



HOME SCHOOL RESOURCE GUIDE

By Jennifer Morrill



FEBRUARY 12, 2018
MTN. VISTA HOME SCHOOL ACADEMY
2400 Slater Ave

Home School Resources in General

Colorado Department of Education:

Home School Law https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool_law
FAQ's about home schooling in Colorado (see Addendum pages)

Home School Legal Defense Association <https://hsllda.org/>

Provides information for home school families for the whole US.
Offers help with how to begin home schooling
Will provide legal help for families who may need it.
Offers a membership with access to more resources (legal consultants, special needs consultants, help with DMV and student work permits).

Secular Homeschool <http://www.secularhomeschool.com/content/>

Provides information and curriculum resources for secular materials as well as a Homeschooling Guide.

Christian Home Educators of Colorado <https://chec.org/>

Provides information and curriculum resources for Christian materials and resources specific for Colorado home school students.

Pikes Peak Library District <https://ppld.org/homeschool-hub>

Provides information specific for home school families such as: library events, tutoring, classes, clubs, local groups, support groups, help with getting started as well as curriculum resources and local and online programs.

Field Trip Ideas

Around the Colorado Springs area:

- Pioneer Museum <https://www.cspm.org/>
- Numismatic Museum <https://www.money.org/money-museum>
- May Natural History Museum <https://coloradospringsbugmuseum.com/>
- Garden of the Gods Visitor Center <https://www.gardenofgods.com/>
- Glen Eyrie Castle <https://gleneyrie.org/>
- Fine Arts Center <https://www.csfineartscenter.org/>
- Colorado Springs Philharmonic <https://csphilharmonic.org/>
- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo <http://www.cmzoo.org/>
- Miramont Castle <http://www.miramontcastle.org/>
- Bear Creek Nature Center
<http://adm.elpasoco.com/CommunityServices/RecandCulturalSvc/Pages/BearCreekNatureCenter.aspx>
- Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame <http://www.prorodeohalloffame.com/>
- Olympic Training Center <https://www.teamusa.org/csotc>
- Space Foundation Discovery Center <https://www.discoverspace.org/>
- World Figure Skating and Hall of Fame Museum
<http://www.worldskatingmuseum.org/>
- Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center <https://coloradosprings.gov/Starsmore>
- Rock Ledge Ranch <https://rockledgeranch.com/>
- Western Museum of Mining and Industry <http://www.wmmi.org/>
- Patsy's Candies <https://patsyscandies.com/>
- United States Air Force Academy Visitor Center
<http://www.usafa.af.mil/Leadership/Public-Affairs/Visitor-Center/>
- Simpich Showcase <https://www.simpich.com/>
- National Museum of WWII Aviation <http://www.worldwariiaviation.org/>
- Colorado Spring Military Museum <https://www.visitcos.com/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/landmarks/el-pomar-in-colorado-springs-learn-about-the-penrose-heritage-museum/>
- Broadmoor Galleries <https://broadmoorgalleries.com/>

Out of Town (within 2 hours of Colorado Springs):

- Paint Mines
<http://adm.elpasoco.com/CommunityServices/ParkOperations/Pages/PaintMinesInterpretivePark.aspx>
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science <http://www.dmns.org/>
- Denver Zoo <https://www.denverzoo.org/>
- History Colorado Center <https://www.historycolorado.org/>
- Molly Brown House Museum <https://mollybrown.org/>
- Downtown Aquarium, Denver
<http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver/default.asp>

- Butterfly Pavillion <https://www.butterflies.org/>
- Chico Basin Ranch <http://www.chicobasinranch.com/>
- Pikes Peak Cog Railway <https://www.cograilway.com/>
- Florissant Fossil Beds <https://www.cograilway.com/>
- Royal Gorge Bridge <http://royalgorgebridge.com/>
- Pueblo Zoo <https://www.pueblozoo.org/>
- Cripple Creek Narrow Gauge <http://cripplecreekrailroad.com/contact-us/>
- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site <https://www.nps.gov/beol/index.htm>
- Buell Children's Museum <https://www.sdc-arts.org/museum/about>
- Rocky Mountain Resource Center <http://www.rmdrc.com/>
- State and National Parks

** Check sources for Free Days or deals **

**This is not an exhaustive list of field trip ideas!

Online Curriculum Resources, Books, and Supplies Ideas:

