



## Home School Guidelines:

As identified by OAR 581-021-0026, our responsibility as Education Service District (ESD) for Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties, is to register Home School students. With the assistance of Home School parents and legal guardians, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3013 in the summer of 1999. The law states that the parent or legal guardian is only required to notify the ESD of their intent to home school their child with one initial registration. We do not provide any services or maintain any kind of regular contact with students, parents, or legal guardians. Parents or legal guardians must meet the following requirements to home school in Oregon:

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

**NOTIFICATION:** Parents/guardians of students between the ages of 7 (provided the date of birth is on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>) and 18 years of age, must notify Willamette Education Service District (WESD) in writing of their intent to home school. Notification must reach WESD within 10 days of beginning to home school, withdrawing the child from public or private school, or moving to a new ESD service area. The "Notification of Intent to Home School" form serves this purpose. WESD will acknowledge receipt of notification in the form of a confirmation letter sent within 90 days. Your student's home school notification will remain active until we are contacted by the parent/guardian or school district of any changes. Parents/guardians are required to notify WESD by contacting the Home School Registrar when withdrawing the student from home school or moving out of the ESD service area. Please note that annual notification is no longer mandatory. The "Notification of Intent to Home School" form is available on the WESD website: <https://www.wesd.org/Pages/default.aspx>. To find the WESD Home School page, please go to: "Programs & Services"; select "School Improvement & Instructional Services"; then select "Home School".

**LAWS:** The Oregon State Legislature maintains records of the Oregon Laws in which the home school guidelines are consisted of. You may review these laws via website: [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us). The specific Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) and Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) that are pertinent to home school are listed on the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) website: [www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2077](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2077). The Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) has information on Oregon School District Policies. You may review these policies via website: [www.osba.org](http://www.osba.org).

**SPECIAL EDUCATION EVALUATION:** Any student identified as eligible for special education and related services at their local public school may be evaluated by the school's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team to determine satisfactory educational progress. The parent/guardian of an identified student also has the option of choosing private service providers to evaluate and determine satisfactory educational progress according to the recommendations of a Privately Developed Plan (PDP). If the parent/guardian does not choose the option of having the student evaluated by either the IEP or PDP Team, the student must be tested with a standardized achievement test by a qualified and neutral test administrator prior to the end of grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. You may review frequently asked questions for home schooling students with disabilities via the ODE website: [www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=376](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=376).

**TESTING:** Home schooled students must be tested before the end of grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. The end of the grade is defined as before August 15<sup>th</sup> following the end of that school year. If the student never attended public or private school, they must be tested before August 15<sup>th</sup> following the end of grade 3. If the student was withdrawn from public or private school, no testing is required for the first 18 months of home schooling, even if during that 18-month period the student is in grade 3, 5, 8, or 10. For example, if a student completed grade 4 in public school and was withdrawn to be home schooled, the student would not be required to be tested at grade 5 because grade 5 is within the 18-month period. The student would be required to be tested before August 15<sup>th</sup>, following grade 8. Arrangements and cost for a qualified and neutral test administrator is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. A current list of "ODE Approved Home School Testers in the WESD Service Area" is available on the WESD website. A list of statewide certified testers is available on the ODE website: [www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/specialty/home/hstesterlist.pdf](http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/specialty/home/hstesterlist.pdf).

**CONTENT STANDARDS:** Required state testing focuses on satisfactory progress in academic areas. Academic content standards and curriculum goals have been developed by ODE and are available on their website. These academic content standards provide a framework for all content areas and are arranged as standards for grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. You may review grade specific performance standards via the ODE website: [www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=53](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=53). A list of "Home School Curriculum, Program, & Testing Resources" is available on the WESD website. Parents/guardians are not required to use state content standards and may teach programs other than those taught in public and private school.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**ACCREDITATION:** School districts are not required to award credit for work completed at home. The acceptance of high school credit earned in a home school program is determined by the local district board policy. OSBA has information on Oregon School District Policies. You may review these policies via website: [www.osba.org](http://www.osba.org). An "Accreditation Information" form is available on the WESD website.

**CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS:** A student learning at home, using the materials of any correspondence school, is considered to be a home school student and must be registered with WESD. However, Oregon Connections Academy (ORCA), Oregon Virtual Academy (ORVA), and SK Online are public virtual charter schools and are represented under their respective school districts. A student enrolling in one of these programs does not need to register with WESD for home school. You may review the ORCA guidelines via website: [www.connectionsacademy.com/oregon-school/free-online-public-school.aspx](http://www.connectionsacademy.com/oregon-school/free-online-public-school.aspx). You may review the ORVA guidelines via website: [www.k12.com/orva](http://www.k12.com/orva). You may review the SK Online guidelines via website: [www.skonline.org](http://www.skonline.org).

