

# WDE FAQ

## Homeschooling *updated 8/15/2021*

### **If I Choose to Homeschool My Child in Wyoming, What Must I Do?**

Wyoming State Statute 21-4-102(b): "A home-based educational program shall meet the requirements of a basic academic educational program pursuant to W.S. 21-4-101(a)(v). It shall be the responsibility of every person administering a home-based educational program to submit a curriculum to the local board of trustees each year showing that the program complies with the requirements of this subsection."

W.S. 21-4-101(a)(vi) defines a basic academic educational program as a program providing a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in seven subjects: reading, writing, mathematics, civics, history, literature, and science.

It is recommended to contact the school district where a student resides to assist with further information. The local school district may also have useful documents, such as a homeschool registration form that can take the place of a letter of intent, as well as where to mail or drop off the forms.

### **What Are Wyoming Content and Performance Standards and Where Can I Find Them?**

The Wyoming Content and Performance Standards are a set of expectations identifying what students should know and be able to do, enabling them to be prepared for college, career, or military ready. These expectations provide a common understanding among educators as to what students should learn at particular grades. More information about the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards can be found [here](#).

### **Must the Curriculum for the Home-Based Education Program Be Aligned to and Inclusive of the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards?**

Home-based educational curriculum requires approval from the local school district, but is not required to be aligned with the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards. There are advantages to considering alignment of home-based educational curriculum to the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards. For instance, if there are plans for the student to take the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP) or return to public school at any time, alignment may be valuable.

### **What Do Districts Generally Look For When Determining Whether to Approve a Home-Based Educational Program Curriculum?**

Districts will want a summary of the curriculum to make sure it meets the basic educational requirements which include seven subjects: Reading, Writing, Literature, Science, Math, History, and Civics. Districts may have additional recommendations and resources.

### **Are Homeschooled Students Required to Take the WY-TOPP Test?**

No testing is required of homeschooled students. They are able to take the test if they choose to, without any cost. For grades 3-10, the WY-TOPP summative assessments are online adaptive assessments for math and English language arts. Students in grade 3, 5, 7, and 9 are assessed in writing. Grade 4, 8, and 10 students are assessed in science. If a student is attending homeschool and public school, and spends 50% or more of their time at the public school, then that student is required to take the WY-TOPP assessment.

## Can a Homeschooled Student Participate in Extracurricular Activities?

W.S. 21-4-506(a) states that any school age child who is a resident of a school district and who is not enrolled as a full-time student in the district in which they reside, shall be permitted by the district to participate in any activities which are sanctioned by the Wyoming High School Activities Association and which are offered by the district subject to the following:

The district may require the student to pay any fees for participation that are required by the Wyoming High School Activities Association;

The district may charge that student an additional fee for participating, but that fee shall be no more than any fee for participating charged to full-time students of the district;

As a condition of participation, the student shall be required to comply with all other rules and policies of the district or any school activities association applicable to all students participating in the activity and not related to the assessment of fees or charges.

## Can My Home School Student Qualify for the Hathaway Scholarship?

Yes, students who graduate from a homeschool program are able to qualify for the Hathaway Scholarship. For more information about the Hathaway Scholarship homeschool requirements, go [here](#).

## If My Child is Transitioning From Homeschool to Public School, Who Determines What Grade My Child is in?

It is up to the local school to decide what grade a homeschooled child should enter, just as if a student was transferring from a different district or different state. Local schools do not have to accept credits earned from a homeschooled program or any other programs.

## The Right to Participate in Federal Programs

Homeschool students have the right to participate in any federally-funded education grant program, in the Every Student Succeeds Act, if they and/or their parents/guardians meet eligibility criteria. For instance, a student is entitled to special education services by law. Parents may request testing and evaluation of their child by the local school. If a child qualifies for special services, the school is required to offer them free of charge. The school has the right to provide those services at a time fitting its established schedule. The parent must provide transportation to and from the school site unless busing is included in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

## How Does a Home-School Student Earn a Diploma?

A: Because home-schools are non-accredited private schools, home-schoolers receive no diploma from the school or the state. Some commercial curriculum companies do offer diplomas to students who complete their company's requirements. Some colleges allow prospective students to complete an entrance exam or portfolio. Another option is to complete the GED.

## Someone I Know is Home-Schooling Their Children and I Don't Believe They Are Actually Being Taught. Who do I Get in Touch With Concerning This?

A: If you believe a child is being neglected, you should notify your local office of the Department of Family Services to file a complaint.