



# HOMESCHOOL INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAMILIES

Deciding to homeschool your child is an important decision that requires information and planning. This information guide, provided by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), outlines legal responsibilities and offers guidance for families interested in administering a homeschooling program in the District of Columbia.

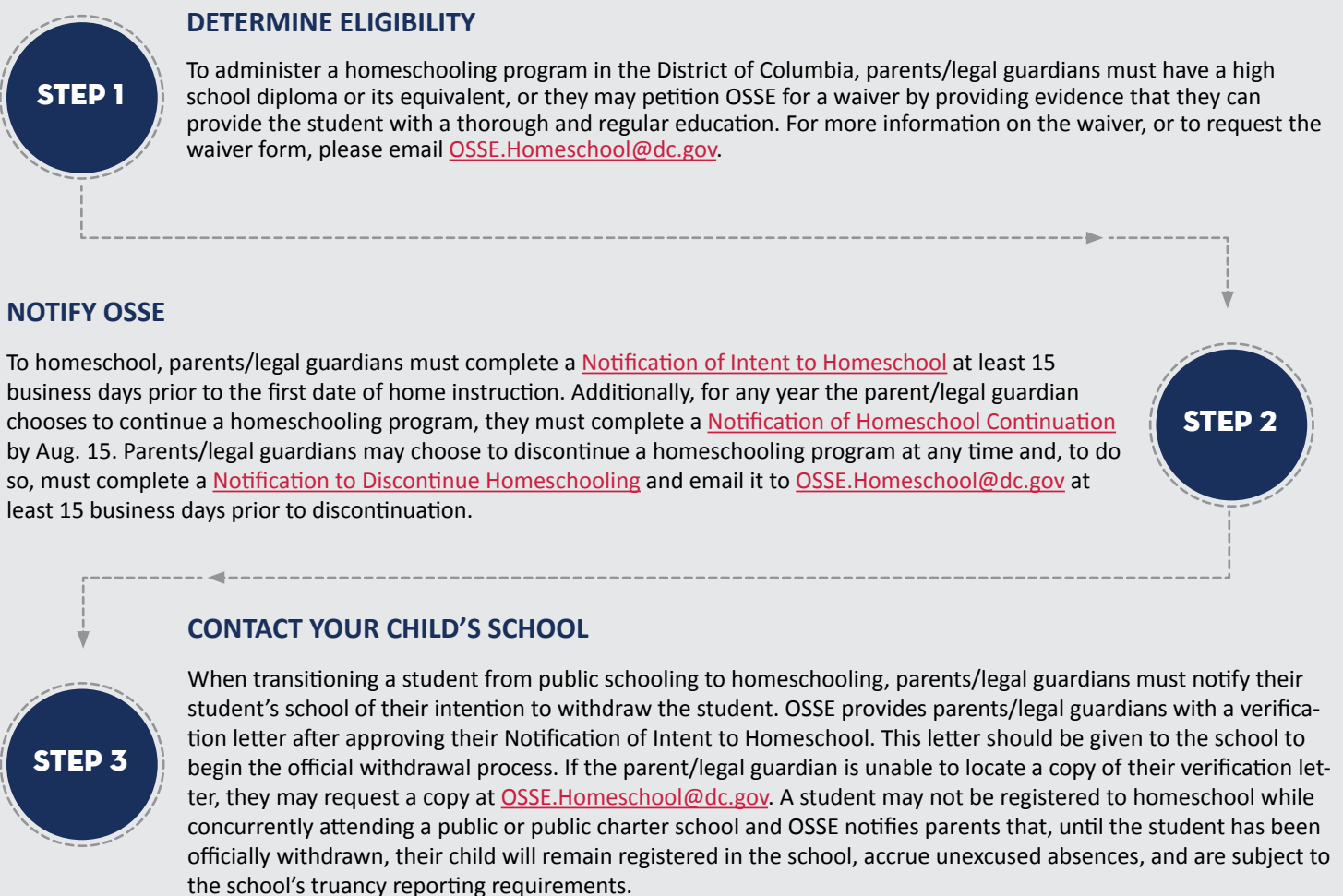
## What is homeschooling?

Homeschooling is a private, parent/legal guardian-directed education program for children who are subject to the compulsory education laws in their state. Compulsory education requires that all children between the ages of five and seventeen who reside in DC receive an education. As an alternative way to provide this education, homeschooling gives parents maximum autonomy while ensuring that all students of compulsory education age receive an appropriate education. Eligible parents/legal guardians may choose to begin a homeschooling program at any point during the school year and must notify OSSE if choosing to homeschool.

## What are the requirements of a homeschooling program?

In the District of Columbia, homeschooling programs must provide thorough and regular instruction of sufficient duration and, at a minimum, include English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education. Parents/legal guardians are required to maintain a portfolio of the student's education materials, which includes evidence of the student's current work in a range of subjects (e.g., writing, completed work in mathematics, and assessments). This portfolio must be maintained for at least one year and be available to OSSE for review, upon request.

## How do I get started?



## Will my child be eligible for Special Education Accommodations?

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Students who receive specialized instruction and/or related services while enrolled in public school are no longer eligible to receive those services once the student has been withdrawn from public school. The right to receive specialized education and related services (otherwise known as a free and appropriate public education (FAPE)) applies only to students who are enrolled in a public school in the District of Columbia. Once your child has been withdrawn to participate in a homeschooling program, the provisions of FAPE will no longer apply.

## Will my child be eligible to participate in the statewide assessment?

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Homeschooled students are eligible to participate in regularly scheduled statewide assessments administered throughout DC's public schools. Homeschooled students may participate in these assessments free of charge and assessment results are available to families to provide information on student progress. To register a student for participation in statewide assessments, including obtaining information on annual testing schedules, please contact your neighborhood District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) school.

## How does OSSE monitor and provide technical assistance to individual homeschooling programs?

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At any time, OSSE may request to review the portfolio of educational materials for each student in your homeschooling program. These requests are made by OSSE in writing at least 30 days prior to the date of review. Portfolio reviews may be conducted online or in-person at a mutually agreeable location (e.g., OSSE's offices or your local library). OSSE will provide you with written feedback on portfolio materials shared during your review, including areas where additional support is needed. When needed, OSSE will also provide you with a corrective action plan to help improve the outcomes of your program. Corrective action plans are designed to provide specific action steps that you, as the program administrator, can take to enhance outcomes in your homeschooling program. OSSE staff is also available to provide technical assistance to navigate the corrective action plan.

## What Resources are provided for homeschooling families?

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Homeschooling families in the District of Columbia are eligible to receive several resources to support their education needs:

- **Kids Ride Free Program**: 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 [Kidsridefree.dc.gov](http://Kidsridefree.dc.gov)
- **DC Educator's Library Cards**: The DC Educator's Library Card provides a variety of benefits to homeschooling families, such as extended borrowing times and librarian support. For more information, please visit [dclibrary.org/getacard#getacard](http://dclibrary.org/getacard#getacard).
- **Sports Participation**: Homeschooled student may petition the DC State Athletic Association to participate in sporting activities. For more information about this process please visit the District of Columbia State Athletic Association [dcsaasports.org](http://dcsaasports.org).

## Need More?

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For more information on homeschooling in the District of Columbia, including [homeschooling regulations](#), please visit OSSE's [homeschooling website](#).