

# HOMESCHOOLING UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW



Are you considering homeschooling your child?

You can do it! As you get started, it's important to make sure you comply with the education laws in California.

## California compulsory school attendance age

In California, each child must attend school or comply with the homeschool laws starting with the school year in which he or she turns 6 by September 1 and ending on the child's 18th birthday.

## Legal options to homeschool privately in California

### Option #1

An individual home school can qualify as a private school by filing an annual private school affidavit with the Superintendent of Public Instruction between October 1 and October 15 of each school year.

1. File an annual private school affidavit. ▾
2. Maintain an attendance register. ◆
3. Instruction must be in English. ◆
4. Instructors must be capable of teaching. ◆
5. Provide instruction in the courses commonly taught in the public schools (e.g., language arts, math, science, social studies, health, and driver training). ◆
6. Maintain immunization records or personal beliefs exemption. ◆
7. Maintain a list of courses of study. ◆
8. Maintain a list of instructors with their addresses and qualifications. ◆

### Option #2

A child can enroll in a private school satellite program (PSP) and be "homeschooled" through that private school. The PSP must comply with Cal. Educ. Code § 48222 (see Option 1 above) and may enroll anywhere from two to several hundred families. Many homeschool families have organized and/or enrolled in such private PSPs.

### Option #3

A child can be privately tutored by a state-certified private tutor and instructed "for at least three hours a day for 175 days each calendar year" between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

### Option #4

Option 4. A child can be enrolled in an independent study program at home using the public school curriculum. Under this option, the child is a public school student and has to abide by the rules and policy of the public school

**Teacher Qualifications:** None, under Options 1 and 2. Certification is necessary only if the home school parent chooses to qualify as a private tutor under Option 3.

**Standardized Tests:** Not required by statute.

**Source:** Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA.org).

*This analysis does not constitute the giving of legal advice.*