

Your Question: You asked for information about homeschooling accountability provisions – like requirements for monitoring students’ academic progress – and specifically any information comparing policies for different states.

Our Response: Information about state homeschooling policies is limited, and I could not track down anything that compares accountability standards amongst the 50 states. However, I do have information I can share with you that we gathered while putting together the 2015 report “[State Homeschool Policies: A patchwork of provisions.](#)” Please see the table below, and note that this is raw data.

Overview

States generally take a few different approaches to monitoring homeschooled students and their academic progress, as noted below. Check out our 2015 homeschooling report for a brief overview of each of these topics.

Homeschooling regulation varies widely between states. Some states only require parents to notify local or state officials once when homeschooling starts, while other states require parents to provide an attendance report and instruction plan each year and have the student assessed regularly. A handful of states either leave regulation to the local level or essentially have no regulations.

- **Notification:** Some states require parents to notify the state or local school district if they are homeschooling a child, either once when homeschooling commences or yearly notification, sometimes requiring periodic attendance records.
- **Subjects:** Parents are required to provide evidence that certain subjects are being taught, sometimes periodically and sometimes only at the request of the department of education or the local district. In some cases, parents must provide information about the students’ course of study and curriculum. Some states require parents to maintain and submit periodic academic progress reports.
- **Assessments:** Some states (less than half) require students to be assessed, either by a standardized assessment or some other alternative method, such as a portfolio review by a licensed educator.

State Accountability Data

Below is information we gathered from each state when writing the 2015 paper on homeschooling. I’ve included the three data points highlighted above. Please note that this information is current as of late 2014/early 2015. Although not included below, we can provide you with citations if you need them.

Additional Resources

- ✓ The [Coalition for Responsible Home Education](#) has a number of resources on homeschooling, including [policy recommendations](#).
- ✓ [Homeschooling in Tennessee](#), August 2012, Offices of Research and Education Accountability, Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury.
- ✓ [Homeschooling in Indiana: A Closer Look](#), 2005, Center for Evaluation & Education Policy.

State	Notification?	Subjects?	Assessment?	Other Information
Alabama	Unclear	No	No	
Alaska	No	No	No	Largely unregulated at the state level, but many students participate in district- and charter school-run correspondence schools.
Arizona	Yes: Notify the county superintendent once when beginning homeschooling.	No	No	Homeschooling is under county jurisdiction, not state
Arkansas	Yes: Notify the local district yearly, including the curriculum, schedule, and parent qualifications.	No	No – repealed in 2015	
California	Yes: File an affidavit with the state yearly, including enrollment information and coursework	Yes	No	Homeschooling is not explicitly authorized in California, although it appears homeschooling generally occurs under private school exemption.
Colorado	Yes: Notify any school district of intent to homeschool; frequency is unclear.	Yes	Yes: Standardized test in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 OR a progress evaluation by a qualified person	
Connecticut	Yes: Yearly notification to the local district.	No	No	
Delaware	Yes: Register with the state once; report enrollment to the district at the beginning of each year and attendance at the end.	No	No	
DC	Yes: File with the state superintendent each year.	Yes: Must maintain a portfolio which may be reviewed twice each year.	Voluntary	
Florida	Yes: Notify the district once.	No, but parents must maintain a portfolio of records.	Yes: Students must be evaluated yearly, but parents have multiple evaluation options.	Homeschooled students may enroll in the state's online school.
Georgia	Yes: Yearly notification to the department of education.	Yes: Parents must write an annual progress assessment report in the five areas.	Yes: Standardized test every three years beginning in third grade.	Home schooled students may not enroll in state virtual schools.
Hawaii	Yes: Notify the principal of the local school once.	No, but parents must keep instruction records.	Yes: Students must take statewide tests in grades 3, 5, 8, 10. Submit a progress report to the local school principal yearly; four options.	
Idaho	No	No	No	Largely unregulated
Illinois	Unclear	Yes	No	
Indiana	Unclear: Parents must keep	No	No	

	attendance records, which may be requested by local or state officials.			
Iowa	Yes: Notify the district yearly, including an outline of the course of study.	Yes: only for one of the state's two homeschool options.	Yes: For one of the two options, students must be assessed yearly or parents' teaching must be evaluated yearly.	Parents may homeschool under one of two options; each option has different requirements.
Kansas	Unclear	No	No	Homeschooling is not specifically authorized, although the state recognizes nonaccredited private schools which must be registered with the state board of education.
Kentucky	Yes: Parents must report enrollment yearly.	Yes	No	
Louisiana	Yes: Initial approval by the state board then yearly approval from the state board. Yearly application must include one of multiple progress measures.	Yes	No, but the yearly approval application must include evidence of progress, such as results from a standardized test, review by a certified teacher, or a portfolio of the student's work and materials used.	
Maine	Yes: Notify the state commission of education and district.	Yes	Yes: Parents must provide yearly evidence of academic progress and results of an assessment, including a standardized test or an alternative assessment.	
Maryland	Yes: Notify the local district annually.	Yes: Parents must maintain a portfolio of work and materials.	No, although students' portfolio are subject to periodic review and observation.	
Massachusetts	No	Yes	No	Aside from rulings in a few court cases, homeschooling is largely governed by local districts.
Michigan	Yes: Required under one homeschool option, voluntary for the second.	Yes	No	Two homeschooling options; largely unregulated
Minnesota	Yes: Notify the local district yearly.	Yes	Yes: Standardized test yearly, but not if homeschool is accredited.	
Mississippi	Yes: Notify the department of education yearly, including basic information about the schooling.	No	No	
Missouri	No: Voluntary registration with the county recorder or school district	No	No	
Montana	Yes: Notify local district yearly about attendance.	Yes	No	