- Discovery Education (science, social studies, math) <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/>
- Core Knowledge (by subject/grade) <https://www.coreknowledge.org/>
- Rainbow Resource (by subject/grade) <https://www.rainbowresource.com/>
- Time4Learning (online courses/curriculum) <https://www.time4learning.com/>
- The Homeschool Mom (various help and resources for all grades) <https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/>
- Home Science Tools <https://www.homesciencetools.com/>
- Math U See <https://www.mathusee.com/>
- Teaching Textbooks (math) <http://www.teachingtextbooks.com/>
- Timberdoodle (grade/subject) <https://timberdoodle.com/>
- History.com (by topic) <http://www.history.com/topics> ** preview for appropriate audiences
- The Critical Thinking CO (grade/subject) <https://www.criticalthinking.com/>
- Mindware (science, critical thinking, history) <http://www.mindware.orientaltrading.com/>
- Homeschool Buyer's CO-OP (place to purchase discounted curriculum, free membership) <https://www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org/>

Local Curriculum Resources:

Teacher's Pet School Supply 2415 Rand Ave
Mardel Christian and Education 5964 Barnes Rd

**This is not an exhaustive list of resources, there are plenty more out there!

** Mtn. Vista Home School Academy has no affiliation with any of the above listed resources.

Colorado Dept. of Education: Info

Home School in Colorado

Nonpublic Home School Programs

Getting Started-Letter of Intent to Home School

Pursuant to Colorado law, parents who wish to begin home schooling must provide written notification of the establishment of the home school program **14 days** before beginning the home school program to a Colorado school district. The written notification must include the name, age, place of residence, and number of attendance hours for each child that will be participating in the home school program. Written notification must be re-submitted to a Colorado school district each year.

Subjects to Teach

Colorado law states that home school programs must include, but are not limited to, the subjects of communication skills of reading, writing, and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States. The selection of curriculum is at the discretion of the parent who is overseeing the home schooling program. The state cannot offer any guidance in this area, and encourages contacting the district that received the written notification if there are further questions.

Attendance Requirements

Home school programs must have no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging 4 contact hours per day.

Record Keeping

Records for each child participating in a home school program must be kept on a permanent basis by the parent who is overseeing the home school program. The records must include, but are not limited to, attendance, test and evaluation results, and immunization records as required by C.R.S sections [25-4-901](#), [25-4-902](#), and [25-4-903](#). The records must be produced and provided to the school district that received the written notification, not the state of Colorado, at the school district's request.

Assessment/Evaluation

Students that are participating in a home school program must have academic progress evaluated in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Students can take a nationally standardized achievement test or a qualified person, as described in C.R.S. 22-33-104.5(3)(f), can be selected by the parent to

evaluate the student's academic progress. The results of the evaluation, whether by assessment or qualified person, must be submitted to the school district that received the written notification.

The state cannot provide guidance regarding assessments or evaluation. Please contact your local school district for resources or specific deadlines for submitting evaluation results.

Other Things to Know About Home School

Home school is considered nonpublic and is not regulated by the state of Colorado. The parent who oversees the home school program is taking on the responsibility of obtaining books, supplies, tests, and is responsible for any costs associated. Because home schooling is considered nonpublic education, home school is not accredited by the Colorado Department of Education or by a local school district.

Additional Resources

The links below include a copy of Colorado Home School Law, how to get started home schooling your child, and a resources link to home school organizations that provide information on networking, support groups, curricula, and testing.

- [FAQs Regarding Home School](#)
- [Laws Pertaining to Home School](#)
- [Home School Resources](#)

Home school inquires:

303-866-2818

Home_School@cde.state.co.us

Home School Law

Title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes: Education Article 33: School Attendance Law of 1963 Section 104.5, as amended

[Return](#)

This portion of Colorado Revised Statutes has been reprinted with the permission of the committee on Legal Services in accordance with section 2-5-118, C.R.S. It is an unofficial publication of Colorado Revised Statutes.

22-33-104.5. Home-based education - legislative declaration - definitions - guidelines.

