

## **Finding an Evaluator:**

The best way to find an evaluator is by talking with other homeschoolers about their evaluators. CHAP maintains a list here: <https://chaponline.com/evaluators-by-county/> There are also Facebook groups that list Pennsylvania homeschool evaluators.

Questions you may want to ask: Are you able to evaluate all grade levels? What do you see as your role? Are you familiar with the Pennsylvania Home Education Law? How long does a typical evaluation take? Where do you do evaluations? What is your fee? What do you want to see in the portfolio? Did you homeschool? How do you interview the child? What kind of evaluation letter do you write? Are you familiar with \_\_\_\_\_ style of homeschooling?

**The Best Evaluator:** The best evaluator is someone who respects you; is totally supportive of home schooling; understands the distinctives of family learning versus classroom education; is thoroughly knowledgeable of the PA homeschool law; is supportive of all learning styles; is very familiar with resources and curricula; and can help you with advice as requested.

## **What is an evaluation according to the law?**

From 24 P.S. §13-1327.1 (e)(2)

“The evaluation shall also be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio required in clause (1) and shall certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring.”

Definition of an Appropriate Education according to the law:

"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.

## **When must the evaluation be conducted?**

The law states that the annual written evaluation of the student's educational progress is due to the school district by the end of the school year, which is defined in the PA School Code as June 30th.

The other time-related issue involves the evaluator's statement that the required number of days or hours have been met. Many evaluators meet with families before they have completed their required days or hours.

## **This sums up what is needed for the evaluation:**

1. A log consisting of reading materials used made contemporaneously with instruction
2. Samples of work from the major subjects studied (I suggest something from the beginning, middle, and end of the year in order to show sustained progress)  
**Note for seniors:** The evaluator will need to see a transcript to show that your child has completed the courses required for graduation if you want her to sign a diploma.
3. Test results for your third, fifth or eighth grader.
4. The evaluator must look over the portfolio (containing items 1-3 listed above) and interview the child. (My interview consists of asking the child if he had a favorite book and a favorite subject.)
5. Attendance – either written record or verbal confirmation

The evaluator gives the parent a written evaluation of the student's educational progress and the parent turns it in to the school district by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Read the law:

[https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=1949&sessInd=0&smthLwInd=0&act=14&chpt=13&sctn=27&subctn=1&mobile\\_choice=suppress](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=1949&sessInd=0&smthLwInd=0&act=14&chpt=13&sctn=27&subctn=1&mobile_choice=suppress)

### **Legal Requirements:**

There are a number of avenues for individuals to qualify to become home education evaluators (24 P.S. § 13-1327.1(e)).

1. Licensed clinical psychologist
2. School psychologist
3. Pennsylvania certified teacher with two years grading experience at the level they evaluate (K-6 and/or 7-12)
4. Nonpublic school teacher or administrator with two years PA teaching experience within the last 10 years at the level they evaluate (K-6 and/or 7-12)
5. Persons with other qualifications, with the prior consent of the superintendent of the district of residence

### **The evaluator's responsibilities**

1. To evaluate the portfolio, including test scores in grades three, five and eight. (I like to see three samples of work for each subject taught, one from the beginning of the year, one from the middle and one from the end.)
2. To interview the child. (This should be done with the parent present.)
3. To decide, based on the review of the portfolio and the interview with the child whether an “appropriate education” is occurring.
4. To write an evaluation letter and give it to the supervisor of the home education program.

### **Some other things to keep in mind:**

- The supervisor or the spouse of the supervisor of the home education program is not allowed to be the evaluator for their home education program, regardless of any qualifications (24 P.S. § 13-1327.1(e)(2)).
  - You may want to consider filing under the Private Tutor option
- Experience in teaching your own children can count for the required two years of grading experience.
- Elementary is grades K-6 and secondary is grades 7-12 according to the homeschool law.
- Evaluators are basically responsible for certifying that the family is following the law.
  - Continuing Education (Act 48) for an Evaluator - The law specifically exempts evaluators and private tutors from having to maintain an active status for Act 48 Continuing Professional Development. This means an evaluator does not have to maintain Act 48 hours (24 P.S. § 12-1205.1).
    - e) The requirements of this section and section 1205.2 5 do not apply to a professional educator not employed by a school entity who serves as an evaluator of a home education program authorized under section 1327.1 (e)(2) 6 or who provides private tutoring services as part of a home education program under section 1327.1

### **Helpful Facebook Group:**

- [Becoming a PA Homeschool Evaluator](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1544765669128156/) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1544765669128156/>

## Sample Forms:

- Sample Evaluation Form <https://homeschoolpennsylvania.org/index.php/documentation/sample-evaluation-form/>
- Sample Letter Requesting Person with Other Qualifications  
<https://homeschoolpennsylvania.org/index.php/documentation/sample-letter-requesting-person-with-other-qualifications/>