

**Welcome to the Arkansas Department of Education Homeschool Office! The answers listed below are to some frequently asked questions.**

**If you have additional questions, please email**  
[ade.homeschool@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.homeschool@ade.arkansas.gov)

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*Topic: Notice of Intent (NOI) form*

**1. What is the Notice of Intent to Home School (NOI)?**

**A:** It is a notification required by state law that the parent or guardian must file every year with the resident superintendent of the local school district. It is a notification that the parent or guardian intends to provide a home school for their child or children. Filing the NOI **DOES NOT** enroll a student in a specific homeschool course or GED program or withdraw them from the local public school.

**Please note:** the Arkansas Department of Education **does not** provide educational materials, supplies, schoolwork, etc. to parents or guardians who file a Notice of Intent to Homeschool form.

**2. When can parents or guardians file the NOI?**

**A:** Starting on June 1 for the upcoming school year.

**3. Where can parents or guardians file their NOI forms?**

**A:** The law allows for parents or guardians to request or print and submit a paper form to the local public school district superintendent's office; or a parent or guardian may file the NOI through the online portal: <https://noihs.ade.arkansas.gov/HomeSchoolIntent/Index>

**Please note:** Public school districts are required by law ([ACA 6-15-503](#)) to accept paper forms or letters completed by a parent or guardian as long as all the information required by law is provided.

**4. At what age can a parent or guardian file the Notice of Intent?**

The child must be school age. If a parent/guardian submits an NOI for a child under 5 years old, please contact the parent/guardian to notify them that their NOI is not valid and they will have to resubmit it once the child is school age.

As a reminder, state law requires to students to be aged 5 before August 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible to enroll in public school. Students will birth days after that date must wait until the following year. This also applies to parents who choose to homeschool.

**5. When a parent or guardian files their NOI, what happens next?**

**A:** If a student child is still enrolled in a public school and it is past the five-day waiting period, they must contact the local public school directly and follow the process to withdraw the student from school.

**Please note:** the Arkansas Department of Education and the local public school district do not provide educational supplies. Please explain to parents or guardians that **all** technology, books, and other educational materials, if desired, must be provided by them.

**6.** *Do parents or guardians file an NOI if their student attends Arkansas Connections Academy or Arkansas Virtual Academy? Are these schools considered homeschools?*

**A:** No. Both of those schools are considered online public schools, and no NOI is required. Although these schools are online, where the work is completed at home, they are recognized by the state as public charter schools.

**Please note:** If a parent or guardian states their child will attend one of these schools, they are not required to file a Notice of Intent to Home School form.

**7.** *What happens if the NOI is filed after August 15?*

**A:** If a child is enrolled in a public school district, state law (ACA 6-15-503) requires a five-day waiting period before the child can be withdrawn from the public school. The wait period may only be waived by submitting a request to the superintendent of the resident school district.

If a parent or guardian files an NOI after August 15, they may request to waive the five-day wait period. When filing a form online, please direct them to check the box on the third page of the NOI online form.

### *Topic: Notice of Intent (NOI) System*

**8.** *What happens if you have issues with TRIAND?*

**A:** Please contact the TRIAND Administrator via email at [triand@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:triand@ade.arkansas.gov)

**9.** *Is a parent or guardian required to be a resident of Arkansas to homeschool in the state?*

**A:** Yes, the parent or guardian must be an Arkansas resident. Also, NOI forms must be submitted to the resident school district. Forms cannot be submitted to neighboring public school districts. Please encourage parents/guardians to use a residential address rather than a PO Box to file a NOI.

