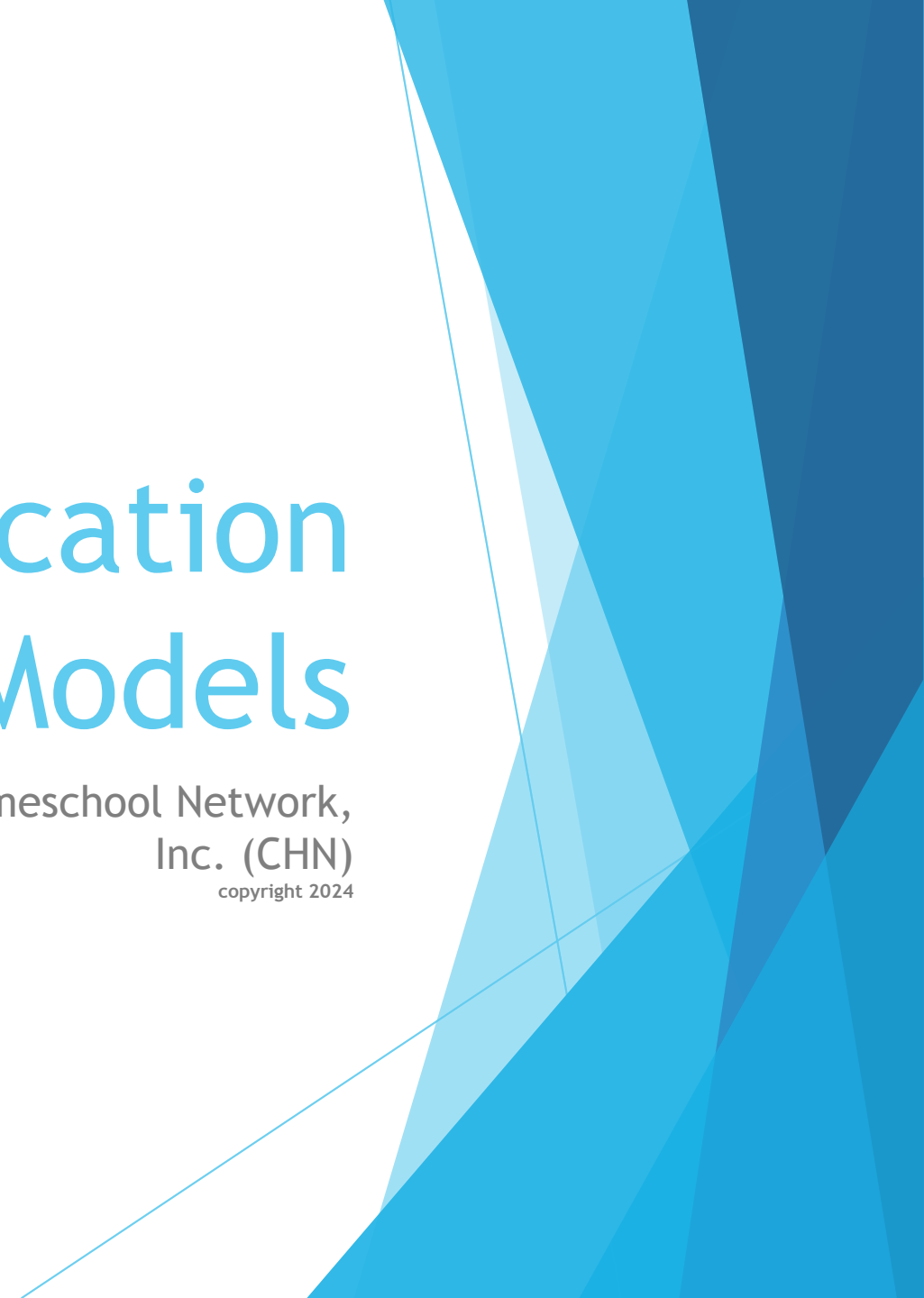




Education Models

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CT General Statute 10-184

CHAPTER 168

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

Table of Contents

Sec. 10-184. Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements.

All parents and those who have the care of children shall bring them up in some lawful and honest employment and instruct them or cause them to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship, including a study of the town, state and federal governments.

