

MISSISSIPPI

- Compulsory Attendance Ages:** “Age of six (6) years on or before September 1 ... and who has not attained the age of 17 on or before September 1 ... and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a fullday public school kindergarten program.” A parent or guardian may disenroll a child from the kindergarten program once, and the child shall not be compulsory attendance age until age six. Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-13-91(f).
- Required Days of Instruction:** 180 days. “except that the ‘nonpublic’ school term shall be the number of days that each school shall require for promotion from grade to grade.” Home instruction programs are included in the definition of “nonpublic school.” § 37-13-91(2)(e), (i).
- Required Subjects:** Repealed July 1, 1984.
- Home School Statute:** Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91(3)(c).

A home school parent is required to comply with the following:

1. The parent, guardian, or custodian of the children must file a “certificate of enrollment” including names, address, and telephone number of parents and children, dates of birth of children, and a “simple description of the type of education the children are receiving.” The certificate must be submitted by September 15 of each school year to the school attendance officer where the child resides.

“Any parent, guardian, or custodian found by the school attendance officer to be in noncompliance with this section shall comply, after written notice of such noncompliance by the school attendance officer, with this subsection within ten (10) days after the notice or be in violation of this section.”
2. A parent who has enrolled his child in the public school may, after Sept. 15, still enroll the child in a “legitimate home instruction program and send the certificate of enrollment to the school attendance officer” even though he missed the deadline.
3. A child must be educated in a “legitimate home instruction program” which is one that is not operated for the “purpose of avoiding or circumventing the compulsory attendance law.”
4. “It is not the intention of this section to impair the primary right and the obligation of the parent ... to choose the proper education and training” for their children, and nothing in this section shall be construed to grant the State of Mississippi “authority to control, manage or supervise” the private education of children. “And this section shall never be construed so as to grant, by implication or

otherwise, any right or authority to any state agency or other entity to control, manage, supervise, provide for or affect the operation, management, program, curriculum, admissions policy or discipline of any such school or home instruction program.” Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91(9).

Teacher Qualifications: None.

Standardized Tests: None.