

Homeschooling Options in Michigan

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Homeschooling law in Michigan

- ▶ Homeschooling in Michigan is allowed as an exemption under **MCL 380.1561, Compulsory Attendance**
- ▶ Law states to be Homeschooled, the child is educated **at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian in an organized educational program.....**
- ▶ This causes some level of misunderstanding for both schools and parents
 - ▶ You can only educate your own child(ren), in that child(ren)'s home, if you are the **parent/legal guardian**
 - ▶ You must educate the child in **all essential subjects**, as outlined in statute
 - ▶ If these two items are not present, it is not considered Homeschool and is not exempt from Compulsory Attendance law

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance

- ▶ Exemptions 3(a) and 3(f) are related to Homeschooling
- ▶ (3) A child is not required to attend a public school in any of the following cases: (a) The child is attending regularly and is being taught in a state approved nonpublic school, which teaches subjects comparable to those taught in the public schools to children of corresponding age and grade, as determined by the course of study for the public schools of the district within which the nonpublic school is located
- ▶ (f) The child is being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian in an organized educational program in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar.
- ▶ (4) For a child being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian, exemption from the requirement to attend public school may exist under either subsection (3)(a) or (3)(f), or both.

Scenarios

- ▶ Scenario 1: Siblings, grades 2 and 4. Parent provides educational program that includes all essential courses, in the home of the two children. Homeschool or Not Homeschool? **YES. Homeschool**
- ▶ Scenario 2: Grandparent and retired teacher with teaching degree agrees to provide educational program that includes all essential courses to their grandchild, grade 5, in the home of the child. Homeschool or Not Homeschool? **NO. Unless the grandparent is identified as the legal guardian of child(ren)**
- ▶ Scenario 3: Neighborhood parent has Bachelor's degree and provides educational program that includes all essential courses to their child, grade 1 in their home, and another neighborhood child (not their own), grade 2. Homeschool or Not Homeschool? **YES and NO. The child of the parent educating their child, in the home, is Homeschooling. The neighborhood child (not their own) is not Homeschooling.**

Scenarios Continued.....

- ▶ Scenario 4: Parent is engineer and provides Math and Science instruction to their child, grade 7, in the home of the child and enrolls them in the local public or nonpublic school for English and Social Studies. Homeschool or Not Homeschool? **No. All essential courses must be taught in Homeschool setting.**
- ▶ Scenario 5: Parent enrolls in online educational program, at no cost, where vendor provides laptop, camera, printer, etc. and provides daily instructional program in all essential courses to student while in the home. Homeschool or Not Homeschool? **DEPENDS. If the vendor is a Public School Academy, and enrolls the child(ren), it is not Homeschooling. If the program is not associated with an established school entity, it is Homeschooling.**

Extra Support Scenarios

- ▶ Scenario 1: Student had an IEP prior to starting homeschooling. Are they eligible for an IEP as a homeschooled student? **No, but they do qualify for services. Homeschooled students are eligible for a Nonpublic School Service Plan, which is like an IEP. This plan would be coordinated with the local public-school agency providing the services. Note, the homeschool must be registered and approved by MDE for your student(s) to qualify for a Nonpublic School Service Plan for special education services.**
- ▶ Scenario 2: The homeschooled student is struggling, and the parent/legal guardian feels they may need special education services. Is that possible? **Yes. A homeschool parent/legal guardian can contact the local public-school agency and inquire about testing of a student to determine qualifications for special education services, which (if they qualify) would be provided via a Nonpublic School Service Plan**

Extra Support Scenarios continued

- ▶ Scenario 3: Are accommodations under Section 504 provided under Special Education? **No, Special Education and Section 504 are not the same. A homeschooled student may qualify for accommodations under Section 504 during time they are enrolled in a public-school agency for non-essential courses. Contact your local public-school agency if you have questions.**
- ▶ Scenario 4: The homeschooled student has a Nonpublic School Service Plan and requires accommodations while attending non-essential courses at the public-school agency. Is this possible? **Yes. If the student requires accommodations that are aligned with their identified disability, that would be part of the Nonpublic School Service Plan. If the student required accommodations that are outside of their identified disability, Section 504 could be utilized to provide those accommodations while attending non-essential courses at the public-school agency**

Selecting a Homeschool Program

- ▶ MDE does not make recommendations on any specific homeschool program
- ▶ General Homeschool recommendations include:
 - ▶ Do your research from reputable sites
 - ▶ Determine the programming model that you feel best suits your child's needs
 - ▶ Determine the time commitment required to implement the program
 - ▶ Align as close as possible to local and statewide grade-level expectations
 - ▶ Remember, the parent/legal guardian has sole responsibility for educating the child in the Homeschool setting, including all documentation required
 - ▶ Ask lots of questions!