(1) The general assembly hereby declares that it is the primary right and obligation of the parent to choose the proper education and training for children under his care and supervision. It is recognized that home-based education is a legitimate alternative to classroom attendance for the instruction of children and that any regulation of nonpublic home-based educational programs should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate a variety of circumstances. The general assembly further declares that nonpublic home-based educational programs shall be subject only to minimum state controls which are currently applicable to other forms of nonpublic education.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Nonpublic home-based educational program" means the sequential program of instruction for the education of a child which takes place in a home, which is provided by the child's parent or by an adult relative of the child designated by the parent, and which is not under the supervision and control of a school district. This educational program is not intended to be and does not qualify as a private and nonprofit school.

(b) "Parent" includes a parent or guardian.

(c) "**Qualified person**" means an individual who is selected by the parent of a child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program to evaluate such child's progress and who is a teacher licensed pursuant to article 60.5 of this title, a teacher who is employed by an independent or parochial school, a licensed psychologist, or a person with a graduate degree in education.

(3) The following guidelines shall apply to a nonpublic home-based educational program:

(a) A parent or an adult relative designated by a parent to provide instruction in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall not be subject to the requirements of the "Colorado Educator Licensing Act of 1991", article 60.5 of this title, nor to the provisions of article 61 of this title relating to teacher employment.

(b) A child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall not be subject to compulsory school attendance as provided in this article; except that any child who is habitually truant, as defined in section 22-33-107 (3), at any time during the last six months that the child attended school before proposed enrollment in a nonpublic home-based educational program may not be enrolled in the program unless the child's parents first submit a written description of the curricula to be used in the program along with the written notification of establishment of the program required in paragraph (e) of subsection (3) to any school district within the state.

(c) A nonpublic home-based educational program shall include no less than one hundred seventy-two days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day.

(d) A nonpublic home-based educational program shall include, but need not be limited to, communication skills of reading, writing, and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States as provided in section 22-1-108.

(e) Any parent establishing a nonpublic home-based educational program shall provide written notification of the establishment of said program to a school district within the state fourteen days prior to the establishment of said program and each year thereafter if the program is maintained. The parent in charge and in control of a nonpublic home-based educational program shall certify, in writing, only a statement containing the name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child enrolled in said program. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 22-33-104 (1), a parent who intends to establish a nonpublic home-based education program is not required to:

(I) Provide written notification of the program to a school district within the state until the parent's child is **six** years of age;

(II) Establish the program until the parent's child is **seven** years of age; or

(III) Continue the program or provide the notification after the child is **sixteen** years of age.

(f) Each child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be evaluated when such child reaches grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven. Each child shall be given a nationally standardized achievement test* to evaluate the child's academic progress, or a **qualified person** shall evaluate the child's academic progress. The test or evaluation results, whichever is appropriate, shall be submitted to the school district that received the notification required by paragraph (e) of this subsection (3) or an independent or parochial school within the state of Colorado. If the test or evaluation results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, the name of such school shall be provided to the school district that received the notification required by paragraph (e) of this subsection (3). The purpose of such tests or evaluations shall be to evaluate the educational progress of each child. No scores for a child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be considered in measuring school performance or determining accreditation pursuant to article 11 of this title.

(g) The records of each child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be maintained on a permanent basis by the parent in charge and in control of said program. The records shall include, but need not be limited to, attendance data, test and evaluation results, and immunization records, as required by sections 25-4-901, 25-4-902, and 25-4-903, C.R.S. Such records shall be produced to the school district that received the notification required by paragraph (e) of this subsection (3) upon fourteen days' written notice if the superintendent of said school district has probable cause to believe that said program is not in compliance with the guidelines established in this subsection (3).

(4) Any child who has participated in a nonpublic home-based educational program and who subsequently enrolls in the public school system may be tested by the school district for the purpose of placing the child in the proper grade and shall then be placed at the grade level deemed most appropriate by said school district, with the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian. The school district shall accept the transcripts for credit from non-public home-based educational program for any such child; except that the school district may reject such transcripts if the school district administers testing to such child and the testing does not verify the accuracy of such transcripts.

(5) (a) (I) If test results submitted to the appropriate school district pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of this section show that a child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program received a composite score on said test which was above the thirteenth percentile, such child shall continue to be exempt from the compulsory school attendance requirement of this article. If the child's composite score on said test is at or below the thirteenth percentile, the school district shall require the parents to place said child in a public or independent or parochial school until the next testing period; except that no action shall be taken until the child is given the opportunity to be retested using an alternate version of the same test or a different nationally standardized achievement test selected by the parent from a list of approved tests supplied by the state board.