Subject to the provisions of this section and section 10-15c, each parent or other person having control of a child five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age shall cause such child to attend a public school regularly during the hours and terms the public school in the district in which such child resides is in session, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is **able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction** in the studies taught in the public schools.

For the school years commencing **July 1, 2011, to July 1, 2022**, inclusive, the parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent, as provided in this section, to such child's withdrawal from school. **For the school year commencing July 1, 2023, and each school year thereafter**, a student who is **eighteen years of age or older** may withdraw from school. Such parent, person or **student shall personally appear at the school district office** and sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of the school that such school district has provided such parent, person or student with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community. The parent or person having control of a child **seventeen years of age** may withdraw such child from school and enroll such child in an adult education program pursuant to section 10-69. Such parent or person **shall personally appear at the school district office** and sign an adult education withdrawal and enrollment form. Such adult education withdrawal and enrollment form shall include an attestation (1) from a school counselor or school administrator of the school that such school district has provided such parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community, and (2) from such parent or person that such child will be enrolled in an adult education program upon such child's withdrawal from school.

The parent or person having control of a child **five years of age** shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is **six years of age** and the parent or person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is **seven years of age**. The parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The school district shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/act/Pa/pdf/2021PA-00199-R00SB-01032-PA.PDF>

What is CT home education?

This is a list of facts that describe what your freedom to home educate looks like.

Of important note is the distinction of what a true “homeschool co-op” is.

- ▶ Is when parents undertake their God given right and obligation to instruct their own children
- ▶ Parents are required under CT General Statute 10-184 to instruct certain subjects
- ▶ Parents are fully responsible for choosing how, when, where, and with what materials that instruction takes place.
- ▶ Parents are free from government interference in the instruction
- ▶ Home Education “co-ops” in Connecticut
- ▶ Are simply parents and children who get together occasionally to support one another
- ▶ The original, and correct, name for these are support groups
- ▶ Parents plan group activities, of all kinds, for the children and adults to socialize, learn, and have fun
- ▶ Parents are responsible for and share in the planning, and divide responsibilities for the co-op activities
- ▶ Parents attend the activities with their children
- ▶ There is very little, if any, cost involved, or required enrollment fees

Other types of “co-ops”

The important fact for parents to learn and understand is that there are many complementary education opportunities available to their homeschool experience - and knowing what they are is what we are explaining here. Options with pros/cons for your knowledge of informed choices.

- ▶ Other educational groups or entities, calling themselves co-ops, offer classes but are not run in true homeschool co-op style
- ▶ One or possibly a few parents establish the co-op, are in charge of the co-op, and direct how it is run, who are often not themselves homeschooling
- ▶ Parents usually pay a significant fee to those who are in charge of the co-op in order to have their children participate in the academic classes and other activities or events
- ▶ The co-ops meet on a regular basis each week, sometimes for several days (2-5 DAYS) per week, and often year-round
- ▶ Parents may drop-off their children for the classes and other activities or events
- ▶ Some parents may act as instructors of the classes
- ▶ Typically, the co-op ‘director’ hires teachers to come in and teach the classes
- ▶ Those who establish the co-ops determine who will teach the classes and what classes take place, usually in a designated location
- ▶ Parents delegate their authority for the instruction of their children to those who are in charge of running the co-op and approving those who teach the classes
- ▶ Basically, this model is operating in the fashion of a type of private school. It is not home education under CGS 10-184.

What are private schools?

Private schools are not operated by the government.

They do not have to be open for 180 days of the year.

They are not required to have a particular curriculum.

Private schools are business entities that charge for participation.

Sometimes, such business entities call themselves “co-ops”, or alternative learning centers.

Many times, they are filed as a business entity with the CT Secretary of State, which is a public record parents can research (and should).

Furthermore...

