



DC Homeschool Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question 1. What do I do if I would like to begin homeschooling my child?

Homeschooling in the District of Columbia is overseen by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). To begin homeschooling your child, you must submit a Notification of Intent to Homeschool Form to OSSE at least 15 business days prior to the first date of home instruction, not including Saturdays, Sundays, or District holidays. By **Aug. 15** of each continuing year, parents or legal guardians must submit a Notification of Intent to Homeschool Form to OSSE, identifying each child who will be homeschooled for the upcoming year. All notification forms may be submitted online using the [DC Homeschool portal](#).

Question 2. Do I need permission from my child's school to begin home instruction?

No. Parents and legal guardians do not need permission from their child's school to begin a homeschooling program; however, parents and legal guardians should work with their child's school to ensure their child is properly withdrawn for the purposes of truancy reporting requirements. Please contact your child's school for more information about how to withdraw them.

Question 3. Can I decide to homeschool my child in the middle of a school year?

Yes. Parents and legal guardians may make the decision to homeschool their child at any point during the school year. In doing so, parents or legal guardians must submit a Notification of Intent to Homeschool Form at least 15 business days prior to the first date of home instruction, not including Saturdays, Sundays, or District holidays. Parents or legal guardians who have been approved for home instruction will be emailed a verification letter within 5 business days of submission approval. Once the verification letter has been received the parent or legal guardian may **officially** begin their child's homeschooling program. Notification forms may be submitted online using the [DC Homeschool portal](#).

Question 4. I have submitted the Notification of Intent to Homeschool Form to OSSE, what are the next steps?

Review and processing of notification forms by OSSE takes approximately ten calendar days. After review of your Notification of Intent to Homeschool Form and required education documentation, OSSE will send written notification via email regarding the status of your request, unless an alternative method of communication has been requested.

Question 5. Can I homeschool someone else's child?

No. Home instruction may only be rendered by a child's parent or legal guardian.

Question 6. Does OSSE monitor individual homeschooling programs?

Yes. A parent or legal guardian who chooses to administer a homeschooling program is required to maintain a portfolio of homeschooling materials for each child who is a part of the homeschool program. This portfolio must include evidence of the child’s current work, such as examples of the child’s writings, worksheets, workbooks, creative materials, assessments, or any other materials that demonstrate the child is engaged in thorough, regular educational activities in a range of subjects. OSSE may, at its discretion, request to review these educational materials. Parents will be notified in writing of such a request at least 30 days prior to the requested date of review.

Question 7. What happens if OSSE identifies deficiencies in the homeschooling program?

OSSE works with families to try to correct any deficiencies identified in the homeschool program. If deficiencies are noted during the portfolio review, parents are given a corrective action plan to work towards bringing the program into compliance. For more information on the corrective action plan process, please refer to [5-E DCMR §5208](#).

Question 8: Is my child able to participate in an online homeschool curriculum program?

Yes. Homeschooling programs are not required to adhere to any specific curricular framework. District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (5-E DCMR 5204) require only that parents or legal guardians provide “thorough, regular instruction of sufficient duration to implement the homeschool program,” and include language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education, at minimum.

Question 9: If a parent chooses an online program are they required to submit a Notification of Intent to Homeschool to OSSE?

Yes. Parents are required to submit a Notification of Intent to Homeschool Form, regardless of the curriculum used for the homeschooling program. Notification forms may be submitted online using the [DC Homeschool portal](#).

Question 10: Are students allowed to participate in standardized testing?

Yes. Homeschooled children are eligible to participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing programs administered in the public school they are eligible to attend, free of charge. To register for testing or for more information, please email DCPS.Testing@k12.dc.gov at least 40 business days in advance of testing.

Question 11. Does OSSE provide report cards or transcripts for homeschooled students?

No. DC Homeschool regulations do not allow for OSSE to create report cards or transcripts for homeschooled students.

Question 12: Do students previously identified and receiving special education services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) continue to receive related services and specialized instruction during homeschooling?

