

To legally homeschool in the state of Alabama, parents/guardians have three options.

1. Be with church school

With this option a parent/ guardian will submit once to church school paperwork and they church school files it with the local school district. This is only done once unless a move to a new district occurs. Attendance and/or grades will be given to the church school. The church school acts as a buffer for the homeschool family and if there are questions about the schoolwork or attendance they will go through the church schools and not directly to the parents/guardians. Most church schools also offer transcripts for colleges for students.

2. Be a home based private school.

With this option a parent/guardian will follow the rules for a private school and give notice as well as attendance directly to the superintendent yearly. Parents/guardians must handle their own transcripts.

3. Get instruction by a state certified private tutor.

With this option a state certified private tutor (usually a certified teacher) can be hired to handle the instruction of the student. The parent/guardian or the tutor will provide the local school system yearly with information such as attendance and/or grades.

To learn more about what the law states for Alabama please see the following government website stating the Alabama law:

<https://www.ed.gov/birth-to-grade-12-education/alternatives-traditional-public-education/private-school-state-regulations/al>
(last reviewed January 17th, 2025)

“Home Schools”
Home Education Programs

- A home school can seek qualification as a private school, church school, or under the private tutor option. Code of Alabama 1975 §§16-28-1(1), 16-28-1(2), 16-28-5.
Initial and Renewal Applications
- It is the interpretation of the Alabama Superintendent of Education that home-school students are not required to register with the state.
- Parents who homeschool their children must initially notify the local public school superintendent of the fact.
Curriculum and Instruction
- Parents who want to instruct their child at home must either do so through a certified tutor or must qualify as a church school.
- A church school is includes only such schools that offer instruction in grades K–12, or any combination thereof, including the kindergarten, elementary, or secondary level and are operated as a ministry of a local church, group of churches, denomination, and/or association of churches on a nonprofit basis which do not receive any state or federal funding. Code of Alabama 1975 §16-28-1.
- Documentation of the enrollment and attendance of a child in a church school must be filed with the local public school superintendent by the parent or guardian on a form provided by the superintendent or his agent. Code of Alabama 1975 §16-28-7.
- Individuals who choose to homeschool, and do not qualify as a church school, fall under the option of school attendance through a private tutor. Instruction by a private tutor means and includes only instruction by a person who holds a certificate issued by the state superintendent of education and who offers instruction in the several branches of study

required to be taught in the public schools of this state; for at least three hours a day for 140 days each calendar year, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., and who uses English language in giving instruction. Tutors shall keep a register of work, showing daily the hours used for instruction and the presence or absence of any child being instructed and shall make such reports as the State Board of Education may require. Code of Alabama 1975 §16-28-5.

- Prior to beginning the instruction of any child, it is mandatory to file with the county superintendent of education, where the place of instruction is in territory under the control and supervision of the county board of education, or the city superintendent of schools, where the place of instruction is in territory under the control and supervision of a city board of education, a statement showing the child or children to be instructed, the subjects to be taught, and the period of time such instruction is proposed to be given.

Assessment and Diplomas

- High school graduation examinations, though not required by the state for home-schooled students, are available to nonpublic school students in the state. The Alabama Board of Education may establish and charge any reasonable fees associated with covering the costs of providing the examination. Interested students who seek this option may contact the local school district for timeframes and any reasonable fees associated with covering the costs of providing the examination. Code of Alabama 1975 §16-3-40.

Web Resources

Contact Information — State and Federal Departments of Education

- Alabama State Department of Education
50 N. Ripley St.
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36104-3833
Phone: (334) 242-9700
Fax: (334) 242-9708
Website: : <https://www.alabamaachieves.org>(link is external)
- U.S. Department of Education, [Alabama](#)

Updated November 1st, 2017

Office of the Secretary (OS)

Page Last Reviewed:

January 17, 2025"