- ▶ One or several parents, or business persons, churches, or other organizations can establish the private school
- ▶ The school may be established formally or informally as an organized entity
- ▶ Parents pay a fee to have their children attend the private school
- ▶ Parents drop off their children for instruction and activities by others
- ▶ Those who establish the private school are in charge of the school, and school rules as to how it is run, and what curriculum will be taught
- ▶ Parents usually pay a fee to those who are in charge of the school to have their children participate in the academic classes and activities
- ▶ Classes occur more than one day per week, usually for up to six hours per day
- ▶ Parents delegate their authority for the instruction of their children to those who run the school
- ▶ State statutes determine some things about private schools - attendance records must be taken and reported to the state, and truancy laws apply
- ▶ By law, children must be vaccinated in order to attend unless they have a medical or religious exemption
- ▶ State and local laws control where a private school may exist, in what zone of a town it may exist, and what building and fire codes must be met

What do you need to know about public school?

Do you know what your parental rights are, or the rights of your child, once you enroll them in public school?

- ▶ Public schools are government schools whether they are regular public schools, charter schools or magnet schools
- ▶ In loco parentis applies to students and staff
- ▶ State statutes determine how the schools are established, who can be hired as teachers, how to be licensed by the state as a teacher and require attendance to be taken and reported to the state
- ▶ State statutes also determine whether the public school will be run by a Board of Education, or another entity, or is taken over by the State
- ▶ Truancy laws apply
- ▶ By law, children must be vaccinated in order to attend unless they have a medical or religious exemption
- ▶ Local boards of education follow directives of the state Board of Education to determine the curriculum that will be taught in the regular public schools – this differs with charter or magnet schools
- ▶ Parents may vote for local Board of Education members for regular public schools only
- ▶ The state and local governments are in charge of the school and school rules
- ▶ Parents delegate their authority to the government for their children while in attendance
- ▶ Classes occur five days a week usually for six hours per day
- ▶ Parents pay no direct fee to have their children attend classes, but fund the public school through property and other taxes
- ▶ Parents may request special education services for their child via a PPT meeting
- ▶ Children are required to attend school for 180 days per year
- ▶ Compulsory attendance is from ages 7 through 17 years of age

School Choice: What is it and why should you care?

- ▶ *School Choice has to do with government entities, i.e. public schools
- ▶
- *The term “School Choice” was created to deal with those failing government schools
- ▶ *School Choice has nothing to do with homeschooling and it is not homeschooling
- ▶
- *Parents have always had the fundamental RIGHT and obligation to bring up their child and instruct their child - that is what we call homeschooling. It is nobody's business to tell a parent they can “choose” homeschooling.
- ▶ Home education is under full control of the parents, and is parent-directed and parent-funded. School Choice does not support that as there are always, always, strings attached as is seen in every state that has adopted it. There are states who are already citing the problems it is causing. If it is implemented across the board, ALL education will become publicly funded (because you took the money), and publicly controlled. Say “NO” to it.
- ▶ *School choice refers to the educational alternatives available to parents who do not wish to send their children to the local district public school to which they have been assigned. Economist Milton Friedman called for the adoption of school choice policies in his 1955 essay, “The Role of Government in Education”
- ▶ *Read Friedman's essay:
<https://la.utexas.edu/users/hcleaver/330T/350kPEEFriedmanRoleOfGovttable.pdf>

But, I paid my taxes!

Vouchers, tax breaks, ESA's & other benefits

- ▶ Just say NO
- ▶ Don't be duped - with "benefits" come strings
- ▶ With strings comes government control
- ▶ It doesn't matter what form the benefits come in, the strings are still attached
- ▶ The strings mean you have to agree to the conditions that the government chooses
- ▶ The strings mean that you will lose your freedom of choice and control over your own homeschool.

What about hiring a tutor's services when homeschooling?

Be informed as a homeschool parent.
This is what tutoring is ~

- ▶ Parents hire an individual tutor to instruct their child in a particular subject or subjects, for a limited period of time, usually an hour at a time, for that limited purpose
- ▶ Parents retain control over the instruction of their child and retain oversight over the instruction by the tutor
- ▶ Remember that it is the parent's duty to be the primary instructor
- ▶ Parents choose the tutor, or the business entity employing the tutor
- ▶ Parents choose the type of instruction the child receives by the tutor

A newer kid on the block. What are PODS?

