

## WASHINGTON

<b>Compulsory Attendance Ages:</b>	“eight years of age and under eighteen years of age.” Revised Code of Washington § 28A.225.010.
<b>Required Days of Instruction:</b>	180 days or “an annual average total instructional hour offering of one thousand hours” for grades 1-12 and “at least four hundred fifty hours” for kindergarten. Wash. Rev. Code §§ 28A.225.010(4)–(5), 28A.195.010(1), 28A.150.220.
<b>Required Subjects:</b>	Occupational education, science, math, language, social studies, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, and the development of an appreciation of art and music. Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.225.010(4).

Parent’s teaching their children at home have two options. They can qualify under the home-based instruction statute or operate as an extension of a private school.

**Option I: Home School Statute.** Wash. Rev. Code §§ 28A.225.010, 28A.200.010.

1. Home-based instruction consists of “planned and supervised instructional and related educational activities, including a curriculum and instruction in the basic skills [listed under Required Subjects above].” Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.225.010(4).
2. Parents must provide a number of hours of instruction “equivalent” to the program hours established for approved private schools. (See above.)
3. Instruction may only be provided by a parent who is either:
  - a. instructing his child only and is supervised by a certificated person (i.e., the certificated person and the parent plan educational objectives, the certificated person has an average of one contact hour per week with the child every month, and the certificated person evaluates the child’s progress);
  - b. instructing his child only and has either forty-five college quarter credits or the equivalent in semester credits (30 semester credits is equivalent to 45 college quarter credits);
  - c. instructing his child only and has completed a course in home-based education at a post-secondary institution or a vocational-technical institute (these courses generally do not require an extensive time commitment); *or*
  - d. instructing his child only and “is deemed sufficiently qualified to provide home-based instruction by the superintendent of the local school district....”
4. The requirements above “relating to the nature and quantity of instructional and related educational activities shall be liberally construed.” Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.225.010(5).

5. Parents must file an annual signed declaration of intent to home school by Sept. 15 of each year “or within two weeks of the beginning of any public school quarter, trimester, or semester” with the local superintendent or with the superintendent of a nonresident district which accepts the home school student as a transfer student under § 28A.225.220. “The statement shall include the name and age of the child, shall specify whether a certificated person will be supervising the instruction, and shall be written in a format prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction.” Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.200.010(1)(a). Local school districts are prohibited from advertising to homeschoolers.\*
6. “The state hereby recognizes that parents who are causing their children to receive home-based instruction under RCW 28A.225.010(4) shall be subject only to those minimum state laws and regulations which are necessary to insure that a sufficient basic educational opportunity is provided to the children receiving such instruction. Therefore, all decisions relating to philosophy or doctrine, selection of books, teaching materials and curriculum, and methods, timing, and place in the provision or evaluation of home-based instruction shall be the responsibility of the parent except for matters specifically referred to in this chapter.” Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.200.020.

**Option II: Alternative Statute Allowing for Home Instruction.** Wash. Rev. Code §§ 28A.225.010(1)(a), 28A.195.010(4). “An approved private school may operate an extension program for parents, guardians, or persons having legal custody of a child to teach children in their custody.” Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.195.010(4). These students are considered to be private school students.

**Teacher Qualifications:** If using Option I, see #3 above. If using Option II, same as 3(a) above.

**Standardized Tests:** Under Option I, parents must either:

- a. “Ensure that a standardized test approved by the state board... is administered annually to the child by a qualified” person; or
- b. Have the child evaluated by a “certificated person.” Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.200.010(1)(c).

Neither the results of the standardized achievement test nor the evaluation results need to be submitted to the public schools. However, the results must be retained by the parents as part of the child’s permanent records. Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.200.010(1)(c).

Under Option II: “Each student’s progress [must] be evaluated by the certificated person.” Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.195.010(4)(d).

*\*School districts are “prohibited from advertising, marketing, and otherwise providing unsolicited information about learning programs offered by the school district including, but not limited to, digital learning programs, part-time enrollment opportunities, and other alternative learning programs, to students and their parents who have filed a declaration of intent to cause a child to receive home-based instruction under RCW 28A.200.010.” Wash. Admin. Code § 392-121-182(6)(k).*

PLEASE NOTE: Families who have enrolled all their school-age children 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.