

RESEARCH GUILDE



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Homeschooling

Homeschool Resources at Aurora Public Library



This guide is devoted to connecting you with homeschooling resources to aid in your education. Whether you are just starting out or a seasoned pro, we are here to help! We have numerous resources in our library to benefit your educational journey. These include homeschool how-to books, educational resources for your children, as well as monthly library programming devoted solely to homeschooling families. We hope that you will find our resources helpful, and if you have any suggestions as to how we can further help our homeschooling community, please let us know.

Colorado Homeschool Stats



Colorado had 7,880 homeschooled students in fall 2019, compared to more than 913,200 public school students, according to data provided by the Colorado Department of Education.

https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/2018-2019homebasededucationtrenddata-0

Getting Started



Ready to homeschool?

Get to know the laws and requirements set forth by the state of CO before you get started!

CO Law:

Title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes: Education Article 33: School Attendance Law of 1963 Section 104.5, as amended

This portion of Colorado Revised Statues has been reprinted with the permission of the committee on Legal Services in accordance with section 2-5-118, C.R.S. It is an unofficial publication of Colorado Revised Statutes.

22-33-104.5. Home-based education - legislative declaration - definitions - guidelines.

- (1) The general assembly hereby declares that it is the primary right and obligation of the parent to choose the proper education and training for children under his care and supervision. It is recognized that home-based education is a legitimate alternative to classroom attendance for the instruction of children and that any regulation of nonpublic home-based educational programs should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate a variety of circumstances. The general assembly further declares that nonpublic home-based educational programs shall be subject only to minimum state controls which are currently applicable to other forms of nonpublic education.
- (2) As used in this section:
- (a) "Nonpublic home-based educational program" means the sequential program of instruction for the education of a child which takes place in a home, which is provided by the child's parent or by an adult relative of the child designated by the parent, and which is not under the supervision and control of a school district. This educational program is not intended to be and does not qualify as a private and nonprofit school.
- (b) "Parent" includes a parent or guardian.
- (c) "Qualified person" means an individual who is selected by the parent of a child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program to evaluate such child's progress and who is a teacher licensed pursuant to article 60.5 of this title, a teacher who is employed by an independent or parochial school, a licensed psychologist, or a person with a graduate degree in education.
- (3) The following guidelines shall apply to a nonpublic home-based educational program:
- (a) A parent or an adult relative designated by a parent to provide instruction in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall not be subject to the requirements of the "Colorado Educator Licensing Act of 1991", article 60.5 of this title, nor to the provisions of article 61 of this title relating to teacher employment.
- (b) A child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall not be subject to compulsory school attendance as provided in this article; except that any child who is habitually truant, as defined in section 22-33-107 (3), at any time during the last six months that the child attended school before proposed enrollment in a nonpublic home-based educational program may not be enrolled in the program unless the child's parents first submit a written description of the curricula to be used in the program along with the written notification of establishment of the program required in paragraph (e) of subsection (3) to any school district within the state.
- (c) A nonpublic home-based educational program shall include no less than one hundred seventy-two days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day.
- (d) A nonpublic home-based educational program shall include, but need not be limited to, communication skills of reading, writing, and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States as provided in section 22-1-108.
- (e) Any parent establishing a nonpublic home-based educational program shall provide written notification of the establishment of said program to a school district within the state fourteen days prior to the establishment of said program and each year thereafter if the program is maintained. The parent in

charge and in control of a nonpublic home-based educational program shall certify, in writing, only a statement containing the name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child enrolled in said program. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 22-33-104 (1), a parent who intends to establish a nonpublic home-based education program is not required to:

