

**Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's Office
Guidelines and Information for Home School
and Private School Education**

Compulsory Education Requirements

According to ARS 15-802 A, Every child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall attend a school and shall be provided instruction in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science. The person who has custody of the child shall choose a public, private or charter school or a homeschool as defined in this section to provide instruction or shall sign a contract to participate in an Arizona empowerment scholarship account pursuant to section 15-2402.

"Educated pursuant to an empowerment scholarship account" means a child whose parent has signed a contract pursuant to section 15-2402 to educate the child outside of any school district or charter school and in which the parent may but is not required to enroll the child in a private school or to educate the child through any of the methods specified in section 15-2402.

"Homeschool" means a nonpublic school conducted primarily by the parent, guardian or other person who has custody of the child or nonpublic instruction provided in the child's home.

"Private school" means a nonpublic institution, other than the child's home, where academic instruction is provided for at least the same number of days and hours each year as a public school.

Affidavit of Intent Forms

An Affidavit of Intent Form must be registered with the county school superintendent in the county in which you live. An affidavit is a written statement on oath before a notary public. Parents who choose the home school or private school option must complete and file an *Affidavit of Intent Form* for each child between the ages of 6 and 16, stating that the child is:

1. Being provided with instruction in home school or
2. Attending a regularly organized private school

An affidavit must be recorded within 30 (thirty) days from the time your child begins attending a home school or private school. An Affidavit of Intent Form for Santa Cruz County may be downloaded at <http://www.co.santa-cruz.az.us/DocumentCenter/View/3419>. You may make as many copies as you need for your family. Be sure to keep a copy of your child's notarized affidavit for your own record. Confirmation is provided by written request only. If you want confirmation that your affidavit is registered, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Santa Cruz County School Superintendent
2150 N. Congress Dr., Suite 107
Nogales, AZ 85621

A copy of your child's affidavit will be time stamped and returned to you. Confirmations requested by telephone are not performed.

Your student's Affidavit of Intent will remain in a *confidential* file the *entire period of time* your student is home schooled or enrolled in a private school. **You are required by law to notify the county school superintendent within 30 (thirty) days of when your child is no longer instructed at home or enrolled in a private school.** A Home School/Private School Pupil Withdrawal/Change Form may be downloaded at <http://www.co.santa-cruz.az.us/DocumentCenter/View/3420>. **Your child's affidavit will remain on record until you notify the county school superintendent** that home schooling or private school is terminated. An Affidavit must be recorded again if the home school or private school instruction is terminated and then resumed.

Certified Birth Certificate

A copy of each child's proof of birth must be on file with the county school superintendent within 30 (thirty) days of beginning home school. A **hospital birth record IS NOT** a certified birth certificate and **DOES NOT** substitute a **certified birth certificate**. A certified birth certificate is issued by the state in which the child was born and can be obtained from the Department of Vital Records or Department of Health Services. You may find Vital Records information from any state or country on the following websites:

<http://www.vitalrec.com>

Or

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm>

An Arizona certified birth certificate can be obtained online through the Arizona Department of Health Services at:

<http://azdhs.gov/licensing/vital-records/#birth-online-ordering>

Qualifications of the Instructor

None required by law.

Interscholastic Activities

Home schooling students must be allowed to try out for interscholastic sports and activities on behalf of a public school in the same manner as a pupil who is enrolled in that public school according to ARS 15-802.01. ARS 15-802.01 states:

A. Notwithstanding any other law, a child who resides within the attendance area of a public school and who is homeschooled shall be allowed to try out for interscholastic activities on behalf of the public school in the same manner as a pupil who is enrolled in that public school. Registration, age eligibility requirements, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition, qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of behavior and performance policies for homeschooled students shall be consistent with those policies established for students enrolled in that public school. The individual providing the primary instruction of a child who is homeschooled shall submit written verification that provides:

1. Whether the student is receiving a passing grade in each course or subject being taught.
2. Whether the student is maintaining satisfactory progress towards advancement or promotion.

B. A child who is homeschooled and who was previously enrolled in a public, private or charter school shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities for the remainder of the school year during which the child was enrolled in a school.

C. A school district shall not contract with any private entity that supervises interscholastic activities if the private entity prohibits the participation of homeschooled children in interscholastic activities at public, private or charter schools.

Testing

Parents who choose to home school are not required to test or qualify with the state.

