

Frequently Asked Questions Home Schooling

May I hire a tutor to instruct my student?

Yes. A tutor may be hired to supplement, but not to substitute for parental instruction. Just as a tutor may be hired for students attending a public or private school, the same would apply to home-schooled students.

Do I have to follow the public school calendar?

No. Parents may develop an instructional calendar that suits their family's needs. The calendar and schedule used, however, must reflect regular, full-time instruction, similar in length to a typical school year (180 instructional days).

Must the parent be a certified teacher or have a college degree?

No. There are no requirements or qualifications for parents who desire to home-school their children.

How many hours of instruction are required?

Parents should provide approximately 5 hours of instruction per day, for an average of 25 hours weekly.

My child requires special education services. May I still home-school him?

Yes. Parents may choose to provide instruction, including any special education services, at home. Parents should be aware that the public school system does not provide special education services for home-schooled students.

What happens if my home school program is found to be deficient?

The parent is notified verbally and in writing if there is not sufficient evidence that the student is receiving regular and thorough instruction in all of the subjects required. The parent is given 30 days to document that the deficiencies have been corrected. If the deficiencies are not corrected within 30 days, the AACPS Superintendent will require that the child be withdrawn from home schooling and enrolled in a public or private school within five days of the notice of unresolved deficiencies.

How does an organization get approved to supervise a home school program?

Private schools or education ministries of a *bona fide* church organization are eligible to apply for approval to supervise home schooling for Maryland students. The organization must contact the Maryland State Department of Education Nonpublic School Approval Branch (410) 77-0407, to obtain a registration form and learn details about the requirements and procedures for approval.

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Does my child have to pass any tests before moving on to the next grade?

No. Home-schooled students are not required to take any tests. Grade levels are determined by the student's age.

I plan for my student to return to public school in 9th grade. Do they have to take any tests to receive credit for high school courses (Spanish I and Algebra I) completed during 8th grade while home-schooling?

Yes. Students transferring from home schooling to an AACPS high school frequently need to pass subject tests in order to receive high school credit for courses completed during home teaching. The high school counselor will coordinate with the Home School Office to prepare a transition plan and schedule any testing required.