

## Homeschooling Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Revised 2/2026

### What is required to begin homeschooling my child in a Hawai‘i Public School or Hawai‘i Public Charter School?

- Notify the school from which you intend to withdraw your child to homeschool.
  - Submit the *Exceptions to Compulsory Education Form (Form 4140) (PDF)*; or
  - A letter of intent to the school.
- If using the Form 4140:
  - Complete the top portion with your child’s information:
    - Name
    - Student ID number (if known)
    - Birth date
    - Telephone number
    - Address
    - School
    - Complex area
    - Grade level
  - Print your name, sign, and date the form
  - Complete Section B, Option 5
- If submitting a letter of intent, the letter must include:
  - Child’s name
  - Address
  - Telephone number
  - Birth date
  - Grade level
  - Parent or guardian signature and date
- You do not need to enroll your child or provide:
  - Birth certificate
  - Proof of residency, or
  - Health records, such as the TB (tuberculosis) test clearance or Form 14 (Student Health Record)

### Where do I submit my notice of intent to homeschool?

- The *Exceptions to Compulsory Education Form (Form 4140) (PDF)* or letter of intent should be submitted to the school that your child would have been attending.
  - Form 4140 should be submitted to the local (geographic) school for your child’s age-appropriate grade level.

- Use the *Find Your School Tool* on our website to locate the appropriate school.

### **Do I need to submit any records usually required to enroll my child?**

- No, a birth certificate, proof of residency, and health records are not required.

### **When can I begin homeschooling my child?**

- Homeschooling begins as soon as you submit the signed *Exceptions to Compulsory Education Form (Form 4140) (PDF)* or letter of intent to your child's designated school.

### **How do I know if the school has acknowledged my intent to homeschool?**

- The school will return the Form 4140 or letter of intent that you submitted to you after the principal and complex area superintendent have signed and acknowledged your intent to homeschool.
  - A copy of the signed Form 4140 or letter of intent will be kept on file at both the school and the district office.
- The school will also send you:
  - A copy of *Hawai‘i Administrative Rules Title 8 Department of Education, Chapter 12, Compulsory Attendance Exceptions*, which the Hawai‘i State Department of Education (Department) follows for homeschooling.
  - A link to the homeschooling website: The homeschooling website at <https://hawaiipublicschools.org/enrolling-in-school/homeschool/>.
  - Information regarding the annual progress report and grade-level standardized assessment requirements.

### **Do I need to submit any health records to the school?**

- No, health records, such as the Form 14 (Student Health Record) or TB (tuberculosis) test clearance, are not required if you are homeschooling your child.

### **Who is responsible for your child's education while they are homeschooled?**

- You are fully responsible for all of your child's education.
  - You must provide all of the materials and instruction.

## **How do I know what to teach my child while homeschooling?**

- Schools may be a resource to share information about basic units of study for a particular grade level.
- Information on the standards and benchmarks for each grade level can be found on the Subject Matter Standards page of the Department's website.

## **Do I need to submit the curriculum that I will be using to teach my child?**

- No, you are not required to submit your curriculum to the school, but you must keep a record of the planned curriculum that you will be using.
- The curriculum should be based on the child's needs and interests, building on what they already know.
  - It should teach current knowledge and skills while also taking into account their individual abilities.
- The record of the planned curriculum should include the following:
  - Beginning date and ending date of the program
  - A record of the number of hours per week spent on instruction
  - The subject areas covered
  - The method used to determine mastery of materials and subjects
  - A list of textbooks or other instructional materials that will be used
    - For books, provide the author, title, publisher, and date of publication
    - For magazines: give the author, article title, name of magazine, date, volume number, and pages
- The school may ask to review the curriculum to assist you in providing the best educational opportunities for your child.

## **Am I required to report on my child's homeschooling?**

- Yes, you must submit a report on your child's progress yearly.
- You may use one of the following methods for the report:
  - Score from a nationally-normed standardized assessment (e.g., Smarter Balanced Assessment)
  - Progress on a nationally-normed standardized assessment (e.g., Smarter Balanced Assessment)
  - A written evaluation by a teacher certified to teach in the State of Hawai‘i
  - A written evaluation by you that includes:
    - A description of progress in each subject area taught;
    - Samples of your child's work; and

- Samples of tests, assignments, and grades, if grades are given.
- You are encouraged to work together with your child's school to provide the best educational opportunities possible.

### **Is my child required to participate in annual assessments?**

- Yes, you are required to provide test scores from a nationally-normed standardized assessment for your child in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10.
  - While Hawai‘i Administrative Rules, Title 8 Department of Education, Chapter 12, Compulsory Attendance Exceptions require testing at Grade 10, Hawaii public school students are no longer tested in Grade 10, but are tested in Grade 11.
- You can request to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment and Hawai‘i State Assessment (HSA) Science assessments or the HSA Alternate assessments at your child's school at no cost, or arrange for private testing at your own expense.
- Test scores may be used as the annual progress report for that year.

### **Do I need to resubmit my notice of intent to homeschool every year?**

- No, you do not need to submit a new notice of intent every year.
- You must submit a new notice of intent to the principal of the new school if:
  - Your family moves to another school's geographic area; or
  - Your child transitions to a different school level (for example, from elementary to middle school).
- Please notify us if:
  - Your child is enrolling in a private school; or
  - Your family relocates outside of Hawai‘i.

### **How can I end homeschooling?**

- Notify the school principal to whom you have submitted your Form 4140/notice of intent to homeschool that you will be ending homeschooling.
  - You may do so either in writing or verbally.
  - Let the school know where your child will be going - public school, charter school, private school, moving out of Hawai‘i, or an alternative educational program.

### **What grade level will my child be placed in after homeschooling has ended?**

- For grades 1-8, your child will be re-enrolled in the appropriate grade level based on their birth date (age).
- High school-aged students will be enrolled in the 9th grade.
  - No credits are earned while a student is homeschooled.
- Students over the age of 20 on the first day of school are not eligible to attend public school.
- Students identified with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act may be re-evaluated when re-enrolled in public school to determine appropriate programming and placement. They may be eligible to attend public school through age 21.

### **Can I challenge the grade level of my re-enrolled child?**

- If there is a concern about the grade level that your child will be re-enrolled in, an evaluation may be performed to consider any adjustments or changes that may be needed.
  - The school should inform and involve you in the process.
  - The principal will make the final decision on grade level placement.

### **Will my child receive a high school diploma upon completion of homeschooling?**

- No, homeschooled students do not receive a high school diploma.
- Your child must attend a public high school for a minimum of three full years and meet the graduation credit requirements to receive a high school diploma from the Department.

### **Is there a way to receive a high school equivalency?**

- Yes, a homeschooled student with a valid Form 4140, who has been receiving homeschooled instruction, may earn a High School Equivalency Credential.
  - Your child must attain a passing score on either the General Educational Development or High School Equivalency Test and will be awarded the credential by the community school for adults.

### **May my child apply for college after completing homeschooling?**

- Your child may participate in any college entrance exam that is made available to all students.

- You may request written acknowledgement that your child has been homeschooled in compliance with Chapter 12, Compulsory Attendance Exceptions, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HAR), from the principal at your child’s designated high school.
  - You must have met the requirements of Chapter 12, Compulsory Attendance Exceptions, HAR, to submit annual progress reports and standardized assessment scores at grades 3, 5, 8, and 10.