Since the start of the pandemic, the changes that public or private schools have had to make, and the outcome of how parents needed to find creative ways to meet their children and family's needs - PODS were born. PODS are private schools.

- ▶ Micro-schools, pods, pandemic pods, and learning pods all refer to the same concept, one that is pretty easy to understand: students gathering together in a small group – with adult supervision – to learn, explore, and socialize
- ▶ PODS are not home education (homeschooling)
- ▶ PODS can be done in someone's home
- ▶ Structuring the pod—for example, developing a schedule, deciding who will supervise or teach, and establishing a meeting location
- ▶ <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/how-to-form-a-coronavirus-school-pod-legal-and-practical-considerations.html>
- ▶ PODS must follow certain state statutes

Another new kid on the block - PEA's. What are they?

Understanding the *Private* Education Association (PEA).

What are the pros and cons are for you as a parent?

It is a government entity (508).

Basically, a 508 PEA is a private school run by an association and set up under the conditions of the tax laws.

- ▶ It is an association authorized under federal laws as a means to avoid taxes and rules that other entities may be required to pay and to follow
- ▶ One or more parents may form a PEA
- ▶ The person(s) who form a PEA choose exactly what the terms are to meet their needs
- ▶ Those who form the private association are in charge of the association, and association rules as to how it is run, and what curriculum will be taught within the parameters of the tax law
- ▶ Parents usually pay a fee to those who are in charge of the association to have their children participate in the academic classes and activities
- ▶ Classes may occur whenever the association decides
- ▶ Parents delegate their authority for the instruction of their children to those who run the association
- ▶ State and local laws control in what zone of a town an association's private school may exist for educational purposes, and what building and fire codes must be met, and what other state laws may apply to it
- ▶ As a private entity, members join in agreement to the unique terms of the PEA. That can include medical freedom of choice, for example. They are individually designed, private legal entities
- ▶ The risk with such an entity is that they are still government entities that the legislature can alter
- ▶ The benefit for parents is that a PEA is an alternative way to allow the association to educate one's child (not homeschooling_
- ▶ There are PEA's who are doing battle in courts to challenge aspects of their alleged rights

Understanding Homeschool Supplements

What are they? They are additional options you can use throughout your years of home education, that complement your homeschooling each year. They can change from year to year, also.

- ▶ What is a homeschool supplement?
- ▶ Remember, home education is when a parent is instructing or causing their child to be instructed in the subjects listed in C.G.S. 10-184.
- ▶ The parent may want to seek additional, outside support for a subject for a limited time. This is called a supplement.
- ▶ Note that the parent is still directing and funding this instruction.
- ▶ It could be for help in math, or taking a martial arts class, etc.
- ▶ Accessing some supplements from time to time may be part of your homeschooling plan. It is not 'enrollment' 2-5 days a week at a location.

What do you do with all of these options?

As mentioned during the beginning of this presentation, it is very important that parents understand all of their options and the legal implications of what that looks like.

Be informed. Choose wisely. Support continued home education freedom.

- ▶ There are pros and cons to each of these education models and options
- ▶ There is only one true option that has sustained freedom; home education (homeschooling)
- ▶ In CT, parents and homeschool leaders have fought and sustained complete freedom from government oversight of home education
- ▶ The best avenue to long term freedom in home education is not to entangle, in any way, with giving your power away to other entities who are legally bound to government statutes
- ▶ In order to keep your freedom, do not accept strings that can come in the form of monetary carrots such as vouchers, tax credits, or school offers
- ▶ As homeschoolers, you, the parent, have full legal control of crafting exactly what your child needs to be instructed. Know your rights, follow the law, do not treat policies as though they are law, and utilize the many curricular options available to you so your child will have a fulfilling & successful home education experience that is not unlike the millions of homeschooled children who have gone before you for decades
- ▶ Per CT statute 10-184, “all parents shall instruct their child...”, preserve and protect that RIGHT and responsibility as it has been protected and preserved by generations of homeschool parents before you. Historically, CT legislators have seen the wisdom of not trying to fix what is not broken
- ▶ Home education in CT is a viable, successful option for parental freedom in education, so let's keep each other informed, and keep freedom intact though knowledge