

Homeschool in Minnesota, What You Need to Know

The nitty gritty on what you need to know to legally homeschool in MN. You can totally do it!

1. **Required ages.** School is required for children ages 7-17. If you want to homeschool your child under the age of 7, you don't need so submit any forms or talk with the district
2. **Notification.** Homeschooling families of children of ages 7-17 need to submit a Letter of Intent to their school district BY October 1 each year, or within 15 days of withdrawing your child from school. You submit either the Initial Letter of Intent (first year) or the Letter of Intent to Continue to Provide Instruction (each subsequent year). We've provided a streamlined version of the form you can choose to use (Minnesota statutes included).
3. **Teacher Qualifications.** If you're the child's parent, rest assured the state automatically qualifies you to be your child's teacher! If you plan to have others responsible for your child's education, the state requires ONE of the following qualifications:
 - a. The instructor hold a baccalaureate degree
 - b. The instructor holds an MN teaching license in the field and grade taught
 - c. Instruction is directly supervised by a licensed teacher
 - d. Instruction is provided in an accredited school that MN state recognizes
4. **State Mandated Subjects.** *Some time* during your child's education (the state does not specify how often or when), these subjects must be taught:
 - a. Reading, Writing, Literature
 - b. Fine Arts
 - c. Math, Science, Economics
 - d. History, Geography
 - e. PE, Health
 - f. Government, Citizenship
5. **Keep good records!** For peace of mind - and to be prepared in the event that you are audited - keep good records. Minnesota law requires that the above subjects be taught, and that you can prove it if called upon with documentation. Documents that a county prosecutor could call for in accordance with the law are: class schedules, copies of materials used to teach/assess (think textbooks, worksheets, samples of kids work, and proof of required testing). Homeschool Legal Defense suggests maintaining these records for at least 2 years for elementary and middle schoolers, or, indefinitely for highschool students.
6. **Assessment Requirements.** Accredited homeschools are not required to test children. The rest of us are required to use a nationally norm-referenced standardized test annually. The most common one used in public school in MN is the MCA test. There are other options for home educating families.
7. **Immunization Requirements.** Families must supply the district with an updated Immunization Record OR the Conscientious Exemption when beginning homeschooling. This must be done again in 7th grade.

(Research and Information for this post was collected from various sources, including, personal experience, the state of Minnesota statutes and the Homeschool Legal Defense Association.)

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