- (I) Provide written notification of the program to a school district within the state until the parent's child is **six** years of age;
- (II) Establish the program until the parent's child is **seven** years of age; or
- (III) Continue the program or provide the notification after the child is **sixteen** years of age.
- (f) Each child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be evaluated when such child reaches grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven. Each child shall be given a nationally standardized achievement test* to evaluate the child's academic progress, or a **qualified person** shall evaluate the child's academic progress. The test or evaluation results, whichever is appropriate, shall be submitted to the school district that received the notification required by paragraph (e) of this subsection (3) or an independent or parochial school within the state of Colorado. If the test or evaluation results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, the name of such school shall be provided to the school district that received the notification required by paragraph (e) of this subsection (3). The purpose of such tests or evaluations shall be to evaluate the educational progress of each child. No scores for a child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be considered in measuring school performance or determining accreditation pursuant to article 11 of this title.
- (g) The records of each child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be maintained on a permanent basis by the parent in charge and in control of said program. The records shall include, but need not be limited to, attendance data, test and evaluation results, and immunization records, as required by sections 25-4-901, 25-4-902, and 25-4-903, C.R.S. Such records shall be produced to the school district that received the notification required by paragraph (e) of this subsection (3) upon fourteen days' written notice if the superintendent of said school district has probable cause to believe that said program is not in compliance with the guidelines established in this subsection (3).
- (4) Any child who has participated in a nonpublic home-based educational program and who subsequently enrolls in the public school system may be tested by the school district for the purpose of placing the child in the proper grade and shall then be placed at the grade level deemed most appropriate by said school district, with the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian. The school district shall accept the transcripts for credit from non-public home-based educational program for any such child; except that the school district may reject such transcripts if the school district administers testing to such child and the testing does not verify the accuracy of such transcripts.
- (5) (a) (I) If test results submitted to the appropriate school district pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of this section show that a child participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program received a composite score on said test which was above the thirteenth percentile, such child shall continue to be exempt from the compulsory school attendance requirement of this article. If the child's composite score on said test is at or below the thirteenth percentile, the school district shall require the parents to place said child in a public or independent or parochial school until the next testing period; except that no action shall be taken until the child is given the opportunity to be retested using an alternate version of the same test or a different nationally standardized achievement test selected by the parent from a list of approved tests supplied by the state board.
- (II) If evaluation results submitted to the appropriate school district pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of this section show that the child is making sufficient academic progress according to the child's ability, the child will continue to be exempt from the compulsory school attendance requirement of this article. If the evaluation results show that the child is not making sufficient academic progress, the school district shall require the child's parents to place the child in a public or independent or parochial school until the next testing period.
- (b) If the child's test or evaluation results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, said school shall notify the school district that received the notification pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of

this section if the composite score on said test was at or below the thirteenth percentile or if the evaluation results show that the child is not making sufficient academic progress. The school district shall then require the parents to proceed in the manner specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection(5).

- (6) (a) If a child is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program but also attending a public school for a portion of the school day, the school district of the public school shall be entitled to count such child in accordance with the provisions of section 22-54-103 (10) for purposes of determining pupil enrollment under the "Public School Finance Act of 1994", article 54 of this title.
- (b)(I) For purposes of this subsection (6), a child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall have the same rights as a student enrolled in a public school of the school district in which the child resides or is enrolled and may participate on an equal basis in any extracurricular or interscholastic activity offered by a public school or offered by a private school, at the private school's discretion, as provided in section 22-32-116.5 and is subject to the same rules of any interscholastic organization or association of which the student's school of participation is a member.
- (II) (A) Except as provided for in sub-subparagraph (B) of this subparagraph (II), for purposes of section 22-32-116.5, the school district of attendance for a child who is participating in a nonpublic home-based educational program shall be deemed to be the school district that received the notification pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of this section.
- (B) For purposes of section 22-32-116.5, the school district of attendance for a child who withdraws from a public or private school more than fifteen days after the start of the school year and enters a non-public home-based educational program shall be the school district or private school from which the child withdrew for the remainder of that school year. If, during the remainder of that academic year, the child chooses to participate in extracurricular or interscholastic activities at the same school and was eligible for participation prior to withdrawing from the school, the child remains eligible to participate at such school.
- (c) No child participating in an extracurricular or interscholastic activity pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (6) shall be considered attending the public school district where the child participates in such activity for purposes of determining pupil enrollment under paragraph (a) of this subsection (6).
- (d) As used in this subsection (6), "extracurricular or interscholastic activities" shall have the same meaning as "activity" as set forth in section 22-32-116.5 (10).
- (e) If any fee is collected pursuant to this subsection (6) for participation in an activity the fee shall be used to fund the particular activity for which it is charged and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