No. Homeschool students who received specialized instruction and related services while enrolled in a public school are no longer eligible to receive those services after withdrawing. The right to receive special education and related services (otherwise known as a free and appropriate public education (FAPE)) only applies to students who are enrolled in a District of Columbia public school. The District of Columbia's obligation to locate, identify, and evaluate children as eligible for special education (also known as "child find") continues after a child begins in a homeschool program. If you desire to have your child evaluated or reevaluated for special education services, please contact District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) at DCPS.Childfind@dc.gov.

Question 13. Are homeschool students able to ride Metro bus and Metrorail without charge?

Yes. Homeschooled students are eligible for free transportation benefits through the Kids Ride Free program. To complete the process, your child will need a government-issued ID card and proof of DC residence. For additional questions regarding the Kids Ride Free program, please contact the District Department of Transportation's School Transit Subsidy Office at (202) 673-1740 or [visit their website](#).

Question 14. Do I have to wait until the end of the school year to stop homeschooling?

No. You may discontinue homeschooling at any time, but you must submit a Discontinuation of Homeschooling Form if you choose to discontinue homeschooling for any reason. Discontinuation Forms must be submitted to OSSE at least business 15 days prior to discontinuing home instruction, not including Saturdays, Sundays, or District holidays. Discontinuation forms may be submitted online using the [DC Homeschool portal](#).

Question 15. Are homeschooled students eligible to participate in Dual Enrollment?

Yes. The College Access and Readiness for Everyone (CARE) Program is an undergraduate program that allows pre-college DC students to earn college credits, with no cost for tuition. For more information and deadlines to apply, please visit udc.edu/cc/cc/care.

Question 16. Are homeschooled students permitted to be dually enrolled in a public school or a public charter school?

No. DC homeschool regulations do not allow for a homeschooled student to be concurrently enrolled in a public school or a public charter school.

Question 17. Are homeschool students eligible to participate in sports?

Yes. Homeschool student may petition the DC State Athletic Association to participate in sporting activities. To be eligible to participate, the principal and athletic director of a member school must provide written authorization for the student to participate in the desired sport, and the student must request and be granted a waiver of the associated student eligibility requirements. For more information about this process please contact the District of Columbia State Athletic Association at www.dcsaasports.org

Question 18: Are homeschool parents or legal guardians eligible for a DC Educator's Library Card?

Yes. This special card is offered exclusively to educators in District of Columbia schools, child care facilities, or home settings, and provides a variety of benefits from extended borrowing times to librarian support. Homeschooling parents may provide a copy of their verification letter from OSSE to receive a DC Educator's Library Card. For more information, please visit dclibrary.org/educatorcard. Cards must be renewed annually in July.

Question 19: Are homeschooled students eligible to receive a diploma from the District of Columbia?

Yes. Homeschooled students in the District of Columbia are eligible to receive a diploma through GED® testing and the National External Diploma Program (NEDP). Homeschooled students who have not been enrolled in a traditional high school program for at least six months may be eligible to take the GED® tests in the District of Columbia. Students who successfully pass the GED® tests are eligible to receive a diploma from the District of Columbia. NEDP is an applied performance assessment system that assesses the high school level skills of adults and out-of-school youth. It evaluates the reading, writing, math and workforce readiness skills of participants in life and work contexts. Students who successfully pass the required competencies are also eligible to receive a diploma from the District of Columbia.

For more information on GED testing requirements, costs and examination dates please contact Deysi Ramirez at (202) 274 -7173 or Ged.Tv@dc.gov. For more information on the National External Diploma Program, please visit casas.org/nedp.

Question 20. Are there regulations that govern homeschooling in the District?

Yes. Title 5, subtitle E of the District of Columbia Regulations (DCMR) at Chapter 52 (5-E DCMR Chapter 52) govern all homeschooling programs in the District of Columbia. The purpose of 5-E DCMR Chapter 52 is to ensure that all students receiving home instruction in the District of Columbia are receiving regular and thorough instruction as part of their homeschooling program. For more information on the regulations, please [visit the OSSE website](#).