

Eastern York School District

120 South 3rd Street, PO Box 150

Wrightsville, PA 17368

Phone (717) 252-1555 Fax (717) 478-6000



EASTERN YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOME EDUCATION INFORMATION

The information contained in this packet will assist you with providing a Home Education Program for your child while residing in the Eastern York School District (EYSD) that meets the requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Please refer to the PDE website (www.pde.state.pa.us) should you have questions not addressed in this packet.

The following items are in this packet:

- Eastern York School District Home Education Program Basics
- Home Education in Pennsylvania Frequently Asked Questions
- Blank Elementary (K-5) Affidavit of the Supervisor of a Home Education Program
- Blank Secondary (6-12) Affidavit of the Supervisor of a Home Education Program

For your convenience, the Elementary and Secondary Affidavits at the end of this document may be filled out online. After completion, the affidavit(s) must be printed, notarized, and submitted to the Office of the Assistant Superintendent along with the appropriate documentation as outlined on page two of this packet.

You may also refer to Board Policies 137 and 137.1 for district policy on Home Education Programs and participation in EYSD co-curricular activities. These policies are available on the EYSD website.

Should you have any questions after reading through the information contained in this packet, and after visiting the PDE website, please contact Ms. Tina Keeler in the Administration Office at 717-252-1555, ext. 33238.

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HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM BASICS

INITIAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:

1. Affidavit listing the student(s) in the Home Education program, signed and properly notarized; and
2. Immunization and medical records for the student(s) in the Home Education program; and
3. An outline of objectives for each student, by subject area, for the upcoming school year.

Once this initial documentation is received, reviewed, and deemed satisfactory, the Supervisor (parent/guardian) of the Home Education Program will receive a letter from EYSD stating that all requirements for the coming school year have been met and that you may begin your home education program. The letter will also outline the items due to the Office of the Assistant Superintendent no later than June 30th of each year. If your child is currently enrolled and attending EYSD, you will need to visit the building of attendance and officially withdraw your child upon receipt of the letter.

ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:

There are two critical due dates for Home Education documentation. The following are due to the Office of the Assistant Superintendent by the dates indicated for each student in a home education program:

Due by August 1st of each school year:

1. Affidavit, signed and notarized; and
2. A list of objectives for each student, outlined by subject area, for the upcoming school year; and
3. Evidence of a medical exam for students entering grades 6 and 11, as appropriate; and
4. Evidence of a dental exam for students entering grades 3 and 7, as appropriate.

The above items may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Administration Office. Upon satisfactory receipt of the above items, the Supervisor will receive a letter from EYSD stating that all requirements for the coming school year have been met and that you may begin your home education program for the current school year.

Due by June 30th of each school year:

1. A program evaluation report, completed and signed by a qualified evaluator verifying evidence of compliance with the law regarding a Home Education Program; and
2. A copy of the teaching certificate of the evaluator; and
3. A portfolio of student work samples from the immediate prior school year; and
4. Standardized test reports for students who studied at grade level 3, 5, or 8, as appropriate.

The above items may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Administration Office. Upon satisfactory receipt of the above items, the Supervisor will receive a letter from EYSD stating that all requirements for the prior school year have been satisfied. Upon receipt of this letter, the Supervisor may come to the Administration Office to collect the reviewed portfolio(s).

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HOME EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA FAQ's

Pennsylvania's law on home education is known as Act 169. A copy of this law and home education requirements can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website, www.pde.state.pa.us.

In Pennsylvania, children of **compulsory school age** - children between the ages of eight (8) and seventeen (17) - are required to attend school. Educating a child at home is one way to comply with compulsory school attendance laws.

WHEN CAN I HOME EDUCATE MY CHILD?

A child can be home educated if the person teaching the child is a **“properly qualified private tutor”** or if a child's parent or guardian conducts a **“home education program”** for the child. Each of these arrangements has certain requirements.

WHEN IS SOMEONE CONSIDERED A “PROPERLY QUALIFIED PRIVATE TUTOR?”

The main requirements are that the tutor:

1. Must have a Pennsylvania's teacher's certificate; and
2. Must be teaching one or more children who are members of a single family; and
3. Must be providing the child or children with the majority of their instruction; and
4. Must be receiving some form of payment or consideration for their services.

A private tutor must file a copy of his/her Pennsylvania teacher's certificate and all criminal background checks as required by PDE with the superintendent of the student's district of residence. Private tutoring by a properly qualified tutor is subject to the annual approval of the superintendent. The tutoring must provide at least 180 days of instruction per year, or a minimum of 900 hours (990 hours at the secondary level) of instruction per year. If these requirements are met, home instruction should be allowed. Even if a private tutoring situation does not meet these requirements, a parent or guardian may be able to set up a “home education program” for their child.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A “HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM?”