CO Requirements:

Nonpublic Home School Programs

Getting Started-Letter of Intent to Home School

Pursuant to Colorado law, parents who wish to begin home schooling must provide written notification of the establishment of the home school program **14 days** before beginning the home school program to a Colorado school district. The written notification must include the name, age, place of residence, and number of attendance hours for each child that will be participating in the home school program. Written notification must be re-submitted to a Colorado school district each year.

Subjects to Teach

Colorado law states that home school programs must include, but are not limited to, the subjects of communication skills of reading, writing, and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States. The selection of curriculum is at the discretion of the parent who is overseeing the home schooling program. The state cannot offer any

guidance in this area, and encourages contacting the district that received the written notification if there are further questions.

Attendance Requirements

Home school programs must have no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging 4 contact hours per day.

Record Keeping

Records for each child participating in a home school program must be kept on a permanent basis by the parent who is overseeing the home school program. The records must include, but are not limited to, attendance, test and evaluation results, and immunization records as required by C.R.S sections <u>25-4-901</u>, <u>25-4-902</u>, and <u>25-4-903</u>. The records must be produced and provided to the school district that received the written notification, not the state of Colorado, at the school district's request.

Assessment/Evaluation

Students that are participating in a home school program must have academic progress evaluated in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Students can take a nationally standardized achievement test or a qualified person, as described in C.R.S. 22-33-104.5(3)(f), can be selected by the parent to evaluate the student's academic progress. The results of the evaluation, whether by assessment or qualified person, must be submitted to the school district that received the written notification.

The state cannot provide guidance regarding assessments or evaluation. Please contact your local school district for resources or specific deadlines for submitting evaluation results.

Other Things to Know About Home School

Home school is considered nonpublic and is not regulated by the state of Colorado. The parent who oversees the home school program is taking on the responsibility of obtaining books, supplies, tests, and is responsible for any costs associated. Because home schooling is considered nonpublic education, home school is not accredited by the Colorado Department of Education or by a local school district.

Colorado Sites/Local Resources:



https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool



Rocky Mountain Education Connection

Colorado Relaxed Homeschool and Unschool Support Groups

http://rockymountaineducationconnection.com/colorado-unschooling-support-groups/



Christian Home Educators of Colorado motivates parents to disciple the next generation of Christians to impact our state and beyond for Christ and His Kingdom by providing information, leadership and resources.

https://chec.org/

Here are a few options for support groups in Colorado:

- Colorado Secular Homeschoolers
- Colorado Springs Homeschool Families
- Denver Area Unschoolers
- Douglas County Catholic Home Educators
- Montrose Home School Corner
- Northern Colorado Homeschoolers
- Parker County Christian Home Educators

<u>Christian Cottage Home School Services</u> -Provides testing, consultation, training, curriculum, and accountability services for home school students and their families.

<u>Classical Conversations (CC)</u> -Homeschooling community that offers programs and support.

<u>Homeschoolers Under God (HUG)</u>-Christian support group for homeschooling families in Northern Colorado.

<u>Mindspark Community Learning</u>- A homeschool support center that includes classes, trips, events, and academic support.

<u>Northern Colorado Homeschool Association (NCHA)</u> -Inclusive, secular, eclectic, local, member-run organization that honors the diversity of homeschoolers.

