



## Monroe One BOCES Homeschooling Overview

# Getting Started with Homeschooling

## Introduction

Chances are, if you are considering, or just entering, the world of homeschooling, you are feeling a little exhilarated, a bit unsure, and probably somewhat overwhelmed. You are not alone! Many parents who make the decision to oversee their children's education have similar feelings at the beginning.

We hope that this informational handout will help you better understand what is required for successful homeschooling.

## State Requirements



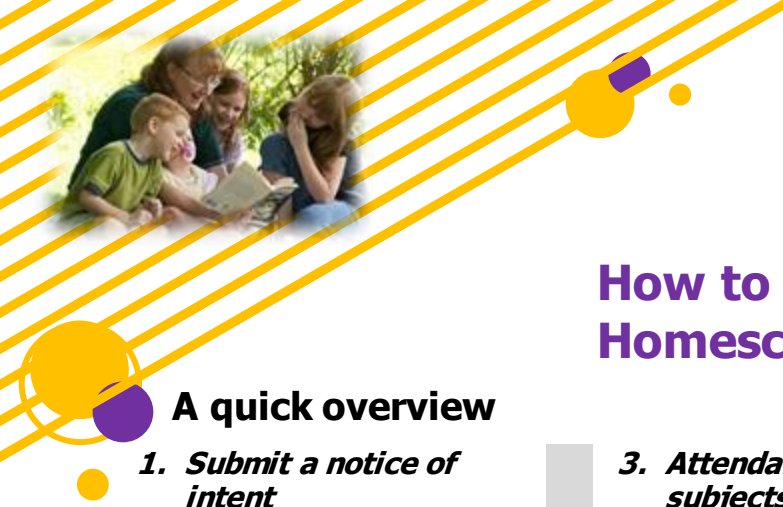
The key to successful homeschooling is understanding what is required, and when. Some key pieces include:

- School is required for students aged 6 – 16/17.
- No teacher certification needed.
- Notice of intent is required.
- An Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP) is required.
- Students must attend at least 180 days/year.
- There are mandatory instructional hours, based on grade level.
- Quarterly reports.
- Annual assessments.



There are many organizations who support homeschool families. Search the Internet for those in New York State, or for those who are familiar with New York State requirements, for more information.

\*Except for NYS school districts, using NYS certified instructors. Use of other 100% online schools may put your student's Letter of Equivalency at risk.



# How to Comply with New York's Homeschool Laws

## A quick overview

### 1. *Submit a notice of intent*

You must submit a notice of intent to homeschool to your district superintendent by **July 1** annually, or **within 14 days** of initiating homeschooling. A sample Letter of Intent is on the website at <https://www.monroe.edu/Domain/1651>

### 2. *Submit an Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP)*

Each school year, you must submit an IHIP by **August 15** or within four weeks of the receipt of the IHIP form from the school district. The IHIP form requires you to submit your child's name, age, and grade level; a list of your syllabi, curriculum materials, textbooks, or plan of instruction; dates for submission of quarterly reports; and the name of whoever is giving the instruction. The IHIP form can be downloaded from <https://www.monroe.edu/Domain/1651>

### 3. *Attendance and subjects*

You must maintain records of attendance each year demonstrating the "substantial equivalent" of 180 days. In addition, students must meet hourly attendance requirements:

- 900 hours grades 1-6
- 990 hours grades 7-12

*Subject requirements:*

#### Grades K-12

- Patriotism and citizenship
- About substance abuse
- Traffic safety
- Fire safety

And at least once before grade 9

- US and NY history and constitutions

#### Grades 1-6

- Arithmetic
- Reading
- Spelling
- Writing
- English
- Geography
- US History
- Science
- Health
- Music
- Visual arts
- Physical education

#### Grades 7-8

- Mathematics
- English
- History and geography
- Science
- Health
- Music
- Art
- Practical arts
- Physical education
- Library skills

#### Grades 9-12

- Mathematics (2 credits)
- English (4 credits)
- Social studies, including American history, participation in government, and economics (4 credits)
- Science (2 credits)
- Art or music (1 credit)
- Health (1/2 credit)
- Physical education (2 credits)
- Electives (3 credits)

### 4. *Quarterly reports*

Quarterly reports must be submitted to the district superintendent or his/her designee, and should include the number of hours of instruction, a description of the material covered in each subject, and a grade or narrative evaluation in each subject.

## 5. Assessments

An annual assessment is required every year. In grades 1-3, you can have your student take the standardized test or you can choose to submit a written narrative evaluation for your student. In grades 4-8, standardized testing is required at least every other year, with a written narrative evaluation available as an option in the years you do not use a standardized testing option. Standardized testing is required every year in high school - grades 9-12.

- **Standardized tests** can be administered at the local public school or a registered nonpublic school. A standardized test can also be administered in your home, or at any other reasonable location, by a New York–certified teacher or by another qualified person (including the student’s parent) with the consent of the superintendent. You can obtain consent by simply notifying the superintendent in your third quarterly report as to what test you will be using and who will be administering it.

To demonstrate satisfactory progress, your student’s composite score must be above the 33rd percentile, or the score must reflect one academic year of growth compared to a test administered the prior school year.

*You may choose one of the following tests:*

- Iowa Test of Basic Skills,
  - the California Achievement Test,
  - the Stanford Achievement Test,
  - the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills,
  - the Metropolitan Achievement Test,
  - a State Education Department Test, or
  - another test approved by the State Education Department, such as the Personalized Achievement Summary System (PASS) test.
- **Written narrative evaluations** can be conducted by a certified teacher, a home instruction peer group review panel, or other person, with the consent of the local superintendent. Just as with the standardized test, you can obtain implied consent by notifying the superintendent in your third quarterly report that you will be submitting a written narrative evaluation and by whom it will be prepared.

**6. Students exit school** with a Letter of Equivalency, not a diploma. A Letter of Equivalency is accepted at most NYS colleges. [Click here](#) for more information.

*Questions? Please feel free to contact us!  
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For more information, go to [NYSED](#)