The requirements for a home education program are complex. To summarize: In a home education program, the child is taught by his or her parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian. The person teaching the child (who is called the **“supervisor”** of the child's home education program) must have a high school diploma or GED certificate.

Before beginning the home education program, and by **August 1st** of each year after the program has begun, the **supervisor** of the child's program must file a sworn statement, known as an **affidavit**, with the superintendent of the child's school district where the child resides. The affidavit must contain the name of the supervisor, the name and age of each participating child, and the address and phone number for the home. The affidavit must also state that the required subjects will be taught and must contain an outline of proposed educational objectives. **Evidence** that the child has had the legally required immunizations and has received the required health and medical services (such as annual vision and hearing tests) must also be supplied.

The home education program must provide at least 180 days of instruction per year, or **900 hours (990 hours at the secondary level) of instruction per year.**

At the **elementary level**, the child must be instructed in English (including spelling, reading and writing); arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education (including fire prevention); health; physical education; music; and art.

At the **secondary level**, the child must receive English (including language, literature, speech and composition); science; geography; social studies (including civics, world history, history of the U.S. and Pennsylvania); mathematics (including algebra and geometry); art; music; physical education; health; and safety education.

Upon a supervisor's request, the school district of residence *must* lend the supervisor copies of the school district's textbooks and other curriculum materials appropriate for the student's age and grade level. The following minimum courses in grades nine through twelve are established as a requirement for graduation in a home education program:

- Four years of English
- Three years of mathematics
- Three years of science
- Three years of social studies
- Two years of arts and humanities.

The supervisor of the program must keep a **portfolio** of the child's education, including a log showing the reading materials used, and samples of any writings, worksheets and the like.

At grade levels 3, 5, and 8, students must be given standardized tests in reading/language arts and mathematics by someone other than the parent. PDE has identified a list of acceptable nationally normed standardized tests. The Home Education Program BEC lists the tests that are acceptable. The results of these tests must be kept in the child's portfolio.

At the end of each school year, an **annual written evaluation** of the child's progress, including a review of the material kept in the child's portfolio, by a licensed psychologist or a certified teacher or a qualified private school teacher. This information must be provided to the superintendent by June 30th of each school year. If, after looking over these materials, the superintendent believes that the child is not being properly educated, the superintendent may ask for further documentation. If the supervisor of the home education program does not submit any further documentation, the child can no longer be educated at home. If additional documentation is submitted, but the superintendent still thinks the program is not appropriate, the school board must provide for a hearing by an impartial hearing examiner to decide whether the home education program may continue. The hearing examiner's decision may be appealed to state court.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO SCHOOL A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY?

If a child has a disability and a school district has identified the child as in need of special education, the proposed home education program must be approved by a certified special education teacher or a licensed clinical or certified school psychologist. This requirement *does not* apply to students who have been identified as gifted or talented.

CAN CHILDREN WHO ARE HOMESCHOOLED PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE THEY LIVE?

In Eastern York School District, students enrolled in a home education program may participate in the district's c-curricular activities and interscholastic athletic programs if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The student is a resident of the district
2. The student fulfills all eligibility criteria, or their equivalent, required for participation in an activity or program by district students, in accordance with Board Policy 122 Co-curricular Activities and/or Policy 123 Interscholastic Athletics.

Please see Board Policy 137.1, located on the Eastern York School District website, for guidelines regarding participation.

CAN A CHILD WHO IS HOME EDUCATED RECEIVE A DIPLOMA?

The school district of residence does not issue a diploma to a child who successfully completes a home education program. However, there are several ways for a child who is home educated to receive a diploma:

1. A student can fulfill the necessary requirements of a home education organization to receive a home education diploma. Home education organizations can be approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to issue home education diplomas. Pennsylvania Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency (PHAA) is one such organization that issues home education diplomas. (More information about PHAA can be found at www.pahomeschoolers.com).
2. A student can successfully complete the GED test and receive a Commonwealth Secondary Diploma; or
3. A student can successfully complete 1 year or 30 semester hours at an accredited postsecondary institution and submit that information to the PA Department of Education and receive a Commonwealth Secondary Diploma.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DECIDE TO RE-ENROLL MY CHILD IN PUBLIC SCHOOL AFTER I HAVE HOME EDUCATED HIM/HER?

Sometimes parents will home educate their child for a few years, and then decide to re-enroll their child back in public school. Parents can choose to re-enroll their child at any time (provided that the child hasn't graduated from high school or turned 21).

A question often arises about in which grade the child should be placed. There is no hard and fast rule that requires public schools to place the child in the grade the parent requests. However, schools cannot make arbitrary placement decisions. To help determine an appropriate placement, parents can provide the school with copies of coursework the child has completed during the time he/she was home educated. The school can also evaluate the child using objective testing measures to determine the appropriate grade and/or courses for the child.

IS HOME EDUCATION THE SAME AS HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION OR INSTRUCTION IN THE HOME?

Home Education is NOT the same as homebound instruction or instruction in the home.

Home Education (or homeschooling) is a home education program developed and provided by a child's parent and/or guardian. A child who is home educated is NOT enrolled in the school district of residence. On the other hand, **homebound instruction** is instruction provided by a school district to an enrolled student who cannot attend school for a short period of time due to a medical problem (such as a broken leg). **Instruction in the home** is provided by a school district to a student with a disability who is in need of special education services and who is enrolled in the district, but for some reason those education services cannot be provided appropriately to the student in a school setting. The use of **instruction in the home** is restricted to students whose needs require full-time special education services and programs outside the school setting for the entire school day.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOME EDUCATION?

There are many web sites that provide information about home education in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Education's web site includes much information about home education and private tutoring in Pennsylvania, including frequently asked questions about home education and copies of the laws about home education and private tutoring. The web site also includes a comprehensive list of home education organizations serving Pennsylvania families. The address for this web site is **www.pde.state.pa.us/home_education/site/default.asp**. You can also contact the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Home Education Office at (717) 787- 4860.

There are two other excellent web sites developed by parents' organizations that provide information about the laws on homeschooling in Pennsylvania and materials, such as curricula, to assist families in home education. These sites are **www.pahomeschoolers.com**, operated by the Pennsylvania Homeschoolers, and **www.phen.org**, operated by the Pennsylvania Home Education Network. Pennsylvania Homeschoolers can also be contacted at: RR2 Box 117, Kittanning, PA 16201 (724-783-6512).

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AFFIDAVIT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF A HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM

Elementary Student – Grades K-5

To the superintendent of Eastern York School District:

1. I attest that I _____ am the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of
(printed name of supervisor)

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____
and that I am the supervisor of the home education program and am responsible for the provision of instruction in the home education program and that I have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

The program will be conducted at: _____
(street address, city, state, and zip code)

The phone number at this site is: _____ Alternate phone: _____

2. I attest that the home education program will be in compliance with § 13-1327.1 of Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated.

3. I attest that the subjects listed in paragraph four below will be offered in the English language for a minimum of 180 days of instruction or a minimum of **900 hours**.

4. I attest that the following courses shall be taught at the elementary school level: English, to include spelling, reading, and writing; arithmetic; science; geography, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires; health and physiology; physical education; music; and art.

5. I attest that the education objectives in the home education program are by subject area **as attached** to this affidavit (attach objectives).

6. I attest that _____ has been immunized
(student's name)

against the following diseases and I have **attached evidence** thereof or said student has a medical or religious exemption pursuant to Section 1303(c) and (d) of Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| a) Diphtheria | e) Poliomyelitis |
| b) German Measles (Rubella) | f) Hepatitis B |
| c) Tetanus | g) Measles (Rubeola) |
| d) Mumps | h) Chickenpox (varicella) or evidence of immunity |

7. I attest that _____ has received the
(student's name)

health and medical services required by Article XIV of the Public School Code, and I have **attached evidence** thereof or has a religious exemption under §14-1419 of Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated.

Article XIV requires that every child of school age be given by methods established by the state's Advisory Health Board, an annual vision test and measurement of height and weight, tests for tuberculosis under medical supervision at when beginning school and 9th grade, and other tests required by the Advisory Health Board. Children when beginning school and in the 6th and 11th grades must have a medical examination and comprehensive appraisal of health by a physician and a hearing test is required when the child begins school and at 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 11th grade levels. Children when beginning school and in the 3rd and 7th grades must have a dental examination by a dentist. A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each child.

8. I attest that no adult living in the home, including the undersigned supervisor, and no person having legal custody of _____ has been convicted within five years of today's date
(student's name)

of any of the following offenses under Section 111 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

(1) An offense under one or more of the following provisions of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Chapter 25 (relating to criminal homicide). | Section 3129 (relating to sexual intercourse with an animal). |
| Section 2702 (relating to aggravated assault). | Section 4302 (relating to incest). |
| Former section 2709(b) (relating to stalking). | Section 4303 (relating to concealing death of child). |
| Section 2709.1 (relating to stalking). | Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of children). |
| Section 2901 (relating to kidnapping). | Section 4305 (relating to dealing in infant children). |
| Section 2902 (relating to unlawful restraint). | A felony offense under section 5902(b) (relating to prostitution and related offenses). |
| Section 2910 (relating to luring a child into a motor vehicle or structure) | Section 5903(c) or (d) (relating to obscene and other sexual materials and performances). |
| Section 3121 (relating to rape). | Section 6301 (relating to corruption of minors). |
| Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault). | Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children). |
| Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse). | Section 6318 (relating to unlawful contact with a minor). |
| Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault). | Section 6319 (relating to solicitation of minors to traffic drugs). |
| Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault). | Section 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of children). |
| Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault). | |
| Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure). | |

(2) An offense designated as a felony under the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L. 233, No. 64), known as "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act."

(3) An out-of-State or Federal offense similar in nature to those crimes listed in clauses (1) and (2).

Signed _____
(Supervisor's Signature) (Date)

Notary _____
(Notary Signature) (Date)

My commission expires: _____

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AFFIDAVIT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF A HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM

Secondary Student – Grades 6-12

To the superintendent of Eastern York School District:

1. I attest that I _____ am the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of
(printed name of supervisor)

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

and that I am the supervisor of the home education program and am responsible for the provision of instruction in the home education program and that I have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

The program will be conducted at: _____
(street address, city, state, and zip code)

The phone number at this site is: _____ Alternate phone: _____

2. I attest that the home education program will be in compliance with § 13-1327.1 of Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated.

3. I attest that the subjects listed in paragraph four below will be offered in the English language for a minimum of 180 days of instruction or a minimum of **990 hours**.

4. I attest that the following courses shall be taught at the secondary school level: English, to include language, literature, speech and composition; science; geography; social studies, to include civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra and geometry; art; music; physical education; health; and safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires. Such courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor of the home education program, economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age-appropriate courses as contained in Chapter 5 (Curriculum Requirements) of the State Board of Education. [PDE note: Chapter 5 has been repealed and replaced with Chapter 4.]

5. I attest that the education objectives in the home education program are by subject area **as attached** to this affidavit (attach objectives).

6. I attest that _____ has been immunized
(student's name)

against the following diseases and I have **attached evidence** thereof or said student has a medical or religious exemption pursuant to Section 1303(c) and (d) of Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated:

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| b) German Measles (Rubella) | f) Hepatitis B |
| c) Tetanus | g) Measles (Rubeola) |
| d) Mumps | h) Chickenpox (varicella) or evidence of immunity |

And in grade 7: meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) and diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) (if five years have elapsed since last tetanus immunization).

7. I attest that _____ has received the
(student's name)

health and medical services required by Article XIV of the Public School Code, and I have **attached evidence** thereof or has a religious exemption under §14-1419 of Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated.

Article XIV requires that every child of school age be given by methods established by the state's Advisory Health Board, an annual vision test and measurement of height and weight, tests for tuberculosis under medical supervision at when beginning school and 9th grade, and other tests required by the Advisory Health Board. Children when beginning school and in the 6th and 11th grades must have a medical examination and comprehensive appraisal of health by a physician and a hearing test is required when the child begins school and at 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 11th grade levels. Children when beginning school and in the 3rd and 7th grades must have a dental examination by a dentist. A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each child.

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(student's name)

of any of the following offenses under Section 111 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

(1) An offense under one or more of the following provisions of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes:

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| Section 2901 (relating to kidnapping). | Section 4305 (relating to dealing in infant children). |
| Section 2902 (relating to unlawful restraint). | A felony offense under section 5902(b) (relating to prostitution and related offenses). |
| Section 2910 (relating to luring a child into a motor vehicle or structure) | Section 5903(c) or (d) (relating to obscene and other sexual materials and performances). |
| Section 3121 (relating to rape). | Section 6301 (relating to corruption of minors). |
| Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault). | Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children). |
| Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse). | Section 6318 (relating to unlawful contact with a minor). |
| Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault). | Section 6319 (relating to solicitation of minors to traffic drugs). |
| Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault). | Section 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of children). |
| Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault). | |
| Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure). | |

(2) An offense designated as a felony under the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L. 233, No. 64), known as "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act."

(3) An out-of-State or Federal offense similar in nature to those crimes listed in clauses (1) and (2).

Signed _____
(Supervisor's Signature) (Date)

Notary _____
(Notary Signature) (Date)

My commission expires: _____