Helpful Links:



CO Homeschooling FAQs

https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool faq



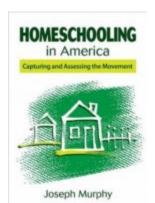
Provides information to support homeschooling families including curriculum choices, numerous resources guides by subject, and relevant articles. https://www.homeschool.com/



The Homeschool Legal Defense Association is a non-profit association dedicated to advocating and providing legal defense for homeschoolers. https://hslda.org/

Homeschool Resources Available at Aurora Public Library

All items below are available in the Aurora Public Library:

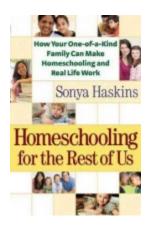


Homeschooling in America: capturing and assessing the movement

Call #: 371.04 Mur

ISBN: 9781626365681

Publication Date: 2014

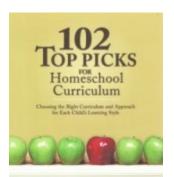


Homeschooling for the Rest of Us

Call #: 371.04 Has

ISBN: 9780764207396

Publication Date: 2010



102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum

Call #: 371.042 Duf

ISBN: 9780929320199

Publication Date: 2015



Homeschool Digital Resources Available at Aurora Public Library

Plenty of other titles available via ebooks Hoopla:



Hoopla Titles:

Homeschooling for Excellence

Homeschooling: A Practical Guide to Successfully Teaching Your Children from Home

Homeschool Mom's Bible

Homeschool Bravely: How to squash doubt, trust God, and teach your child with confidence



INFORMATION SERVICES

https://www.auroragov.org/things to do/aurora public library/downloads research/research data bases

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https://www.historycolorado.org/

At History Colorado, we believe in making Colorado's history accessible and in creating opportunities that connect people to Colorado and our past to cultivate an informed future. We are Colorado!



History Reference Center

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https://www.auroragov.org/things to do/aurora public library/downloads research/research data bases

A comprehensive database with practice tests and 180+ e-books designed to give users of all ages the tools they need to succeed. Improve math, science, reading, writing, and workplace skills. Prepare for the U.S. citizenship exam as well as high school equivalency, college, graduate school admission exams, and entrance exams for nursing school. Learn how to search for jobs and improve interviewing and networking skills. Recursos para hispanohablantes.



https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/aurora_public_library/downloads research/research_data bases

Offers a wide variety of children's books, videos, and learning aids.





https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/aurora_public_library/downloads___research/research_data bases

An index of books and other materials held in more than 10,000 libraries worldwide. Over 2 billion items in 400 languages can be searched by author, title, keyword, or type of material.

More Homeschool Resources:

Please note, the Colorado Department of Education **does not endorse** any home school resource, coop, or support group, but lists them strictly for informational purposes for home school families. Each organization listed here, whether secular or religious-based, has requested to be posted on this site. However, this is not a complete list of the home school organizations throughout Colorado.

Home school programs are considered private businesses and CDE does not have any jurisdiction over these types of programs. If you would like to file a complaint against a non-public organization, please contact the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Unit at (720) 508-6006.

Home School Option/Enrichment Programs

- <u>Academy Charter School Homeschool Support Program</u> -Classes exclusively for home school students
- <u>APEX</u> -a North Metro K-12 enrichment program based in Longmont proving classes all academic areas, an extensive curriculum lending library, STEM and Innovation Center programs, Career Development Center classes, Concurrent Enrollment courses as well as extra curricular activities such as National Honor Society, Student Council, Musical Theater performances, choir, and orchestra.
- <u>Brighton Options Homeschool k-12</u> -Tuition-free elective & academic classes that meet once a week and curriculum available for free check out.

