

## **So You Decided To Homeschool**

### **Home School Program**

**The decision to home school your child is a huge responsibility, which will impact both your child's life and yours for many years to come.**

**There are many reasons to consider the option of home schooling.**

**\*Specific individual needs.**

**\*Spiritual education.**

**\*Social issues.**

**\*Emotional issues.**

**\*Medical issues.**

**\*Substandard public/private education.**

**As the parent, the home schooling supervisor, you must be aware of the state laws. If you choose to home school, a rule of thumb to consider would be that your home school program should establish a higher standard than any other option in your local area.**

### **PA Home School Laws** **Simplified**

**-Home education program is conducted by guardian or person having legal custody who has a high school diploma or equivalent.**

**-An annual notarized affidavit with objectives per each child must be submitted to the district superintendent prior to the beginning of the program annually.**

**-Home education program must provide and document 180 days of instruction or 900/990 hours per an elementary/secondary student.**

**-All third, fifth and eighth grade students must take a nationally normed standardized achievement test in reading/language arts and mathematics. Contact your school district for more information.**

**-At the completion of the home school program, an annual evaluation must be submitted by a licensed clinical psychologist, or a PA certified teacher with two years experience. The evaluation is based upon a student interview and portfolio.**

**Elementary Courses**  
**K-8th**

- English
- Spelling
- Reading
- Handwriting
- Arithmetic
- Science
- History of the United States
- History of Pennsylvania
- Civics
- Geography
- Health and Physiology
- Physical Education
- Music
- Art
- Safety and Fire Education

**Secondary (Minimal) Level Courses**  
**9th-12th**

- 4 years of English: Grammar, Literature, Speech and Composition
- 3 years of Mathematics: Algebra and Geometry required
- 3 years of Science
- 3 years of Social Studies: Civics; World/United States/ State
- 2 years of Arts and Humanities

**Additional Secondary Courses**

- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Health
- Safety/Fire Education
- Foreign Language

## **Portfolio Contents**

- Log made contemporaneously with the daily instruction documenting 180 days or hourly requirement.**
- Titles/publishing company of curriculum.**
- Samples of writings, tests, worksheets, workbooks or creative materials.**
- Titles/Authors of all books read.**
- Results of standardized achievement test.**
- Documentation of Field Trips**
- Annual written evaluation by professional home school evaluator**

## **Diploma Requirements**

**Credit toward graduation will not be given from your local school district for courses completed while a student is receiving home education.  
Prior to the ninth grade the home school supervisor should inquire regarding diploma accreditation agencies.**

**PA Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency  
412-783-6512  
[www.richmans@pahomeschoolers.com](mailto:www.richmans@pahomeschoolers.com)**

**Erie County Homeschoolers Diplomas  
570-967-0951  
[www.echsdiploma.org/](http://www.echsdiploma.org/)**

**Mason Dixon Homeschool Agency  
717-749-5767  
[www.mdhsa.pa.net/](http://www.mdhsa.pa.net/)**

**Buxmont Christian Educational Institute  
215-723-7226  
[www.buxmontchristianed.org/](http://www.buxmontchristianed.org/)**