

## Getting Started Homeschooling CHAP Convention 2019 Barb Beideman

<http://chaponline.com/> Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania website

<http://chaponline.com/resources/> links to affidavit, objectives, medical exemption form

<http://chaponline.com/pa-homeschool-law-as-of-october-2014/> the home education law for Pennsylvania

### ***When Must I Do What?***

#### **ITEMS TO DO PRIOR TO STARTING HOMESCHOOL**

##### **When do I have to file documents with my school district?**

- \* For a child that has never been in a school situation - Nothing must be done until they turn legal school age (currently age 8). In Philadelphia City School District the parent must file an "Intent to Homeschool" letter by age six stating that they intend to homeschool and that they will submit the proper affidavit by the age for homeschooling.
- \* For a child that has been in a public school situation (not including kindergarten) - The documents must be filed prior to starting homeschooling. \*HSLDA now says this is not required if the child has not turned 8 and as long as the child was formally withdrawn.
- \* To continue homeschooling after filing once, you must file your new documents each year by August 1st to the superintendent or their designated representative of your local school district.

##### **What documents must I file?**

- \* A completed affidavit that has been notarized.
- \* An outline of proposed educational objectives by subject areas for the level of instruction for each student. (If you have a child that has been labeled as special needs, then the program of a special needs child must address the child's needs and be approved by a certified special education teacher or a licensed clinical or certified school psychologist.)
- \* Evidence of the child's immunization and health and dental care OR an exemption due to religious beliefs or a medical exemption. Mandated School Health Services Schedule here:  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Mandated-School-Health-Programs.aspx>  
PA Department of Health: <https://www.health.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- Secure an evaluator** that will be willing to do your child's evaluation at the end of the year.
- \* Make sure he/she is in agreement with your philosophy of home education.

#### **WHAT YOU MUST DO DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

- \* Keep a contemporaneous log - "A log, made contemporaneously with the instruction, which designates by title the reading material used"  
– Put simply: a listing of the titles of reading materials used and samples of work should be included as part of the portfolio.
- \* Keep track of EITHER the number of hours spent in schooling time (900 hours elementary - 990 hours secondary) OR the days spent in schooling (Must meet 180 days). You are required to complete either the hours requirement OR the days requirement, not both.
- Standardized Testing for students in grades 3, 5, and 8 – results must be presented to your evaluator at your evaluation – List of approved standardized test:  
<http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Codes%20and%20Regulations/Basic%20Education%20Circulars/Purdons%20Statutes/Home%20Education%20Program.pdf>

#### **WHAT YOU MUST DO AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR BY JUNE 30.**

\*Have a qualified evaluator of your choice give written substantiation which states that an appropriate education is occurring. (Act 169 says: Appropriate education shall mean a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required in this act and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.)

\*Under Act 196 of 2014, you are only required to submit the evaluator's report to the superintendent of your school district by June 30. This is a change from the previous law, which required you to also submit your portfolio and your test scores from 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade.

## A Few Guidelines for Getting Started:

1. Consider your child's interests, strengths, and weaknesses before determining what curriculum to use.
2. Determine goals and objectives for each child (may want to consider intellectual, physical, spiritual, social – see Luke 2:52).
3. Think about the homeschool approach that best suits your family  
<http://www.homeschoolmarketplace.com/choosing/approaches.html>
4. Order materials – when my children were young we used dollar store workbooks and lots of library books, when I began ordering curriculum I usually ordered from Rainbow Resource <http://www.rainbowresource.com/>
5. Your curriculum is a tool, not a master. Do not feel guilty if you do not finish everything in every book.
6. Plan what your daily and/or weekly schedule will look like. Remember a day can be as long or short as you wish.
7. Be flexible. Do not be a slave to your schedule. Plan a last minute field trip. Go to the park. Have fun and enjoy the freedom of homeschooling.
8. Keep some work samples (or pictures) for your portfolio or memory book. Keep a book list.
9. Be sure to join a support group and/or co-op. It is hard to homeschool alone.

## Some Homeschool Resources:

Co-ops

Book clubs

Gym classes

Museum classes

Library programs

Nature centers

Gavel Club (Toastmasters)

Local college programs

Church

Social group (get together with two other families on a regular basis to let the kids play)

Bible Bee

Science fairs

4-H

Harvey Cedars Bible Conference homeschool week at the beach

YMCA swim and gym

Book-it - Pizza Hut reading program

Speech and debate clubs

Math Olympiad

Robotics

Homeschool project fair

Homeschool baseball

Geography Bee

Spelling Bee

Math club

Art lessons

Ambleside Online curriculum

Easy Peasy online curriculum

Virtual Homeschool Group

Starfall (reading site)

Awana

Pioneer Clubs

Community Bible Study (homeschool children's programs)

Upward Sports

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