



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 8, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*
Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: Homeschool Information for 2020-2021

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has encountered an increase in homeschool registrations for the 2020-2021 school year amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The information provided in this memorandum outlines legal requirements, reporting options, and access to auxiliary services associated with operating a homeschool in Michigan.

It is critically important to understand where children are enrolled in the midst of a pandemic to ensure students are safe and engaged in quality educational opportunities. Although not required, MDE **strongly** recommends parents/guardians notify the local district of their intent to homeschool students and follow policy/procedures established by the district for disenrollment. **MDE urges local school districts to continue contacting parents/guardians of enrolled students who are not regularly attending school or who have not attended school and whose plans for this school year remain unknown.** Allowed under subsections 3(f) and 4, homeschooling in Michigan is an exemption to the [Compulsory Attendance](#) statute (MCL 380.1561). It is important to note that a student who is homeschooled is exempt from truancy requirements associated with MCL 380.1561, but that does not prevent scrutiny of law enforcement or community members who are unaware of a child's school status. To avoid or mitigate this issue, homeschool registration is recommended.

The [Private, Denominational, and Parochial Schools Act](#) (Public Act 302 of 1921) permits the state superintendent to inquire into the records of enrollment, qualifications of teachers, and course of study in nonpublic schools in the state. In addition, students attending nonpublic or home schools that complete the annual membership report may be eligible for auxiliary services, such as speech or special education, at the local public school (MCL 380.1296). Homeschooled students have

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the right to enroll in nonessential or elective courses in public schools if they meet approval requirements. A parent/legal guardian who chooses to homeschool their student also has the option to decline auxiliary services.

Homeschool registration approval requires, at a minimum, that a parent/legal guardian possess a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in any program or that the parent/legal guardian express an objection to teacher certification based on a deeply held religious belief in accordance with [People v DeJonge](#). The parent/legal guardian must provide assurance that he/she is providing instruction in all essential courses. If a parent/legal guardian is operating a homeschool in Michigan for the 2020-21 school year, MDE requests that he/she complete the Nonpublic School Membership Report (NSMR) at [Homeschool Registration](#). Registrations should be submitted to MDE annually, no later than October 31.

MDE communicates the registered and approved homeschool sites with the local intermediate school district in January of each school year. Given the increase in homeschool registrations, MDE will send regular updated local listings to intermediate school district members starting October 1. MDE does not post homeschool information publicly based on the potential for personal identifiable information (PII) being exposed for the child(ren) involved.

MDE is committed to providing resources and technical assistance to local districts through the Nonpublic and Home School webpage at [Nonpublic and Home School](#), by emailing nonpublicschools@michigan.gov, or by calling 517-335-0543.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors