

Maine Department of Education

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Home Schooling from
DOE's website

Requirements, Forms & Laws

Whether you're new to homeschooling or just preparing for another year of teaching your children in the home, you should be aware of Maine's homeschooling requirements and laws, and make sure you submit the appropriate paperwork.

Requirements & Forms

How to Begin Homeschooling

New homeschoolers must file a Notice of Intent with both the Maine Department of Education and the local school superintendent by Sept. 1 in order to start at the beginning of the school year. If starting homeschooling in the middle of a school year, a Notice of Intent must be filed within 10 days of withdrawal from school. It is recommended that you mail a return receipt request, for your records.

Each year thereafter, a Subsequent Year Letter (along with assessment results—see below) must be filed with both your local school superintendent and the Maine DOE by Sept. 1.

Download the Notice of Intent and Subsequent Year Letter forms as PDF files below. You may print the forms and complete them by hand, or you may enter the information on your computer, print, and sign.

- **Notice of Intent** (PDF, 241KB). If your child is a new homeschooler, you must file this form with the Maine DOE and your local school superintendent.
- **Subsequent Year Letter** (PDF, 254KB). Every year after your child's first year in homeschooling, you must file this form with the Maine DOE and your local superintendent by Sept. 1.

Assessment

Annual assessment results must be submitted by Sept. 1, along with a Subsequent Year Letter, to both the Maine DOE and the local school superintendent's office.

Students must annually submit the results of an assessment from **one** of the following options:

- Results of a standardized achievement test
- Results of a test developed by local school officials (must be arranged with school system before school year starts)
- Review and acceptance of progress by a Maine-certified teacher

Laws

- **Maine Home School Statute.** Read Maine's statute related to homeschooling: Title 20-A, Section 5001-A, Sub-section 3.
- **Home School Access Law.** Public schools are permitted to partially enroll homeschooled students into classes or extra-curricular activities that are available at the school, as space and resources allow. In certain situations, homeschoolers have a right to access certain public school programs. Read Sub-section 1-A: Equivalent Instruction Programs.
- **Special Education & Homeschooling.** Homeschooled students are eligible to receive special education services at their resident school unit's public school. The public school has an obligation to provide such services only in the event that the student elects to participate in classes at the school, and only to the extent that those services are necessary, due to the student's disability, to enable the student to participate in those classes. On the Special Education Laws & Regulations page, click "State Regulation: Chapter 101" to download the document. See Section IV.4.H.

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