

WASHINGTON HOME-BASED INSTRUCTION POLICY

I Compulsory Education. RCW 28A.225.010

- A. Compulsory education age in the state of Washington is 8 years old **OR** the age at which a child is officially enrolled in public school RCW 28A.225.015
- B. If a child is under 8 and has been officially enrolled in public school, the parent must formally withdraw the child in order to homeschool.
- C. The Home-Based Instruction law affects children 8 years and older.

II To qualify to homeschool you must fulfill one of the following: RCW 28A.225.010 (4)

- A. Have earned 45 quarter units of college level credit or the equivalent in semester hours.
- B. Attend a Parent Qualifying Course. This is highly recommended even if you are already qualified to homeschool.
- C. Work with a certified teacher who meets with your student an average of an hour a week.
- D. Be deemed sufficiently qualified to provide home-based instruction by the superintendent of your local school district.

III A declaration of intent to homeschool must be filed annually. RCW 28A.200.010 (1)

- A. This form can be obtained from and must be returned to the schools district's District Office. You may turn in your letter of intent to any school district that will accept it - it does not have to be your home district.
- B. The information required on the form includes your children's names and ages, an indication *if* you are qualifying to homeschool by using a supervising certified teacher (see IIC.), your signature and date. *Any other information you include is at your own discretion.*
- C. This form protects the school – they are not responsible for the education of the child.
This form protects the parent – your child/ren are not truant.
- D. Your declaration of intent does not limit your ability to use the public schools as a resource for classes and activities.

IV The 11 required subjects need to be included in your curriculum. RCW28A.225.010 (4)

- A. The 11 required subjects are reading, writing, spelling, language, math, science, social studies, history, health, occupational education, and art and music appreciation.
- B. These do not have to be taught separately. A unit study on frogs could include reading, writing, spelling, science, math, art and occupational education.

V Your students must participate in annual testing. RCW28A.200.010 (3)

- A. Testing can be accomplished one of two ways:
Non-test assessments – an assessment of the student's academic progress is written by a Washington State certified teacher who is currently working in the field of education.
Standardized testing – a standardized achievement test approved by the State of Education is administered annually to the child by a qualified individual.
- B. Test results are part of your private homeschool record, no one else receives a copy.
- C. WHO maintains a list of individuals who administer tests in your area.

VI You must keep records. RCW 28A.200.010 (2)

- A. Your homeschool records should include the student's annual test scores or assessment report (see V) and immunization records, together with any other records that are kept relating to instructional and educational activities.
- B. The law is not specific on how or in what form these records are to be kept.
- C. These are your private records and do not need to be shared with any state agency.
- D. These records can, and probably will, be requested by school administration if your child is later enrolled in a traditional school setting.

RCW 28A.200.20 states that parents who are causing their children to receive home-based instruction shall be subject only to those minimum state laws and regulations which are necessary in ensuring that a sufficient basic educational opportunity is provided to the children receiving such instruction. Therefore, all decisions relating to philosophy or doctrine, selection of books, teaching materials and curriculum, and methods, timing and place in the provision or evaluation of home-based instruction shall be the responsibility of the parent except for matters specifically referred to in Chapter 28A.225 RCW.

The homeschool law also states that the legislature recognizes that home-based instruction is less structured and more experiential than the instruction normally provided in a classroom. Therefore, the provisions relating to the nature and quantity of instructional and related educational activities shall be liberally construed.