(II) If evaluation results submitted to the appropriate school district pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of this section show that the child is making sufficient academic progress according to the child's ability, the child will continue to be exempt from the compulsory school attendance requirement of this article. If the evaluation results show that the child is not making sufficient academic progress, the school district shall require the child's parents to place the child in a public or independent or parochial school until the next testing period.

(b) If the child's test or evaluation results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, said school shall notify the school district that received the notification pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of this section if the composite score on said test was at or below the thirteenth percentile or if the evaluation results show that the child is not making sufficient academic progress. The school district shall then require the parents to proceed in the manner specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection(5).

(6) (a) If a child is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program but also attending a public school for a portion of the school day, the school district of the public school

shall be entitled to count such child in accordance with the provisions of section 22-54-103 (10) for purposes of determining pupil enrollment under the "Public School Finance Act of 1994", article 54 of this title.

(b)(I) For purposes of this subsection (6), a child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall have the same rights as a student enrolled in a public school of the school district in which the child resides or is enrolled and may participate on an equal basis in any extracurricular or interscholastic activity offered by a public school or offered by a private school, at the private school's discretion, as provided in section 22-32-116.5 and is subject to the same rules of any interscholastic organization or association of which the student's school of participation is a member.

(II) (A) Except as provided for in sub-subparagraph (B) of this subparagraph (II), for purposes of section 22-32-116.5, the school district of attendance for a child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be deemed to be the school district that received the notification pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of this section.

(B) For purposes of section 22-32-116.5, the school district of attendance for a child who withdraws from a public or private school more than fifteen days after the start of the school year and enters a non-public home-based educational program shall be the school district or private school from which the child withdrew for the remainder of that school year. If, during the remainder of that academic year, the child chooses to participate in extracurricular or interscholastic activities at the same school and was eligible for participation prior to withdrawing from the school, the child remains eligible to participate at such school.

(c) No child participating in an extracurricular or interscholastic activity pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (6) shall be considered attending the public school district where the child participates in such activity for purposes of determining pupil enrollment under paragraph (a) of this subsection (6).

(d) As used in this subsection (6), "extracurricular or interscholastic activities" shall have the same meaning as "activity" as set forth in section 22-32-116.5 (10).

(e) If any fee is collected pursuant to this subsection (6) for participation in an activity the fee shall be used to fund the particular activity for which it is charged and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

Frequently Asked Questions about Home Schooling

What should I know about home schooling?

- Home schooling is deregulated in the state of Colorado. Therefore, the parent or guardian is taking on all of the responsibility for the student's education including but not limited to the acquisition of books, supplies, tests, and maintaining permanent records.
- There is no public funding available for home school programs.
- Home schooling falls under non-public education and is not accredited by the Colorado Department of Education or a local school district.
- A nonpublic home-based educational program shall include no less than one hundred seventy-two days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day. (22-33-104.5(3)(c), C.R.S.)
- Home school students are not required to take Colorado's standardized tests, however the parent may request of their local school district that their child participate. Colorado specific assessments do not fulfill the requirement for home school students to take a nationally standardized test.
- A parent who intends to establish a nonpublic, home-based, education program does not need to provide written notification of the program to a school district within the state until the child is 6 years old. (22-33-104.5(3)(e), C.R.S.)

How do I register my home school program?

- The parent or guardian must provide written notification explaining the intent to home school his or her child. Notification can be given to any [Colorado public school district office](#).
- This written notification must be given 14 days before the parent or guardian establishes the home school program. (22-33-104.5(3)(e), C.R.S.)
- The notification must list the child's name, age, place of residence, and attendance hours.
- Please Note: Written notification must be re-submitted to the school district each year the home school program is maintained after the initial year.
- If the written notification is not submitted to the school district the student resides in, it is advisable to notify the residing school district as well to avoid truancy action.

Where do I get textbooks, curricula, tests and other materials to home school my child?

Contact an organization at [Home School Resources](#), bookstores, supply houses, or your local school district. These organizations may be able to provide you with information on how to obtain materials.

What are the costs of home school materials?

Home school resources vary, because entire programs can be purchased from private companies or the parent or guardian can create the curriculum. All costs are assumed by the parent or guardian.

