

Homeschool Information Packet

[Section 5](#) of the Kentucky Constitution establishes that parents may choose the method of formal education for their child. A homeschool is a private school pursuant to [KRS 159.030](#). In accordance with the Kentucky Supreme Court’s opinion in *Kentucky State Board for Elementary and Secondary Education v. Rudasill* ([589 S.W.2d 877, Ky. 1979](#)), the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) may not prescribe curriculum, teacher certification, or accreditation standards for homeschooling. The KDE does not accredit homeschools and does not provide any financial assistance, however, by way of this packet, the KDE seeks to provide transparent, accurate, and accessible information about the requirements that pertain to the establishment and daily operation of a homeschool.

For the purpose of this document, a homeschool is defined as a non-public school in which a family provides education to their own children. For a home-based school, one in which children from multiple families are provided instruction in the home of a third party, or any other type of non-public school, please see the KDE’s [Non-Public School’s](#) webpage.

For ease of navigation, this guide is established as a Frequently Asked Questions document with the following headings:

- Starting a Homeschool
- Requirements for Homeschool Operation
- Other Considerations

Starting a Homeschool

1. How do I begin homeschooling my children?

To homeschool your children, establish a *bona fide* school for the children to attend by giving your homeschool a name. A common method for doing so is to add “School” or “Academy” after the family’s last name. There is no requirement to register your school’s name as you would a business.

Following the establishment of a *bona fide* school, you must notify the superintendent of the local board of education in the community in which you reside of your intent to homeschool within the first two weeks of the beginning of the school year or within two weeks of withdrawal from the public school. This notification must be resubmitted annually. A sample notification letter is provided at the end of this packet.

2. What must be included in the intent to homeschool notification?

The intent to homeschool notification letter must include the names, ages, and home address of each child in attendance of the homeschool. A sample notification letter can be found at the end of this packet.

3. Can a public school district reject a homeschool notification letter?

No. The public school district is required to accept a homeschool notification letter.

4. When must I establish and enroll my child in homeschool?

Pursuant to [KRS 159.010](#), the parents of “any child between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16) shall send the child to a regular public day school for the full term that the public school of the district in which the child resides is in session or to the public school that the board of education of the district makes provision for the child to attend.” Families who seek to homeschool must notify the school district within the first two weeks of the school year or within two weeks of withdrawal from the public school of their intent to homeschool if their child is six years of age by August 1.

5. How is a home-based school different from a homeschool?

A home-based school, one in which children from multiple families are given instruction in the home of the instructor, operates similarly to a private school or childcare facility and is required to meet additional regulatory requirements created by the Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and local zoning or fire marshal regulations. For more information about these regulations, please contact the respective agencies.

Requirements for Homeschool Operations

6. What is the minimum school term for homeschools?

Pursuant to [KRS 158.080](#) and [KRS 158.070](#), certified homeschools are required to operate on a calendar with the minimum school term of at least 1,062 hours of instructional time delivered in no less than 170 student attendance days per school year. While there is not a minimum school term required for non-certified homeschools, the KDE recommends that all homeschools meet the day and hour of instruction minimums outlined above.

7. What are the record keeping requirements for homeschools?

Homeschools are required to maintain attendance records to demonstrate a *bona fide* school is in operation. Pursuant to [KRS 159.040](#), homeschools are required to keep attendance in “a register provided by the Kentucky Board of Education.” As digital record keeping is now the norm across society, the KDE does not enforce the requirement to maintain attendance in a paper register. Rather, the KDE allows homeschools to maintain attendance records in any manner that they see fit, digital or paper. These records must be open to inspection by the Director of Pupil Personnel from the local school district in which the homeschool is located and officials from the KDE.

In addition to attendance records, homeschools must keep scholarship reports for students in attendance. These reports should document the courses the student completed and the grade he/she was awarded. The KDE recommends that homeschools maintain detailed scholarship records. These records may include portfolios of work samples organized by year, independent assessment results, reports from digital learning platforms, or other items determined necessary by the individual responsible for instruction. While maintaining individual work samples is not statutorily required, they may be helpful for families who seek to transition their children into another nonpublic school environment, a public school, or a college or university.

8. Where do homeschool families get curriculum and instructional materials?

By assuming the responsibility to homeschool, families assume the responsibility to supply the necessary curriculum and instructional materials. For support in this process, the KDE recommends connecting with local homeschool cooperatives or national homeschooling organizations. Parents may wish to explore the [Kentucky Academic Standards](#) as they obtain or develop curriculum and instructional materials. The Kentucky Academic Standards outline the knowledge and skills students in public schools should possess in each subject at each grade level. Parents may also wish to review KDE's information regarding [High-Quality Instructional Resources](#).

9. Can a homeschool student participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by the public school district?

Participation in extracurricular activities is governed at the local school district level. For more information about this, please contact your local school district.

10. How do I secure a homeschool diploma for my child?

Kentucky does not recognize a statewide diploma. Diplomas are issued by the school a student attends. As such, homeschools issue their own diplomas. The KDE is unable to verify homeschool diplomas with higher education or workforce institutions, as such, it recommends that students consider taking the General Education Development (GED) exam, or an equivalent exam.

11. How do I seek state certification of a homeschool?

Pursuant to [701 KAR 3:315](#), the certification of nonpublic schools is managed by the [Kentucky Non-Public Schools Commission](#). Please contact them for more information.

Other Considerations

12. Does Kentucky's No-Pass/No-Drive law apply to homeschool students?

Kentucky's No-Pass/No-Drive law does apply to homeschool students. The implementation of this program is overseen by the Kentucky Department of Transportation. For more information, please see their [No-Pass/No-Drive website](#).

13. How do I enroll a previously homeschooled child in the public school?

Each local board of education maintains its own processes for enrolling previously homeschooled students.

It is important to note that, pursuant to [704 KAR 3:307](#), the “local school district shall be responsible for the appropriate assignment of a student transferring from a nonaccredited secondary school to the class or grade best suited for the student. Previous credit earned by a student in a nonaccredited secondary school shall be awarded by the local school district by one (1) of the two (2) following methods:

A) pass an examination of similar nature and content to the examination used for other students receiving credit for a particular course within the school district and graded on a comparable basis; or

B) Successful performance of the student in a higher level of the course when the course are sequential in nature, such as English, mathematics, history, and science. Successful performance shall consist of achieving at least a C grade in the course by the 12th week of school.”

14. Do homeschool students qualify for federal student aid?

Federal student aid is managed by the US Department of Education. For more information, please review the [Federal Student Aid](#) website.

Appendix A: Sample Letter of Intent to Homeschool

John & Natasha Dunaway
458 Rehl Road
Bishop, Kentucky 40291

May 11, 2021

Mrs. Maria Smith, Superintendent
Camp County School District
PO Box 324
Bishop, Kentucky 40291

Dear Superintendent Smith,

This letter is to inform you of our intent to homeschool our children during the 2021-2022 academic school year. Below is a list of our children and their current ages.

- Jonny Dunaway, 14
- Jimmy Dunaway, 12
- Jessica Dunaway, 10
- Joy Dunaway, 8

Additionally, school will take place in our home. Below you will find the details regarding our homeschool:

- Name of Homeschool: Dunaway Academy
- Name of Parents/Teachers: John & Natasha Dunaway
- Address of Homeschool: 458 Rehl Road, Bishop, KY 40291

Sincerely,

John & Natasha Dunaway

John & Natasha Dunaway