

ARKANSAS

Compulsory Attendance Ages: 5 through 17, on or before August 1. There is an option for a kindergarten waiver if the child will not be 6 on August 1. However, the parent must file a kindergarten waiver form on a form prescribed by the Department of Education. Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-18-201, -207.

Required Days of Instruction: No specified days.

Required Subjects: No specified requirements.

Home School Statute: Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-501 to -509.

1. Parents or guardians may choose to provide a home school for their children by notifying the local public school superintendent in writing of their intent to home school no later than August 15 by parents beginning home schooling in the fall semester or by December 15 for those beginning in the spring semester. Parents deciding to begin home schooling after the start of a semester are permitted to do so by providing the notice of intent 14 days prior to withdrawing the child from public school and each year thereafter at the beginning of the school year. The superintendent or the local school board may waive the 14-day waiting period. Parents or guardians moving into the school district during the school year must give written notice within 30 days of establishing residency within the school district. § 6-15-503(a).

(A public school student who is currently under disciplinary action for violation of any school policy is not eligible to begin home schooling unless (1) the superintendent or local school board chooses to allow the student to enroll in a home school; (2) the disciplinary action against the student has been completed or the school semester ends, whichever occurs first; or (3) the student has been expelled from public school.) § 6-15-503(d).

Parents or guardians must deliver the notice in person to the local superintendent the first time notice is given. § 6-15-503(a)(4). The notice must include:

- (a) The name, date of birth, grade level of the children, and the name and address of the school last attended, if any, of each student involved;
- (b) The location of the home school;
- (c) The basic core curriculum to be offered;
- (d) The proposed schedule of instruction; and
- (e) The qualifications of the teacher/parents.

Note: All this information “may be used only for statistical purposes and test administration.” § 6-15-503(a-b).

2. Parents or guardians must sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their child during the time of home schooling. § 6-15-503(a)(2).
3. No child may be home schooled if any person residing in the home is a registered sex offender, unless upon petition by the child’s parent or guardian, the sentencing court enters a written order specifically waiving this restriction. § 6-15-508.
4. A home school is not eligible for local, state, or federal funds allocated to a public school district. § 6-15-507(a)(1). But homeschool students must be given the same access to special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*) as private school students. *Id.*

Teacher Qualifications: None.

Standardized Tests: None required by statute.

PLEASE NOTE: Children enrolled in a virtual charter school, public on-line school, or public school independent study program are not eligible for HSLDA membership. Enrollment in these secular programs is enrollment in public school, which gives the public school authority over the student to impose state assessment, approval of curriculum, and supervision by a certified teacher. HSLDA membership extends only to students whose education is primarily administered and controlled by parents privately. If you have any questions please call our office.