

**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 to Home School (NOI) form***

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

It is a notification required by state law that you must submit every year to the superintendent of your local school district that you intend to provide a home school for your child or children. Filing the NOI **DOES NOT** enroll your student in a specific homeschool program or withdraw them from a public school.

**2. *Where can I file my NOI?***

You may print a form or request one from your local public school and submit it to your local school district; or you may file your NOI through the online portal: <https://noihs.ade.arkansas.gov/HomeSchoolIntent/Index>

**3. *I have filed my NOI. What happens next?***

If your child is still enrolled in a public school and it is past the five-day waiting period, please contact the local public school directly and withdraw the student from the school.

If your child is not enrolled in a public school, you may begin your homeschool instruction. Please note that the Arkansas Department of Education and the local public school district do not provide educational supplies. All technology, books, and other educational materials, if desired, must be provided by the parent/guardian.

**4. *What do I do if my account is locked?***

During regular business hours, accounts are unlocked every 15-30 minutes. Please wait until you receive an unlocked account notification via email before you call or try to log into your account. If your account is locked on the weekend or after regular business hours, it will be unlocked the next business day.

**Please note:** we cannot view, reset, or change passwords. When changing your password, please follow the instructions provided via email.

5. *Are you required to be an Arkansas resident to homeschool in the state?*

Yes, you must be an Arkansas resident.

6. *I filled out my NOI with two students, but when I submitted it, there was only one. What happened?*

First, **BEFORE** clicking “submit”, if another student should be added, please check your NOI to make sure it is accurate. Second, after adding your first student, a box will appear asking if you want to add another student. If you select yes and input all of the second student’s information, you **MUST** click the green “add student” button for the information to show up on the form. Once you have submitted your NOI, you cannot add a student.

To add a student, please submit a request via email [ade.homeschool@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.homeschool@ade.arkansas.gov). When emailing, please 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

7. *What do the different NOI statuses mean?*

*Pending* – the form has been submitted to the local public school district.

*Under Review* – the form needs to be corrected by the ADE Homeschool Office.

*Review Completed* – the form has been reviewed, and no changes are required. No further action is needed from you.

If you have questions about your status, please contact the superintendent’s office of your local school district.

8. *Do I file an NOI if my child attends Arkansas Connections Academy or Arkansas Virtual Academy? Are these schools considered homeschools?*

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

**9. When can I file my NOI for the next school year?**

The NOI for the future school years are available after June 1.

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

If your child is enrolled in a public school district, state law 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 you are filing your NOI after August 15 and you would like to request a five-day waiver, you may check the box to submit a request to the school district. This checkbox is located on the third page of the NOI online form.

**11. If my family moves or enrolls back into public school, do I need to notify anyone?**

Yes, please notify the ADE Homeschool office via email

([ade.homeschool@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.homeschool@ade.arkansas.gov)) – please provide your name and your student’s name in the email. Also, please contact the superintendent’s office of your local public school district.

**[Topic: Education Freedom Account program \(LEARNS Act\)](#)**

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

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>

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

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).

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

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

**15.** *If my child participates in the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program, are they required to take a test?*

Yes. If you accept money from and participate in the Education Freedom Account program, you are required to take a standardized test. For questions about testing, please contact Education Freedom Account department at 501-683-1876 or [ade.efa@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.efa@ade.arkansas.gov).

### Topic: Graduation Requirements

**16.** *If a student is homeschooled, will they receive a high school diploma or transcript from the state?*

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

**17.** *Do homeschooled students have graduation requirements?*

Homeschoolers do not have state-mandated graduation requirements. The parent/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 contact the program directly for questions about a specific curriculum or lesson plan.

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

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.

### Topic: Home School and Interscholastic Activities

**19.** *Can homeschool students participate in interscholastic activities?*

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.

**20. *Where can I find information and ask specific questions about my students' eligibility for sports and other interscholastic activities?***

If your 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 sport and non-sport activities in the state of Arkansas.

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

## Other Activities

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

Participation may be limited to students who are enrolled full time in the public or charter school. Those policies are governed by the local school board and the public or charter school district superintendent. Please contact the local public school district for details about their policies and procedures regarding these activities.