Accreditation, Record Keeping, Etc.

- ▶ There **is no requirement for accreditation** currently in Michigan
- ▶ Parents are **not required** to submit curriculum or student data to MDE
- ▶ Parents are **solely responsible for any/all records**, including gradebooks, periodic grading/progress reports, up to and including transcripts and diploma issuance for high school completion.
- ▶ Standardized testing is still an option; contact the local public school that you reside in to establish date/time
- ▶ Parents do not have a right to the physical copy of the public school's student file when they begin homeschooling. Local districts have policy on parental access and making copies of pertinent information for parents.
- ▶ Although notification of the current school is not required, MDE suggests that the Homeschooling parent notify the current school of intent to Homeschool

Registration versus Approval as a Homeschool

- ▶ **Registration and Approval** of the Homeschool site is separate
- ▶ Registration is **Optional** for Homeschool sites, unless your child will receive services from or participate in public school programming
- ▶ MDE **does not collect** any student-level information from parents
- ▶ **Registration and Approval** is required if your child will receive services from or participate in public school programming
 - ▶ Special Education services, enrollment in non-essential or dual enrollment courses with public school (which may include accommodations under Section 504)
 - ▶ To be approved, parent/legal guardian must have a minimum of Bachelor's degree (teacher certification not required) or claim religious objection to teacher certification (People v DeJonge)

Receiving Services from a Public School

- ▶ Homeschooled children are eligible for services from a public school (if registered and approved)
- ▶ Special Education services are available via Nonpublic School Service Plan
- ▶ Enrollment in non-essential courses at public or nonpublic school, including performing arts courses like Band, Choir, etc.
 - ▶ Be cautious of vendors advertising Homeschooling that are actually Public School Academies (PSA). Your child will not be eligible for services from the local public school if you are enrolled in another public school (including PSA)
- ▶ Enrollment in Dual Enrollment at a Post-Secondary institution

Options for Homeschool Students

- ▶ Local collaborative homeschool families are located throughout State
- ▶ Homeschool students are exempt from Compulsory Attendance law, which eliminates possibility of Truancy reporting (please notify current school of intent to Homeschool to help alleviate this issue)
- ▶ Non-Essential Courses and Dual Enrollment are options.
- ▶ Please refer to MCL 388.1766b for details on Non-Essential Courses
- ▶ Please refer to Public Act 160 of 1996 for details on Dual Enrollment
 - ▶ NOTE: Homeschooled students must enroll for at least one course in the public or approved nonpublic school to have charges from dual enrollment paid

Non-Essential Courses (MCL 388.1766b)

- ▶ A nonessential course in grades 1 to 8 is a course other than a mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts course required by the district for grade progression. Nonessential courses in grades 9 to 12 are those other than algebra 1, algebra 2, English 9-12, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, economics, geography, American history, world history, the Constitution, government, and civics, or courses that fulfill the same credit requirement as these courses. Nonessential elective courses include courses offered by the local district for high school credit that are also capable of generating postsecondary credit, including, at least, advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses. College level courses taken by high school students for college credit are nonessential courses. Remedial courses for any grade in the above-listed essential courses are considered essential. Kindergarten is considered nonessential.

Homeschooling Student Count/Funding

- ▶ Homeschooled students are not included in local student enrollment or foundational amounts for **essential courses**
- ▶ There is no funding appropriated for Homeschooling. The local district does not receive any funding for students that are Homeschooled, unless student enrolls in **non-essential courses** at local district. Parents are not compensated for Homeschooling students
- ▶ Local public school non-essential course offerings **MUST** be offered to both resident, enrolled students and homeschooled or nonpublic students. The district cannot create non-essential courses solely for homeschooled or nonpublic students.

Questions? Resources

▶ **MDE Nonpublic/Homeschool website:**

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-81351_81352_35175---,00.html

- ▶ Nonpublic and Homeschool Manual
- ▶ Homeschool Membership Report (registration link for parents)
- ▶ Homeschooling in Michigan quick reference guide
- ▶ Exemption information related to Homeschooling
- ▶ Compulsory Attendance law in Michigan
- ▶ Homeschooling Options Power Point presentation

▶ **Special Education information for Homeschoolers:**

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Nonpublic_HomeSchools_FactSheet_639565_7.pdf