

Washington State's Homeschool Law

Homeschooled students are legally defined as those receiving 'home-based instruction.'

Independent Homeschooling

1. Counted by public school
2. Must file annual "Declaration of Intent" with local superintendent; must be filed by Sept. 15th or within 2 weeks of any quarter/trimester break.
3. The parent must meet one of the following qualifications:
 - one year at a post-secondary institution
 - teacher works with student 1 hour/week (min.)
 - take a course on homeschooling from a post-secondary institution
 - waiver by the local superintendent
4. Required subjects: reading, writing, spelling, language, math, science, PE/health, social studies, history, occupational education, and art & music appreciation, (curriculum/total hours per subject not dictated).
5. "School" is to be held over 180 days/equivalent hours (approx. 1000 hours/ year) although this is to be liberally construed as the legislature recognizes that the form of home-based instruction may be "less structured and more experiential in nature" (documentation = attendance record and may be necessary to distinguish between home-based instruction and truancy).
6. Part-time enrollment is an option
7. Required annual assessment of student progress in math and reading given by teacher w/current certification: achievement test or narrative evaluation. Parent must address problem areas.
8. Home-based instruction records held by parent until enrolled in school; previous records held by local district.
9. Addresses K-8 only, 9-12 credit issues defined by local school district.

Private School Extension Program

1. Counted by private school
2. Must be enrolled in an approved (by WA State Board of Education) private school (in WA) offering an extension program (***no Declaration of Intent needed***).
3. The teacher of the private school must:
 - plan objectives with parent
 - meet w/student a minimum of 1 hr/week
 - evaluate student progress
 - Student to teacher ratio is no greater than 30:1
6. Ancillary services for non-basic education through the public schools: i.e band, shop, speech therapy, specialty classes.
7. Teacher evaluates progress (see #3 above). The state does not require testing, though the private school may.
8. School records held by private school.
9. Credit/transcript/diploma earned through private school requirements.