

Coffee and Chat Information Sheet

October: Resources for the home school law

Simplified version of the homeschool law written by Colorado Department of Education

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool.asp>

Full law written and passed during the legislative session

https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool_law

Records

- The letter of intent (NOI) must include:
 - Child's name
 - Age
 - Place of residence
 - Number of days of attendance, averaging 4 instructional contact hours per day

**** A NOI is not required until the child is six years of age**
- Attendance
- Testing or evaluation

Testing and Evaluations

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.

Evaluators

Amanda Bench <https://www.coloradohomeschooling.com/>

Shannon Carino scarino@gmail.com or text only 214-886-1515

Christine Oxner: Thrive HSA Family - Community Liaison

If you would like to reach out directly to me with questions or concerns, I can be reached at:
coxner@hsd2.org (719) 579-2160 office (719) 492- 0219 cell

Nationally Standardized Tests These are the 3 most popular CAT (California Achievement Test)

- No special requirements are needed of the administrator.
- Available at Seton
- Available at Christian Liberty
- Available at Academic Excellence - Timed & Untimed **version**

ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills)

- A 4-year degree is required for the administrator.
- This is offered free @ Thrive for Thrive students in grades 3,5,7,9,11
- Available at Seton

TerraNova

- No special requirements are needed of the administrator.
- Available at Seton

Umbrella Schools

- An umbrella school is considered a private school. You do not follow the homeschool law requirements mentioned above, instead you follow the requirements of the Umbrella school.
 - Possible benefits of an umbrella school
 - Testing or evaluation requirements may be different
 - Extra support and resources to families
 - Record registrar
 - Discounts to some organizations

Examples of a few Umbrella Schools in Colorado

- Poudre River School
- Spiral Academy
- West River Academy
- Statheros Academy
- Homeschool Freedom Academy

Christine Oxner: Thrive HSA Family - Community Liaison

If you would like to reach out directly to me with questions or concerns, I can be reached at:

coxner@hsd2.org (719) 579-2160 office (719) 492- 0219 cell

The following information was taken from
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool>

The law as it is written

https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool_law

Getting Started with Home School

A letter of intent must be submitted 14 days before beginning the home school program to a Colorado school district of a family's choosing. The family does not submit the letter of intent to CDE. The letter of intent 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. Should you begin your home school program during the school year, you may prorate the 172 days of instruction requirement against the attendance already completed. Written notification must be re-submitted to a Colorado school district each year.

Home School Requirements

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. Home school programs must have no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging 4 contact hours per day. The selection of curriculum is at the discretion of the parent who is overseeing the home schooling program.

Records

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.
- Records verification requests (including transcripts and diplomas) must to go the parent who oversees the homeschool program, or to the district the family filed the letter of intent with.
- CDE does not receive or house any records related to homeschool.

Christine Oxner: Thrive HSA Family - Community Liaison

If you would like to reach out directly to me with questions or concerns, I can be reached at:

coxner@hsd2.org (719) 579-2160 office (719) 492- 0219 cell

Assessments

Students that are participating in a home school program must have academic progress evaluated in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. CDE is not able to advise on the selection of assessments and there is not a list of allowable assessments. Please contact the school district with which your letter of intent is filed for further questions.

- Students are not required to take the state standardized test, but 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.
- According to the home school law, the assessments that home school students must take are either a nationally standardized achievement test or an evaluation of academic progress administered by a qualified person that the parent selects.
 - A qualified person is someone who has a CO teacher license, is a teacher in an independent or parochial school, is a licensed psychologist, or has a master's degree in education.
 - The parent of the home school program works with the qualified person to determine what the evaluation of academic progress would be. Local home school support groups may also have more information on what those evaluations of academic progress could be.
 - The test or evaluation results, whichever is appropriate, shall be submitted to the school district that received the letter of intent.

Christine Oxner: Thrive HSA Family - Community Liaison

If you would like to reach out directly to me with questions or concerns, I can be reached at:

coxner@hsd2.org (719) 579-2160 office (719) 492- 0219 cell