Achievement testing is not required for children receiving instruction in a home school. The county school superintendent does not provide achievement testing. Homeschooled students are not required to participate in the state's testing program. A.R.S. §15-745 states:

Nothing in this article shall be construed to require the testing of children who are instructed in a homeschool program while they are receiving homeschool instruction.

The State Board of Education allows homeschooled students to take the AzMERIT test, at no charge but does not require them to do so.

Special Education

ARS 15-763, requires districts and charter schools which receive federal money for special education services for homeschooled or parentally placed private schooled students to provide special education services to both groups in the same manner. Call your school district to find out specifically what services your child might be entitled to and how they might be provided.

High School Education

Public high schools set policy for accepting credits transferred from other schools. Contact your local high school for policy on enrollment and requirements for a high school diploma.

Re-Entering Public School

Grade level placement of home schooled students upon re-enrollment in public school is dependent upon school district policy and usually includes parental input. The policies of any public school district can and should be reviewed by the parent/legal guardian prior to removing the child from school. A.R.S. §15-745 states:

A child who enrolls in a kindergarten program or grades one through twelve after receiving instruction in a homeschool program shall be tested pursuant to this article in order to determine the appropriate grade level for the educational placement of the child.

Be aware that your child may need to take individual tests in each subject area to gain district acceptance and/or credit, even if the homeschool child is receiving correspondence school instruction from an accredited program. The county school office should be notified within thirty days of entering a school system so that the homeschool affidavit may be inactivated.

Certificates/Diplomas

Eighth grade promotion certificates and high school diplomas are not issued by the Santa Cruz County Superintendents Office for students instructed in homeschooling. Please see legislation

around diplomas in ARS 15-701.01. *This state, any political subdivision or agency of this state and any other governmental entity shall recognize and treat all diplomas and transcripts associated with schooling options as described in section 15-802 in the same manner. School districts may evaluate the transcripts of transfer students for the assignment of credit pursuant to section 15-701.01.*

Failure to Comply

Unless otherwise exempted in A.R.S. §15-802 or A.R.S. §15-803, a parent of a child between six (6) and sixteen (16) years of age or person who has custody of a child, who does not provide instruction in a homeschool and who fails to enroll or fails to ensure that the child attends a public, private, or charter school pursuant to these sections is guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor. A parent who fails to comply with the duty to file an Affidavit of Intent to provide instruction in a homeschool is guilty of a petty offense.

Useful Information and Links:

National College Admission Tests

SAT and ACT Test and Tips booklets, registration packets and schedules may be obtained from your local high school or by going to the following websites:

College Board SAT Program

<http://www.collegeboard.org/>

ACT Test Program

<https://www.act.org/>

ARIZONA HOME SCHOOL REGISTRATION CODE: 990399

The College Board has a developing variety of online resources for home schoolers. For example, they provide information about registration, taking the SAT and PSAT, test preparation, practice test and help to prepare tests.

The ACT Test website also has a variety of online resources. They provide information about registration, preparing for and taking the ACT Test, as well as provide practice tests and booklets.

Scholarships

The Arizona Board of Regents has established policies to provide “fair and equitable access” to students from public, private, charter and home schools for any merit-based scholarships issued by the Board and the universities under the Board’s jurisdiction. Arizona universities award scholarships based on merit. Please be sure to specify you are a home school graduate. For further information on scholarship opportunities, please contact the Arizona Board of Regents, 602-229-2500.

GED

A high school equivalency diploma is offered to students who pass the GED Test. For further information, the Arizona General Educational Development Testing Services information booklet is available from:

Arizona Department of Education
1535 West Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-5280
Fax: 602-542-1161

Or

Santa Cruz County One-Stop Career Center WIOA
610 N. Morley Avenue
Nogales, AZ 85621
520-375-7670
Fax: 520-281-1166

Arizona Families for Home Education (AFHE)

The Arizona Families for Home Education is the statewide organization that has been serving the needs of Arizona's homeschooling families since 1983. They provide informative resources and access to the Arizona home school community. The link to their home page is:

<https://www.afhe.org/>

For information on Homeschooling,
Call the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office at 520-375-7940
This information is intended to help you understand educational requirements for home school
and private school according to Arizona Revised Statutes 15-745, 801, 802, and 828. Updated
12/27/2017.