- <u>Cottage School Program</u> -Program designed to uphold family instruction, core values, and educational direction developed at home.
- <u>Home School Connection</u> Locations in Westminster, Lakewood, and Evergreen; free fine arts and enrichment classes for home school students K-6th grade.
- <u>Falcon Homeschool Program</u>- Supports students in grades k-12 through Falcon Homeschool Enrichment Program & Falcon Academic Program
- <u>Falcon Aerolab</u>-A publicly funded enrichment program that meets once a week in Colorado Springs
- <u>HOPE Academy</u>- Sponsored by a charter school in Jefferson County Public Schools, serves home school students K-12th grade and is located in Arvada. It is a one day a week program for K-6 and two days a week for 6-12.
- <u>LEAP</u>- One day a week K-12 enrichment program for homeschool students in Northern Colorado. Curriculum library is available for enrolled students to use in at-home study. Classes are taught by certified teachers.
- <u>Legacy Homeschool Academy</u> -Enrichment program for K-8 students. Once a week, tuition-free classes in Elizabeth, CO, as well as resources for parents and students.
- Mountain Phoenix Community School Homeschool Enrichment Program-Publicly funded,
 Waldorf-inspired homeschool enrichment program for students in kindergarten through 8th grade.
- <u>Mountain Vista Home School Academy</u> -Enrichment program for grades 1st-12th that meet once a week and is tuition-free.
- <u>PSD Options</u>-One day a week homeschool enrichment program serving families in Northern Colorado. Tuition-free and classes taught by certified teachers. Curriculum library for enrolled students and families.
- <u>Platte River Academy</u>- 2 day per week, part-time program designed to meet the needs of homeschooled students in grades 5th-8th.
- <u>Pueblo School for Arts and Sciences Homeschool Enrichment Program</u>-One day a week enrichment classes are offered Monday through Thursday with extracurricular activities on Fridays. Tuition free and classes taught by certified teachers and experts in their field.
- <u>Two Roads Homeschool</u> Two Roads is a Jefferson County public charter school serving home school students kindergarten through 12th grade (Arvada and Littleton campuses).

Other Homeschool Resources:

- <u>Bridgeway Academy</u> -Offers flexible, accredited textbook and online courses for k-12th grade and gives support, additional resources, grade reports, transcripts and diplomas to homeschooling families.
- CACS App-An interactive, electronic suicide risk assessment tool for students ages 10+ that includes risk screening questions from evidenced-based tools including the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) and SAMHSA's SAFE-T 5 Step Evaluation. Encouraging professionals and their students to start the conversation about suicide with helpful questions from respected sources, Collaboration and Assessment of Safety (CAMS) and LivingWorks Applied Suicide Intervention Strategies Training (ASIST), the CACS provides school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and trained teachers access to an assessment, screening tool, safety plan, and resource directory state-wide in Colorado. It includes various location and age-based referrals including mental health, substance use, low-cost community supports, and more. Students at risk of experiencing suicide or mental health

- crises can engage online with trusted professionals to manage their symptoms and identify referrals for appropriate next steps.
- <u>Christian Home Educators of Colorado</u>- Serving Colorado homeschoolers and beyond by providing information, leadership, and resources, including the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference, and much more.
- Clarendon Learning-Offers numerous lessons that are written by teachers.
- <u>Conceptual Academy</u> Library of free video lessons and self-study courses in physics, chemistry, astronomy, and physical science.
- <u>Creative Bridges</u> a part time (1-4 days per week) program for registered home schoolers that desire a self-directed learning model. We serve children ages 5 (must be 5 by Oct.1)-18.
- <u>Denver Online High School</u>- Supports high school home school students with tuition-free curriculum, social activities, transcript support and college opportunities for those enrolled on a full-time basis.
- <u>DIVE Volleyball and Sports Center</u>- Offers a variety of youth programming options, including club, clinics, camps, leagues, tournaments, and drop-ins for boys and girls of all ages.
- <u>Donna's Dolphins Swim School</u> -Offers home school P.E., private lessons, baby classes, adult lessons in the Colorado Springs area.
- <u>Doorway to College Foundation</u>-Doorway to College Foundation offers affordable, 5 hour, strategy webinars to help students get the best scores possible on the ACT and SAT.
- Engineering for Kids -STEM based learning workshops and classes for grade K-8 to assist home school families in developing STEM related skills.
- Future School -Online learning system that offers curriculum for Colorado.
- Gracie Barra Centential- Jiujitsu school offering classes that focus on discipline, leadership, and strongly promote anti-bullying.
- Homeschool Central -Resources for successful homeschooling.
- <u>Homeschooling Guide</u>- Resource for students and families considering homeschooling, building a curriculum and philosophy, and transitioning to college as a homeschooled student.
- Homeschool Reporting -Offers online software solutions.
- Homeschool Treasury- Collection of homeschool resources to help out the families along the Colorado Front Range
- Homeschool World -The official Web Site of Practical Homeschooling Magazine, this site offers a discussion forum as well as articles, contests, and events
- <u>iD Tech Camps & Academies</u>-STEM summer camp held at University of Denver, CU Boulder, CSU – Fort Collins, and 150 prestigious campuses nationwide. Innovative courses in coding, game development, robotics, and design that instill in-demand skills and embolden students to shape the future.
- <u>Integrative Balance Psychotherapy</u> -Services for children, adults, couples, and families throughout Colorado.
- <u>InsightSGI</u>-Elite math and physics tutoring for students in Lakewood and surrounding areas, as well as ACT/SAT prep sessions offered statewide.
- Kiva Center-Multi-age program for one day/week