What requirements or qualifications must I have to home school my child?

You must be the child's parent, legal guardian or an adult relative designated by the parent. (22-33-104.5(3)(a), C.R.S.) No other qualifications or licenses are required.

NOTE: If your child is enrolled in a home school co-op program and those running the program will conduct an evaluation for educational progress, those teaching your child must be qualified. A qualified person means an individual who is selected by the parent of a child who is participating in a nonpublic, home-based educational program to evaluate such child's progress and who is a teacher licensed pursuant to article 60.5 of this title, a teacher who is employed by an independent or parochial school, a licensed psychologist, or a person with a graduate degree in education. (22-33-104.5(2)(c), C.R.S.)

What are the requirements for attendance?

Your program shall include no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day. (22-33-104.5(3)(c), C.R.S.)

What subjects do I have to teach?

Your program shall include, but is not limited to communication skills of reading, writing and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States. (22-33-104.5(3)(d), C.R.S.)

What kind of records do I have to keep?

Your records must include but are not limited to, attendance data, test and evaluation results, and immunization records. Such records may be requested by the school district that receives notification that the student is attending a home school program (22-33-104.5(3)(g), C.R.S.)

What kind of test is my child required to take? Who pays for it? Where do I get the test?

The student being home schooled must either take a nationally standardized achievement test when he/she reaches grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven to evaluate academic progress, or a qualified person must evaluate the student's academic progress at the parent's expense. Contact an organization at [Home School Resources](#), or check with the local school district to see if the student can be tested the same day public school students are tested. The district may charge you for any costs incurred.

It is the parent's obligation to report the test or evaluation results to either the school district that receives the written notification for the home school student, or report the test or evaluation results to an independent or parochial school.

* If the parent submitted the test or evaluation results to an independent or parochial school, the name of the school must be provided to the school district that receives written notification. (22-33-104.5(3)(f), C.R.S.)

NOTE: If your child is enrolled in a home school co-op program, it is still the parent's obligation to report test/evaluation results to the school district.

For locations of testing, contact one of the organizations listed on the [Home School Resources](#) page.

Is my home schooled child required to take a state assessment test?

No. Home schooled students are required to take a nationally standardized test. However, if a parent or legal guardian requests it, a district shall permit a home schooled student to take the state assessment and provide the results of the assessment to the parent or legal guardian. The test is given only to home schooled students whose parents request that the child participate in the testing. (22-7-409 (III)(1.3)(b), C.R.S.)

Is there a state diploma or can my child earn one from the district?

There is no state diploma. District diplomas are presented only to students who have attended a public high school in the district. Some companies selling home schooling curricula offer a diploma at the completion of their program. A parent or guardian can purchase a diploma at an office supply store or make a diploma on a computer to present at the completion of the program. Home school programs are not accredited by the state of Colorado or local school districts.

How can I find support groups or information on the Internet?

[Home School Resources](#) is a list of resource and support groups you can contact with your questions and concerns. These organizations may be able to provide you with information for support groups in your area. Parents with home schooling experience are your best sources of information. You might also search the Internet or check with community groups and organizations for additional information.

Does my home schooled child have to take the GED?

No. The adult in charge of the program may graduate the student by simply issuing a diploma. However, taking the [GED](#) (High School Equivalency) is an option.

Is there any funding available for home schooling?

At the time of this update, there is no funding available.

Home Schooling through High School: (college-bound)

Graduation Requirements:

- Colorado Dept. of Education for guidelines
- Local School Districts
- Check with colleges for their requirements (i.e., UCCS, CU, CSU Pueblo, etc.)
Let them know you have a homeschooled student interested in their institution and need to know their admission requirements (i.e., ACT/SAT tests, transcript)

RESOURCES:

ACT Test info: registration, locations, dates/times

www.act.org

www.studypoint.com (registration, also has test prep info for both SAT/ACT)

Transcript and general info for high school:

Lee Binz: www.homehighschoolhelp.com

Setting the Records Straight: How to Craft Homeschool Transcripts and Course Descriptions for College Admission and Scholarships by Lee Binz

Homeschooling High School, by Jeanne Gowen Dennis

Scholarships:

www.scholarships.com

www.scholarshipowl.com

Non college Bound:

GED (not required) <https://www.ppcc.edu/testing-center/ged-testing>