

## NEBRASKA

- Compulsory Attendance Ages:** Age six, prior to January 1, to eighteen. Parents may exempt a child under seven for one year by filing a notarized statement with the local school district. Parents may graduate a child whenever he or she completes the homeschool's program of instruction, or may exempt a child from attendance after his or her sixteenth birthday by signing a notarized release form. Nebraska Revised Statutes section 79-201.
- Required Days of Instruction:** 1,032 hours (elementary) or 1,080 hours (high school). 92 Nebraska Administrative Code chapter 13 (Rule 13), section 004.
- Required Subjects:** Home schools must "offer a program of instruction leading to the acquisition of basic skills in the language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health." Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1601(2).

**Home School Statute:** None.

**Alternative Statutes Allowing for Home Schools:** Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1601(2).

Any private, denominational or parochial school may "elect not to meet state accreditation or approval requirements." A home school is considered a private school. Parents may assert either religious or non-religious objections to state requirements.

1. To operate a home school, parents must annually file the following by July 15, or else file "promptly" if beginning homeschooling after July 15:
  - a. **"Parent or Legal Guardian Form" (Form A):** Both parents must sign and file a separate notarized "Parent or Legal Guardian Form" (Form A).
    - i. This form requires parents to state under oath that requirements for approval and accreditation either "interfere with my decisions in directing my child(ren)'s education" or "violate my sincerely held religious beliefs" (Rule 13).
    - ii. The form requires parents to affirm under oath that a program of sequential instruction in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health is being provided. Parents must also affirm that they are satisfied that the individual(s) monitoring instruction in the school are qualified to monitor instruction in these skills. Parents who cite non-religious grounds for operating a home school must also affirm that they understand that their school must comply with the vaccination requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-217 (medical or religious exemption available pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-221).
  - b. **"Parent Representative Form" (Form B):** An adult (usually, but not necessarily, a parent) must annually also file a notarized "Parent Representative Form" (Form B). The Parent Representative

must affirmatively accept certain legal duties pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1601 and Rule 13. These includes the duty to submit information on student enrollment and attendance, monitors, and the sequential program of instruction.

- c. **Information Summary:** The Parent Representative must also file an Information Summary (supplemental sheet to Form B) within 30 days of the first-time filing of Forms A and B, and annually thereafter by July 15. This must include the following:
  - i. A calendar for the school year (July 1–June 30) indicating a minimum instruction of 1,080 hours in secondary schools and 1,032 hours in elementary schools. The hours of instruction may be prorated based on the remaining balance of the school year.
  - ii. A list of all “instructional monitors” in the home school (typically the parents), including name, age, and highest level of education completed.
  - iii. A scope and sequence for each grade level being taught.
2. Upon enrollment of a child’s first year of home education, a certified copy of the child’s birth certificate (or other proof as allowed by law) must be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education.
3. Children are excused from compulsory attendance whenever they complete the program of instruction offered by their home school. Parents may report a child’s completion of high school by submitting Form D to the Commissioner of Education. Alternatively, parents may discontinue the enrollment of a child who is 16 years of age, but not yet 18, by submitting Form C. Forms A–D may be obtained from the local school district or the Nebraska Department of Education’s website at <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/orgservices/exemptschools/Index.html>.

**Teacher Qualifications:** None, unless the home school teacher is “employed” by the family. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1601(5).

**Standardized Tests:** Although Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-318(5) gives the State Board of Education the option to adopt regulations for testing and visitation, the Attorney General ruled that the testing and visitation must be uniform for all private (and home) schools and it *cannot* be arranged without the consent of the parents. OAG Opinion, July 30, 1987. (Robert Spire). As a result, the State Board, in its discretion, has chosen not to require testing or visitation.