- <u>Little Red Hen</u>-Offering curriculum based art and art education classes both in-studio and mobile to the local homeschool community. Supports grades K-8 with group options and sibling discounts available.
- <u>Lionheart Fitness Kids</u> -Offers sports programs in a fun, non-competitive environment.
- Math Nuts-Provides private math tutoring in a peaceful atmosphere conducive to our one-on-one approach. We are made up of passionate people, who focus on the destiny of our students, our goal is to help people master math to the degree that their destiny requires.
- Mother Earth Academy-K-5 micro-school with a focus on inquiry-based exploration, investigation, and analysis of the natural world. Offers full-time and homeschool enrichment options year-round
- <u>Mostly Math Learning Center</u> -Offers one-to-one and small-group instruction in math and science for homeschool students.
- My Homeschool Hub My Homeschool Hub exists to connect, encourage and equip homeschoolers.
- <u>National Financial Educators Council (NFEC)</u> -Provides financial resources to those that home school.
- <u>Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo</u> -Homeschool nature program for K-12, provides experiential learning in an outdoor environment one Friday a month.
- Olive Tree Ft. Collins K-12 Enrichment and Core Classes from a Christian perspective
- Pi Q Math -Offers half-day camps for home school families (1st -6th grades).
- <u>Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP)</u> Conferences-statewide conference for Colorado families who have children with a disability.
- <u>Rainbow Resources</u> -Provider of educational products for homeschoolers, parents, and educators.
- Rocky Mountain Education Connection -Homeschooling and unschooling website.
- <u>Science4us</u> -The Science4Us, early elementary online science program is an award-winning framework for your homeschooling needs. With over 350 online lessons and over 1,000 offline resources, Science4Us is the tool to establish your child's foundational science skills.
- <u>Silver SPRUCE</u> They offer enrichment programs, testing, and tutoring with CO State Certified Teachers.
- <u>STEM Enrichment Academy</u> -Offers enhanced education through robotics and computer vision based projects for students in grades 5-12.
- <u>Successfully Social</u>-Teaches children and adolescents skills to navigate our fast-paced social
 world through individual coaching and social groups that infuse the Social Thinking® philosophy
 with fun activities and dynamic opportunities for social growth.
- <u>South Platte River/Carson Nature Center</u> -Offers engaging nature/science-based programs for homeschooled children in grade K-5.
- <u>Talk to the Camera</u>-is a fun, after school enrichment program that inspires youth to feel empowered, using the camera as a tool to develop a stronger sense of imagination, expression, and social communication skills.
- <u>The Little Gym of West Littleton</u> -Offers 60 minute physical education classes for students ages 4-12 years old.

- <u>Thrive! Learning Camp</u>- Homeschooling support program offering reading enrichment classes, reading screenings, progress monitoring, testing, and evaluations to families who educate in the home
- <u>Velocity Recreation</u>-Offers low cost sports for homeschoolers ages 2.5 and up. Soccer, Dodgeball and Softball.