(F) Permission slips, waivers, and physical exams; and

(G) Participation or activity fees.

(d) A home-schooled student who participates in an interscholastic activity may be:

(1) Required to be at the private school not more than one (1) period per school day; and

(2) Transported by the private school to and from interscholastic activities as the private school transports other students who are enrolled in the private school.

(e) A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home schooled shall not participate in an interscholastic activity in the private school for a minimum of three hundred sixty-five (365) days after the student withdraws from the member school.

(f)

(1) A home-schooled student approved under subsection (b) of this section to participate in interscholastic activities at a private school may begin participating:

(A) In an interscholastic activity that is not an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate; and

(B)

(i) Except as provided in subdivision (f)(2) of this section, in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity three hundred sixty-five (365) days after being approved to participate.

(ii) A home-schooled student under subdivision (f)(1)(B)(i) of this section may immediately participate in rehearsals, tryouts, practices, auditions, classes, or other endeavors associated with the interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity.

(2) A home-schooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate if the home-schooled student is approved to participate by July 1 of the school year the home-schooled student will be enrolled in:

(A) Grade seven (7); or

(B) A grade that is the lowest grade offered by the private school.

(g) A home-schooled student shall not participate in interscholastic activities at more than one (1) private school at the same time.

(h) A private school may establish additional requirements, policies, or standards for home-schooled students to participate in interscholastic activities at the private school under this section.

(i) A private school shall not be required to allow a home-schooled student to participate in an interscholastic activity under this section.

HISTORY: Acts 2017, No. 453, § 1.

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