

For more information, contact the following offices:

1. The Home Schooling Coordinator of your local school system;
2. The Student Services and Alternative Programs Branch of the Maryland State Department of Education at (410) 767-0311; or
3. The Nonpublic School Approval Branch of the Maryland State Department of Education at (410) 767-0407.

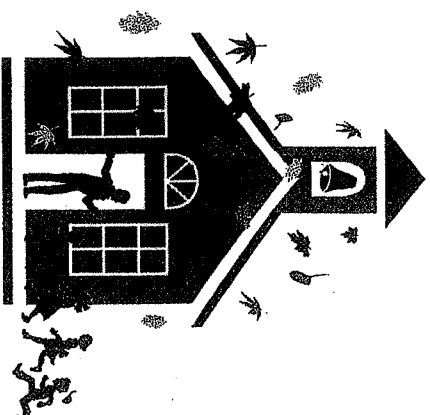
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- Q. May my child participate in the standardized testing program offered by the school system?**
- A. Yes. A child receiving home schooling may participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing programs that are administered in the assigned school. Testing should be requested in writing to the local Department of Student Services (this is part of the Home Schooling Notification form), and it is also the responsibility of the parent to contact the assigned school to find out the testing schedule and make arrangements for participation prior to the testing date. Transportation must be provided by the parent.
- Q. What happens if my child decides to return to public school?**
- A. Upon application of a child for admission to a public school from a home schooling program, the local superintendent shall determine by an evaluation the placement of the child and any credits to be awarded toward high school graduation. The evaluation may include administration of standardized tests, review of portfolio, and examinations and interviews with the child.
- Q. Can my child receive special education services?**
- A. Children with disabilities who are home schooled do not have an individualized entitlement to special education services. Local school systems will offer free appropriate public education (FAPE) in accordance with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) plan to all students with disabilities at any time the parent decides to access public education. If you believe your child should be evaluated to determine eligibility for special education services, call the local Department of Special Education.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING HOME SCHOOLING

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

- Q. Does Maryland law permit a student of mandatory school age to be home schooled instead of attending a public or a nonpublic school?**
- A.** Maryland law, Education Article, §7-201, Annotated Code of Maryland, Compulsory Attendance, states that each child who resides in Maryland and is 5 years old or older and under 16 shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough schooling during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public school to children of the same age. Maryland recognizes nonpublic schools and home schooling as options to public school enrollment for students to receive regular, thorough instruction.
- Q. Are there regulations that govern home schooling in Maryland?**
- A.** (COMAR) 13A.10.01 Home Instruction, are the regulations that govern home instruction in Maryland. The purpose of COMAR 13A.10.01 is to establish a procedure to be used by the superintendent of each local school system to determine if a child participating in a home schooling program is receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age.
- Q. What must a parent/guardian do before beginning home schooling?**
- A.** At least 15 days before the beginning of a home schooling program, the parent/guardian should contact their local school system for a copy of the Home Schooling Notification form and the Home Schooling regulations (COMAR 13.A.10.01).¹ The parent must verify the child's home school status each year.
- Q. Does the local school system or the Maryland State Department of Education provide a curriculum to parents to use for the purpose of home schooling?**
- A.** A parent/guardian who elects to provide home school to his/her child (ren) must select the curriculum to be used. The home schooling regulation does, however, specify the subjects that must be taught by the parent/guardian.
- Q. What areas of instruction are mandatory in my program?**
- A.** Evidence of instruction in all of the following areas is required: reading, English/Language Arts, science, social studies, spelling, art, music, health, physical education.
- Q. Must home schooling be supervised in Maryland?**
- A.** Home schooling must be supervised in Maryland by one of the following entities:
1. The local school system.
 2. A nonpublic school that holds a Certificate of Approval from the Maryland State Board of Education.
 3. A school or institution offering an educational program operated by a bona fide church organization.
- Q. Does the Maryland State Department of Education provide information about home schooling support groups?**
- A.** The Maryland State Department of Education does not collect information about home schooling support groups. The Department, however, maintains the names and addresses of the nonpublic schools and bona fide church organizations that are registered to supervise home schooling in Maryland.
- Q. Must the parent/guardian be a certified teacher?**
- A.** No. Present regulations do not require parents/guardians to have teacher certification.
- Q. Must the parent/guardian be the teacher or can a tutor be hired to take care of instruction?**
- A.** The Home Schooling regulations (COMAR 13.A.10.01) are quite clear that the parent/guardian is to be the primary provider of the instruction. Other adults can assist with a special area of interest, but cannot replace the parent/guardian.
- Q. Will schools provide curriculum and texts?**
- A.** No. This is the responsibility of the parents/guardians, but they may reference curriculum guides located at the Media Center of the Board of Education. Please call to make arrangements to view the guides.
- Q. How much time should be spent on instruction each day?**
- A.** Generally, a minimum of five (5) hours of daily instruction, Monday through Friday, is recommended for a period of at least 36 weeks (180) days of instruction.
- Q. Who reviews my program?**
- A.** The local school system will review the instructional program and will conduct a portfolio review at the conclusion of each semester unless home schooling is done under the supervision of a nonpublic school or a school or institution offering an educational program operated by a bona fide church organization. The local school system will contact you regarding appointments.
- Q. What samples of my child's work should be available during the portfolio review?**
- A.** Samples of the child's writing, worksheets, workbooks, creative materials and tests must be saved for review. In addition, work should be dated as it is completed.
- Q. What happens if the school system personnel find deficiencies in my home schooling program?**
- A.** If deficiencies in the program result in the child's not receiving a regular, thorough instructional program conforming with the Home Schooling regulations, the parent/guardian will be notified and must provide evidence within 30 days that the deficiencies have been corrected. If the deficiencies are not corrected, the superintendent may require that the child be enrolled promptly in a public or nonpublic school.
- Q. Can my child take part in other aspects of the instructional or extracurricular programs offered by the public school?**
- A.** No. Students receiving home schooling are not authorized to participate in courses or activities in public school programs other than the standardized testing program.