**10. Can homeschool liaisons add students to the NOI??**

A: No. If a parent or guardian calls requesting to add a student to a NOI that has already been submitted, please direct them to email the ADE Home School Office at [ade.homeschool@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.homeschool@ade.arkansas.gov)

When directing the parent or guardian to email our office, please explain that they need to provide the following information:

- \*Student Name (First and Last Name)
- \*Date of Birth
- \*Gender
- \*Grade for the current school year
- \*Name and Address of last school attended

As the Home School Liaison, you may also collect this information, put it in the comment text box (Section 5 – Application summary screen), and change the status to Under Review for our office to complete the requested changes

**11. What do the different NOI system statuses mean?**

- i. *Pending* – the form has been submitted by the parent or guardian to the local public school district.
- ii. *Under Review* – the form needs to be corrected by the ADE Homeschool Office. When submitting a request for changes to the NOI form, please use the comment box in Section 5 (Application Summary screen). All requests should be dated with the initials of the Home School Liaison.
- iii. *Review Completed* – the form has been reviewed by the Home School Liaison, and no changes are required. No further action is needed from the parent or guardian.
- iv. *Truant* – the school district or local public school has filed a FINS due to lack of attendance. This is a notification not to process the NOI until the FINS has been settled.

If parents or guardians have questions about their status, please provide your contact information.

**Notification Requirements**

**12. If the student was previously designated as a homeschool student, does the family have to notify anyone if they move or enroll back into a public school district?**

**A:** If the student was previously designated as a homeschool student, please notify the ADE Homeschool office by changing the student’s NOI status from ‘review completed’

to 'under review' and type your comments in the Application Summary screen (section 5).

## Topic: Education Freedom Account program (LEARNS Act) and Testing

**13.** *Can homeschool families participate in the Education Freedom Account program (EFA)?*

A: Yes! If you would like more information or to apply, please click the link:

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-school-choice-and-parent-empowerment/education-freedom-accounts>

**14.** *I have questions about the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program. Who do I contact?*

A: Please contact the Education Freedom Account Division at 501-683-1876 or via email at [ade.efa@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.efa@ade.arkansas.gov).

**15.** *Are non-EFA homeschooled students required to take standardized tests?*

A: No. Homeschooled students who **DO NOT** participate in the EFA program are not required to take standardized tests.

**16.** *Are districts required to provide standardized tests to homeschool students?*

A: No. Districts are not required to provide standardized tests for homeschool students.

## Topic: Graduation/ Curriculum Requirements

**17.** *If a student is homeschooled and does not enroll or re-enroll in a public school, will they receive a high school diploma or transcript from the state?*

A: No. The Arkansas Department of Education does not provide diplomas or transcripts to homeschooled students.

**18.** *How can a homeschooled student graduate with a public school district?*

**A:** According to the homeschool rules, a student must be enrolled as a public school student for nine (9) months before graduation before the student can be eligible to graduate with a diploma.

**17b.** *Does a previously homeschooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in a public school have to meet the requirements of a public school student to graduate with a diploma?*

**A:** Yes. A student who was previously homeschooled and enrolls/re-enrolls in a public school must meet all state requirements for public school students who wish to graduate from a public school district with a diploma.

**19.** *Do homeschooled students who do not enroll/re-enroll in a public school have graduation requirements?*

**A:** Homeschoolers do not have *state-mandated* graduation requirements. The parent or guardian will determine the homeschool student's lesson plans. If a curriculum (or lesson plan) is purchased, the individual program may have specific requirements for completion. Please ask the parent to contact the program directly for questions about a specific curriculum or lesson plan.

**20.** *Do homeschooled students have to complete community service requirements?*

**A:** No. If the student is not enrolled full-time in a local public school or charter school, they are not required to complete the community service requirements.

**21.** *Does the Arkansas Department of Education require the use of an accredited homeschool curriculum?*

**A:** No. The Arkansas Department of Education does not require the use of an accredited homeschool curriculum. When parents/guardians choose to homeschool, if they decide to use a curriculum, they may select a curriculum based on the skills, abilities, and needs of their children. Parents/guardians are responsible for the outcome of their children's education.

**22.** *Are parents/guardians required to submit copies of student work to the Arkansas Department of Education or local public school district?*

**A:** If the parent/guardian requests to enroll or re-enroll their student into their resident public school district, these items are required to be provided. If they are not seeking admission into a local public school district, this information should not be submitted by the parent/guardian nor requested by the school district/local public school.