Nebraska	Yes: File with the state's commissioner of education, including a chart or written summary of the scope and sequence of education; frequency unclear.	Yes	No, but department of education representatives are allowed to visit and request regular achievement testing.	
Nevada	Yes: File a notice of intent with the local district once when schooling commences. Notice must include a plan of instruction in required subjects.	Yes	No	
New Hampshire	Yes: Notify the department of education; frequency unclear. Parents must provide a letter certifying a student has completed a home school program at the HS level.	Yes: Parents must keep a portfolio of teaching records for two years.	Yes: Annual evaluation by one of four options, including standardized testing or an alternative method.	
New Jersey	No, but parents are "encouraged" to notify the local district.	Yes	No	
New Mexico	Yes: Yearly registration to the department of education; maintain immunization records.	Yes	No	
New York	Yes: Yearly notification to the local district.	Yes: Required to yearly submit a home instruction plan to the district for approval.	Yes: Provide quarterly progress reports to the district; yearly assessment through standardized test, plus written evaluations yearly grades 1-3, every other year in grades 4-8.	
North Carolina	Unclear, but parents must maintain attendance and immunization records.	Unclear	Yes: Yearly assessment.	
North Dakota	Yes: Notify the local district yearly, including immunization records.	Yes: Parents required to keep academic records.	Yes: Required in grades 4, 6, 8, 10, although exempted if parent has a BA, is a licensed teacher or passed the state teaching exam, or has moral objections.	
Ohio	Yes: Notify the local district yearly.	Yes	Yes: Yearly assessment through a standardized test, or alternative methods.	
Oklahoma	No	No	No	Largely unregulated
Oregon	Yes: Notify the local district; frequency unclear (likely just once).	No	Yes: Standardized testing required in grades 3, 5, 8, 10.	
Pennsylvania	Yes: File annual notification with the local district, including immunization records.	Yes: Provide evidence to local district yearly that required subjects being taught; required to maintain a	Yes: Standardized tests required in grades 3, 5, 8. Parents must maintain an annual written	

		portfolio of work which is reviewed annually by a certified educator who notifies the local district.	evaluation of students' progress by a psychologist or licensed educator.	
Rhode Island	Unclear: The course of at-home instruction must be approved by the local school committee; parents keep attendance records and submit to the local district.	Yes	Unclear: The department of education says students must be tested, not clear if that is in state policy.	Largely governed at the local level
South Carolina	Yes: Required for one of three options. Unclear if required for the other two. Under two options, parents must maintain attendance records and submit them to a district.	Yes. Under two options, parents must maintain and submit annual progress reports to local districts.	Yes: Annual assessment required for one option. Not required for the other two.	Three homeschooling options with different requirements for each.
South Dakota	Yes: Apply yearly to the local district on a form provided by the department of education.	Yes: Parents must maintain teaching records (district or state review options unclear).	Yes: Standardized test in grades 2, 4, 8, 11; results maintained by the local district.	
Tennessee	Yes: Notify the local district yearly for one option; parents maintain attendance records.	Yes: Parents provide notify of proposed curriculum to district yearly.	Yes: Standardized assessment in grades 5, 7, 9; results maintained by parent, district, state board. Not required under second option.	Two homeschooling options.
Texas	No, although local districts may have requirements.	No	No	The state has no involvement with homeschooling. Local districts may have regulations.
Utah	Yes: File notice with local district yearly, district issues exemption certificate.	No	No: Students allowed, not required, to participate in state assessments.	Districts may not require instruction credentials, record keeping, or testing.
Vermont	Yes: Parents must notify the state superintendent yearly.	Yes: Yearly notification must include detail on content and subject areas being taught.	Yes: Yearly through a standardized test or alternative options. Only required for the first two consecutive issues if no other problems.	
Virginia	Yes: Notify the local district yearly.	Yes: Provide district yearly notification of curriculum and subjects being taught.	Yes: Assessment through standardized test or multiple alternatives; frequency unclear.	
Washington	Yes: Yearly notification to the local district or another district as a transfer student.	Yes: Parents must maintain records.	Yes: Yearly assessment through standardized test or one alternative evaluation; parents maintain records.	
West Virginia	Yes: Notify the local district yearly; provide attendance records to county superintendent upon request.	Yes: Submit plan of instruction to the local district yearly.	Yes: Annual assessment through standardized test or an alternative assessment.	County superintendent must provide assistance to assist anyone provide home instruction.

Wisconsin	Yes: Submit enrollment information yearly to the department of education by a certain date.	Yes: Yearly certification to department of education that home education meets state requirements.	No	
Wyoming	Yes: Submit curriculum to local district annually; show it meets requirements for a basic educational program.	Yes	No	