

## Guidelines for Homeschooling and Private Schools

These guidelines are intended to help in understanding educational requirements for home and private schools according to Arizona Revised Statutes ARS 15-745, 801, 802, and 828. Updated 11/4/2014.

For more information, call Annie Terhaar at (928) 679-8070 or 1(800)-559-9289, press 0 and ask for schools. You can also email Annie at [aterhaar@coconino.az.gov](mailto:aterhaar@coconino.az.gov).

### Compulsory Education Requirements

ARS 15-802: An instruction in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies, and science must be provided for every child between six and 16 years of age. The parent of a child is required to choose public, private, charter, or home school to provide instruction.

### Affidavit of Intent Form

An **Affidavit of Intent to Homeschool** or **Private School Affidavit of Intent** form must be registered with the county school superintendent in the county in which you live. Parent who choose the home or private school option must complete and file an Affidavit of Intent for each child between six and 16 years of age.

Your student's Affidavit of Intent will remain on file for the period of time our student is homeschooled or enrolled in a private school. You are required by law to notify the county school superintendent within 30 days if your child is no longer homeschooled by completing either a **Homeschool Pupil Withdrawal/Change of Address** or **Private School Withdrawal Notification Form**. An affidavit must be recorded again if the home or private school instruction is terminated and then resumed.

### Certified Birth Certificate

A copy of each child's proof of birth must be on file with the county school superintendent within 30 days of beginning homeschooling. A hospital birth record is NOT a certified birth certificate. A certified birth certificate is issued by the state in which the child was born and can be obtained from the Department of Vital Records or Department of Health. You may find vital records information from any state or county on the following website: <http://vitalrec.com>. An Arizona certified birth certificate may be obtained at the Arizona State Department of Vital Records, 1818 W. Adams, Phoenix, Arizona. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone number is (602) 364-1300.

If you cannot obtain a birth certificate, ARS 15-828.B.2 states that other reliable proof of the pupil's identity and age can be used, including the pupil's baptismal certificate, an application for a social security number, original school registration records, and an affidavit explaining the inability to provide a copy of the birth certificate.

## **Interscholastic Activities**

Homeschooling students must be allowed to try out for interscholastic sports and activities on behalf of a public school in the same manner as a pupil who is enrolled in that public school according to ARS 15-802.01. Homeschooled student's courses, grades, and progress towards promotion can be reported by providing a written verification to the school. Contact the administrative office of your local public school for eligibility requirements, registration, fees, and other information. For further details, consult ARS 15-802.01.1, 2, B, and C.

## **Testing**

Parents who choose to homeschool are not required to test or qualify with the state. Achievement testing is not required for children receiving instruction in a homeschool.

The county school superintendent does not provide achievement testing. A child who enrolls in school after receiving instruction in a homeschool program is tested pursuant to ARS 15-745.B to determine the appropriate grade level and classes. Contact your local school or school district office for public school enrollment policy.

The State Board of Education allows homeschooled students to take the AIMS test, a criterion-referenced test, at no charge, but does not require them to do so. Since testing of homeschoolers is not required, parents who would like to use a nationally standardized test to check their child's progress may choose any testing facility. All costs associated with the testing will be the responsibility of the parents. You may contact your local homeschool resource groups for further information.

## **Special Education**

According to ARS 15-763, the school district or charter school shall provide services to both homeschooled pupils and private schooled pupils in the same manner as a child enrolled in the public school with disabilities. Contact your local school district official or the Director of Special Education in your school district office or charter school to arrange screenings and evaluations.

## **Scholarships**

The Arizona /Board of Regents has established policies to provide "fair and equitable access" to students from public, private, charter, and homeschools for any merit-based scholarships issued by the Board and the universities under the Board's jurisdiction. Arizona universities award scholarships based on merit. Please be sure to specify you are a homeschool graduate. For further information on scholarship opportunities, please contact the Arizona Board of Regents at (602) 229-2500.

## **GED**

Students who have been homeschooled may be eligible to take a General Educational Development (GED) test once they reach the age of 16 years and once they have withdrawn from the homeschool educational program. GED policy does not allow individuals enrolled in a

school, homeschool, or private school to be tested. A high school equivalency diploma is offered to students who pass the GED test. For further information, go to <http://www.ade.az.gov/adult-ed> and click on GED Testing or call (602) 258-2410.

## **Homeschool Resources**

### **National College Admission Test**

SAT and ACT test and tips booklets, registration packers, and schedules may be obtained from your local high school or by contacting the following:

College Board SAT Program  
P.O. Box 6200  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6200  
1 (800) 728-7267

ACT Registration Department  
P.O. Box 414  
Iowa City, IA 52243-0414  
(916) 361-0656

Arizona Homeschool Registration Code: 990399  
[www.collegboard.org](http://www.collegboard.org)