

CHN – CT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE ON HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschoolers and interested parties,

Below is a copy of the webpage published by the CT State Department of Education on homeschooling in CT. Due to the many inaccuracies in it, we are providing the following to the homeschool community so that all are aware when making choices.

The CT Homeschool Network (CHN) and the National Home Education Legal Defense (NHELD) has worked hard for decades to inform and empower CT families, especially homeschoolers, to learn, understand and know their rights. This page is not only dedicated to them, but to the public and private school employees and or state agencies, that would benefit from a fuller explanation of what, on the surface, could not only seem confusing – but, unfortunately, deceptive. We invite you to read through this page, and to encourage its fuller development toward a more positive, respectful and accurate representation of home education in Connecticut.

The State Department of Education's webpage is provided below.
portal.ct.gov/SDE/Homeschooling/Homeschooling-in-Connecticut

Overview

Homeschooling as an Option to Public School Education

Parents who wish to homeschool their child/ren should contact their local public school's district office for information on local requirements.

CHN & NHELD COMMENT: Understand that the above sentence is based on public education policy. For parents wishing to homeschool their children, contacting the local public school for information might lead to confusion when policies are shared as rules to comply with – and failing to include the fact that such compliance is a CHOICE for the parents as it is not in statutory laws as mandates. "Local requirements" is a misnomer. "Local requirements", are otherwise known as "policies". Policies are those locally developed rules that apply to those who are enrolled in the public school system. Once enrolled, parents and students must abide by those "local requirements", i.e., "policies". Those "local requirements", i.e., "policies", however, are not applicable at all to parents or students once the student has withdrawn from enrollment. The DOE is aware of this. That is why the DOE states on its webpage that parents who "wish to homeschool" "SHOULD" follow "local requirements". By using the word, "should", instead of "shall" or "required by law to", the DOE effectively is admitting that these "local requirements" are not mandatory or enforceable by law once students are withdrawn from enrollment."

Under Connecticut State Statute 10-184, a parent may remove a child from public school for purposes of homeschooling if "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". These subjects include reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship, including a study of the town, state and federal governments.

CHN & NHELD COMMENTS:

This is false. If a parent has already enrolled their child, and decides that they want to homeschool, they do not have conditions placed upon their ability to withdraw their child from public or private school. In order to withdraw a child, to unenroll them, to avoid truancy for an enrolled child, the parent simply needs to use their own, self-created letter of withdrawal to the school (public or private). CHN offers a sample template that can be used. Link here: cthomeschoolnetwork.org/letter-of-withdrawal

The reference to CGS 10-184, where the parents must be able to show that a child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction applies to the parents who are n-o-t sending their child to public school and are not homeschooling...which leaves...showing that the child is going to a private school. That portion of 10-184 does NOT apply to parents who are homeschooling. It has to do with showing "equivalent instruction" – to fulfilling compulsory attendance at an educational institution.

For parents who may wish to return a child to public high school, consideration should be given to ensuring that homeschool course work aligns with [Connecticut State Graduation Requirements](#). Parents may choose to provide instruction, hire someone else to do so, or choose an online option. It should be noted that the Connecticut State Department of Education does not accredit any of the online/virtual schools.

It is **suggested** that homeschooling parents:

- complete the [Intent to Homeschool](#) form for each child annually and submit it to the Superintendent's office for signature. A signed copy should be retained in each child's homeschool folder;
- review the [Connecticut Core Standards](#) information. The Connecticut Core Standards provide parents with clear expectations of what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level. Aligning instruction with these standards and competencies will ensure a smoother transition should the child return to public school. The [Materials for Teachers](#) page contains links to lessons and activities by grade level that can be downloaded;
- keep a log of attendance which reflects days and hours of instruction;

- maintain a portfolio for each child which contains samples of activities, assignments, projects and assessments, as well as a log of books and materials used. Include results of any national assessments; and
- contact potential colleges and universities in order to learn what is required for admission.