## Topic: Home School and Interscholastic Activities

### **23. Can homeschool students participate in interscholastic activities?**

**A:** Yes! Homeschooled students who are eligible may participate in try outs with their local public school district or a non-resident school district (with permission from the superintendent). Being a homeschooled student **does not** guarantee a spot for a team; however, all eligible homeschooled students may participate in the tryout process.

Homeschooled students must meet the following criteria to participate in tryouts:

#### **[Resident School District]**

1. Inform the principal of the resident school district in writing of their request to participate in the interscholastic activity before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled in the resident school district.
2. Provide the principal documentation that the student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining: a minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile on The Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test in the previous (12) months, or a minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.
3. In order to be eligible to participate, the student must be enrolled in at least 1 period or zero hour activity within the first (11) days of the fall or spring semester.
4. Meets the same requirements as enrolled students in regards to practice times, required drug testing, permission slips, waivers, physical exams, and participation fees.
5. Required to be at school only when participation in the interscholastic activity requires other students who participate in the interscholastic activity to be at school.
6. Be transported by the resident school district to and from interscholastic activities as the resident school district transports other students who are enrolled in the resident school district; and enrolled by his or her resident school district in a nonacademic class period that coincides with the interscholastic activity in which the homeschooled student participates in order for the resident school district to receive an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the state foundation funding.
7. A homeschooled student shall not be eligible to participate in an interscholastic sports activity in the homeschooled student's resident district if he or she withdrew

from an interscholastic activity that is a varsity sport athletic activity at the resident public school district during the previous 365 days.

**[Non-Resident District]**

1. A homeschooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity at a public school district other than his or her resident district if the homeschooled student is approved to participate by June 1 of the school year for which the homeschooled student will be enrolled in grades 7-10.
2. Provide the principal documentation that the student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining: a minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile on The Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test in the previous (12) months, or a minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.
3. In order to be eligible to participate, the student must be enrolled in at least 1 period or zero hour activity within the first (11 days) of the fall or spring semester.
4. Meets the same requirements as enrolled students in regards to practice times, required drug testing, permission slips, waivers, physical exams, and participation fees.
5. Required to be at school only when participation in the interscholastic activity requires other students who participate in the interscholastic activity to be at school.
6. Be transported by the non-resident school district to and from interscholastic activities as the school district transports other students who are enrolled in the resident school district; and enrolled by the non-resident school district in a nonacademic class period that coincides with the interscholastic activity in which the homeschooled student participates in order for the non-resident school district to receive an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the state foundation funding.
7. A homeschooled student shall not be eligible to participate in an interscholastic sports activity if he or she withdrew from a varsity interscholastic sports activity at a AAA member school district during the previous 365 days.

**24.** *Where can parents or guardians find information and ask specific questions about the students' eligibility for sports and other interscholastic activities?*

**A:** If a student is in grades 7-12, please contact the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) at 501-955-2500. AAA is the sport's governing body for competitive sports and non-sport activities in the state of Arkansas.

If a student is in grades K-6, please contact the local public school district.

**25.** *Are homeschooled students required to file a school choice transfer application to play sports in a non-resident school district?*

**A:** No. Homeschooled students are not required to use the school choice transfer application to play sports in a non-resident school district. Please see pages 6- 7 of this document for instructions on how to guide homeschooled students who wish to participate in interscholastic activities in a resident or non-resident school district.

### *Other Activities*

**26.** *Can a homeschool student participate in school activities such as field day, dances, prom, field trips, etc.?*

**A:** Participation may be limited to students who are enrolled full-time in a public or charter school.

**Please note:** If a parent or guardian calls with questions about whether their child can participate in the activities listed above, please advise them that those policies are governed by the local school board and the public or charter school district superintendent. Please forward the parent to the appropriate contact **within** the district who can answer their question.