**CURRICULUM/MATERIALS:** WESD and Oregon Public Schools are not required by law to provide educational materials or services for any students being home schooled. Acquisition and cost of curriculum and materials is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. However, some local home school support groups may be able to provide materials on a loan basis. A list of "Local Home School Support Groups" is available on the WESD website. Various instructional materials are available on the ODE website: [www.ode.state.or.us](http://www.ode.state.or.us). To find the ODE Home School page, please go to: "Teaching and Learning"; then "Diverse Learning"; then "Home School".

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES:** A home school student interested in participating in interscholastic activities must reside within the district boundaries of the school. Eligibility is contingent upon the student receiving a test score at or above the 23<sup>rd</sup> percentile on all required examinations. Examinations must be taken by August 15<sup>th</sup> of each school year and shall be used to determine eligibility for the upcoming school year. The test results must be submitted to the resident school district, not WESD, before activities commence. If a student has taken the examination and is waiting for results, they may participate in activities, including practicing with the team. You may review Oregon School Activities Association's (OSAA) guidelines via website: [www.osaa.org/publications/pamphlets/Home%20School%20Eligibility.pdf](http://www.osaa.org/publications/pamphlets/Home%20School%20Eligibility.pdf).

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Various associations, groups, companies, and schools throughout Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties offer a multitude of extracurricular activities. You may want to contact your local city or county government of any knowledge of programs available to home school students and families. A list of "Home School Resources" is available on the WESD website.

**IMMUNIZATION:** It is recommended that you have your student properly immunized and vaccinated to protect them against many childhood diseases. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Immunization Program recommend a series of immunizations to protect your child against 12 different diseases. Shots are required for attendance at all elementary, middle, and high schools in Oregon, whether public, private, charter, or alternative schools. Shots are also required for preschool attendance and for attendance at all Head Start programs and at all certified childcare

facilities. You may review Oregon's Immunization Program via the Public Health Division website:  
[www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/imm/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/imm/index.shtml).

**DRIVER PERMIT/LICENSE:** If a student is under the age of 18 and would like to get an Oregon Driver's Permit or License, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requires all students to show proof of school enrollment. You may review Oregon's teen driving policies via the DMV website:  
[www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/TEEN/school.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/TEEN/school.shtml). A DMV "Statement of Enrollment" form is available at WESD. The student must be registered as a home school student with WESD in order to obtain this form. Please contact the home school registrar and make arrangements in advance, prior to needing the completed form. You may review the WESD Driver Education Program via website:  
<https://www.wesd.org/programs/siis/drivered/Pages/default.aspx>. Students who fall out of compliance with home school laws may be reported to the DMV, resulting in possible suspension of driving privileges.

**COMPLETION:** Oregon State law does not grant WESD the authority to provide high school diplomas to graduating home school students. Students who are over the age of 16 and under 18 years of age, who do not have a high school diploma, can participate in the General Educational Development (GED) certificate program at Chemeketa Community College (CCC). It is mandatory that the student who is under 18 years of age, that wants to take the GED, first go to the public school in which they would be enrolled (if they were not being home schooled) and register. The school will then release the student from that school and provide them with an "Underage Release" form to take to CCC. Chemeketa offers a variety of alternative High School/College Credit programs. You may review these programs via website: [www.chemeketa.edu/catalog/studies/highschool/index.html](http://www.chemeketa.edu/catalog/studies/highschool/index.html). A list of Oregon Community Colleges is available on the OSBA website: [www.osba.org/edlinks/colleges.asp](http://www.osba.org/edlinks/colleges.asp). A home school student who pursues a GED or Diploma is not released from home school requirements until the ESD receives verification that the student has been awarded a certificate or diploma.

**WITHDRAWAL:** Parents/guardians are required to notify WESD by contacting the Home School Registrar when withdrawing the student from home school or moving out of the ESD service area. If the student needs to re-enroll in home school, a new "Notification of Intent to Home School" form will need to be completed. Notification must reach WESD within 10 days of beginning to home school, withdrawing the child from public or private school, or moving to a new ESD service area.

**WESD HOME SCHOOL FORMS:**     [Home School Curriculum, Program, & Testing Resources](#)  
   [Home School Guidelines](#)  
   [Home School Resources](#)  
   [Local Home School Support Groups](#)  
   [Notification of Intent to Home School](#)  
   [ODE Approved Home School Testers in the WESD Service Area](#)  
   [School Accreditation Guide](#)

**WESD CONTACT INFORMATION:**   **Kathy Bonogofski**  
   **Home School Registrar**  
   **School Improvement & Instructional Services**  
   **2611 Pringle Rd SE**  
   **Salem, OR 97302-1533**  
   **Office: 503.385.4623**  
   **Fax: 503.385.4875**  
   **Email: [Homeschool@wesd.org](mailto:Homeschool@wesd.org)**  
   **Website: <https://www.wesd.org/programs/siis/homeschool/Pages/default>**

**Mission:**  
*To provide collaborative leadership and high-quality, cost-effective services that build schools' capacity to make continuous, evidence-based improvements and empower students to reach high learning standards and succeed in life.*