CHN & NHELD COMMENTS: Notice the word, “suggested”. Home educators are under no obligation to do any of those things. They are, and should be, CHOICES that the parents who are raising their child, will make for themselves. As for homeschool high school coursework aligning with CT State Standards – what other state or country would be so aligned? Equivalent education respects difference in curricula choices and the State of CT public schools accept students from other countries and other states who used different curricula than what CT uses – yet those students are accepted and enrolled. It should be no different for a CT homeschooled student. Parents beware. The statute <insert statute> allows the school districts to use “discretion” as to granting credits for your teen’s homeschool high school work. In many cases, that has proven to be “denial”, despite quality coursework being taken by a homeschooler.

Homeschooling and CT State High School Diplomas

Individuals at least 18 years of age who are homeschooled and wish to take the GED® test must have a parent/guardian obtain documentation from the local school district in Connecticut acknowledging their original intent to homeschool.

- Once the parent/guardian obtains the evidence, they need to contact the State Department of Education GED® office to request a Homeschooling Attestation Form signed by the Connecticut GED® Administrator.
- Since homeschooled students cannot procure a school withdrawal form, they can use this attestation form to register for the GED® test.
- The Attestation Form cannot be used to enroll in classes at Adult Education.

Phone: (860) 807-2110 or (860) 807-2111

Email: ged@ct.gov

CHN & NHELD COMMENTS:

There is no law saying an Attestation form must be used in order for a homeschooler to take the GED.

Homeschooled Students Wishing to Enroll in Adult Education

Adult Education programs are free to Connecticut residents aged 17 and older who are no longer enrolled in a public school. In order to register for Adult Education programs

at the age of 17, an official withdrawal, signed by the parent/guardian as well as a school official, from a Connecticut high school must be provided.

CHN & NHELD COMMENTS:

The above paragraph has nothing to do with homeschooled students. It should be removed. As for homeschoolers wanting to enroll in adult education, they can...

Academic Resources to Assist Homeschooling Parents

The [CT Learning Hub](#) was developed by the CSDE to provide resources to CT families. The Hub is a free and interactive web page of digital resources to support online and offline learning.

CHN & NHELD COMMENT: The CT Learning Hub is designed for the public school model of education and those public school students who need assistance. This has nothing to do with homeschooling.

Connecticut provides information on [Social and Emotional Learning \(SEL\)](#). SEL is the process through which children and adults achieve emotional intelligence through the competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. SEL contributes to academic and career success by helping students understand and respect themselves and others, acquire effective interpersonal skills, understand safety and resilience skills, and develop into contributing members of society.

CHN & NHELD COMMENT: The SEL component is designed for the public school model of education and those in public school. This has nothing to do with homeschooling.

Additional Information for Parents

Sample [Intent to Homeschool](#) form

CHN & NHELD COMMENT:

Note that the top of the document should read, "Suggested Procedure for Home Instruction" and that has been removed from the original document. This document is not the original copy from the State Board of Education policy from 1990. The Notice of Intent is NOT required by law and we do not recommend that parents submit it. In fact, most homeschoolers do not file it. Parents simply write a letter of withdrawal as mentioned above to the superintendent of your public school district, or the head of school of a private school.

[Connecticut Statutes related to School Attendance - English](#)

[Connecticut Statutes related to School Attendance - Spanish](#)

CHN & NHELD COMMENT: These statutes linked here are not up-to-date and you are advised to check with CHN and NHELD for current information.

Resources

[CSDE GED Information](#)

CHN & NHELD COMMENTS:

This information is not fully accurate. You are advised to check with CHN or NHELD for current information. It's important to know that first and foremost, it is the parents' right to give their homeschool high school graduate a diploma. If for some reason they choose to take the GED, and they have no Notice of Intent or Letter of Withdrawal because they were always homeschooled, then you can use the Attestation form we provide here (link) to register to take the GED exam. You can print a copy of this out, bring it to a Notary.

portal.ct.gov/SDE/Adult-Ed/GED/Getting-a-GED-in-Connecticut/Eligibility

[National Home School Association](#)

CHN & NHELD COMMENTS:

Resources should include, not a largely defunct national association. It should be the active organizations as primary state resources. The largest organization in the state is, Connecticut Homeschool Network (CHN), with approximately 25,000 families across the state. Cthomeschoolnetwork.org

CHN website has many homeschool resources, so make the time to review the website. You can also go to the National Home Education Legal Defense website here: nheld.us