

Homeschooling 101: The Legal Requirements

Thinking about homeschooling in Pennsylvania? Be sure to understand the legal requirements and ensure you are ready to meet them. Here's a simplified list of what is required.

Note: This is not intended as legal advice.

- File a notarized affidavit with your local school district before you begin homeschooling. Once you begin to homeschool, the affidavit must be filed annually by August 1.
- Include a list of educational objectives by subject area for each child for the year along with your notarized affidavit.
- Maintain ongoing records. You need to track your homeschool efforts by days (180) or hours (900 for elementary or 990 for secondary). You also need to keep a log of the materials used for each subject, which will be included in your portfolio.
- Prepare a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio must include a reading log, samples of work throughout the year, and standardized tests results for students in grades 3, 5, or 8.
- If your kids are in grades 3, 5, or 8, they must take one of the standardized tests approved by the Department of Education.
- Meet with an evaluator for an interview and portfolio review as you wrap up your school year.

Additional resources:

Ask Pauline – askpauline.com

Homeschool Legal Defense Assoc. – hslida.org

PA Homeschoolers – pahomeschoolers.com

