



HOME SCHOOLING LAWS IN NEW YORK STATE

New York State Education Law: Section 100.10

Compulsory Attendance Age: “...a minor who becomes six years of age on or before the first of December in any school year...until the last day of session in the school year in which the minor becomes sixteen years of age” or completion of high school. Any board of education can vote to raise the compulsory attendance age in their school district from 16 to 17 if the minor is not employed full-time, New York State Education Law 3205.

Required Day of Instruction: The substantial equivalent of 180 days. For grades 1-6, 900 hours per year; for grades 7-12, 990 hours per year.

Required Subjects:

Grades K-12: patriotism and citizenship, substance abuse, traffic safety, fire safety

Grades 1-6: mathematics, reading, spelling, writing English, geography, United States history, science, health, music, visual arts, and physical education

Grades 7-8: English, history and geography, science, mathematics, physical education, health, art, music, practical arts and library skills

Grades 1-8: United States and New York State history and their constitutions at least once in the first 8 grades

Grades 9-12: 4 credits of English; 4 credits of Social Studies – including American History, Participation in Government, and Economics; 2 credits of Math; 2 credits of Science; 1 credit of Art or Music; ½ credit of Health; 2 credits of Physical Education; and 3 credits of Electives

Parental Obligations:

1. Submit a Letter of Intent to Home School Office by July 1st or within 14 days of starting home schooling once the school year has begun. **This must be done every year.** Please include age and address verification.
2. Fill out Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP) form by Aug 15th, or within four weeks of the receipt of the LOI letter from the school district (whichever is later). This must contain (a) the child’s name, age, and grade level (b) a list of syllabi, curriculum materials, textbooks, **or** a plan of instruction; (c) dates for submission of quarterly reports, and (d) the names of the persons providing the instruction and administering year end assessments.
3. Maintain records of attendance (180 days). You are only required to submit these records at the request of the Superintendent of Schools.

4. File quarterly reports giving (a) number of hours of instruction during the quarter, (b) a description of the materials covered in each subject, (c) a grade **or** narrative evaluation in each subject and a written explanation if less than 80% of that quarter's material, in any subject, was covered.
5. File an Annual Assessment with the last quarterly report due on June 30. You cannot change this last date because the school year ends June 30th. For grades 1-3, a written narrative may be used. In grades 4-8, the written narrative may be used every other year, with a New York State approved standardized achievement test given the alternate year. For grades 9-12 an Annual Assessment must be submitted with the 4th quarter report. *The Annual Assessment does not take the place of the 4th Quarter Report.* Both must be submitted to be in compliance. The parent may choose one of the following standardized tests:
 - Iowa Test of Basic Skills
 - California Achievement Test
 - Stanford Achievement Test
 - Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills
 - Metropolitan Achievement Test
 - NYS Assessment Tests
 - NYS Regents Exams

Students must score at the 33rd %tile or above to have shown sufficient progress to be promoted to the next grade. If a student falls below a passing grade, the parent(s) will be notified that their home schooling program is on probation, and they must file a remedial IHIP for the following year.

6. The Buffalo Public Schools are not required to supply textbooks or materials when you choose to home school your child.

Please Note:

1. Students who are home schooled throughout 12th grade do not receive a high school diploma from New York State. If desired, they may take the GED exam.
2. **Your reports are very important. Verification of Home Schooling cannot be given if your child's program is not in complete compliance with these guidelines. This means we must have on record the Letter of Intent, IHIP, quarterly reports and narrative/final assessment as specified. We cannot give you a letter of compliance for working papers/transfer to a school if you have missing information. All reports should be returned on time.**
3. All residents of the City of Buffalo who home school their children should send their Letter of Intent, IHIP, Quarterly Reports, and Final Assessment results to:

**BUFFALO BOARD OF EDUCATION
Home Schooling Department
427 City Hall
Buffalo, New York 14202**