

Home Schooling Fact Sheet JB Charleston

Home schooling is an educational option parents may want to consider for their children. The number of American children being home schooled has increased sharply from 360,000 in 1994 to 850,000 in 1999. The National Home Education Research Institute estimates that there is a 7% to 15% increase in the number of home schooled children each year. Most parents choose to home school because they believe they can provide a better education at home. Several studies have shown that home schooled students score better than conventional students on standardized tests.

It is important to note that the rules and regulations on home schooling are different from state to state. Below you will find the rules and regulations on home schooling children in South Carolina. Additionally, there is a list of resources, books and internet sites, available to assist parents in making this important decision regarding their child's education.

Compulsory School Age

"five years of age before September first until . . . seventeenth birthday or "graduation from high school; five-year-olds may be excused from kindergarten with submission of written notice to the school district"

South Carolina Legal Home Schooling Options: 1 2 3			
	Option: 1	Option: 2	Option: 3
Legal Option:	Establish and operate a home school as approved by the local school board	Establish and operate a home school under the membership auspices of the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools (SCAIHS)	Establish and operate a home school under the membership auspices of an association for home schools with no fewer than fifty members
Attendance:	180 days per year, 4½ hours per day	180 days per year	180 days per year
Subjects:	Reading, writing, math, science, and social studies; also composition and literature in grades 7-12	Reading, writing, math, science, and social studies; also composition and literature in grades 7-12	Reading, writing, math, science, and social studies; also composition and literature in grades 7-12
Qualifications:	High school diploma or GED or a baccalaureate degree	High school diploma or GED	High school diploma or GED
Notice:	None, if transferring from another state/country. If your child has been attending a SC school and you chose to home school you must notify the school district in writing.	None, if transferring from another state/country. If your child has been attending a SC school and you chose to home school you must notify the school district in writing.	None, if transferring from another state/country. If your child has been attending a SC school and you chose to home school you must notify the school district in writing.
Recordkeeping:	Maintain evidence of regular instruction including a record of subjects taught, activities	None required by statute; SCAIHS requires some recordkeeping	Maintain evidence of regular instruction including a record of subjects taught, activities

	in which the student and parent engage, a portfolio of the child's work, and a record of academic evaluations, with a semiannual progress report		in which the student and parent engage, and a portfolio of the child's work, with a semiannual progress report
Testing:	Participate in the annual statewide testing program and the Basic Skills Assessment Program	None required by statute; SCAIHS has certain testing requirements	None

Many parents who home school in South Carolina choose Option 3 because it allows for more flexibility, particularly in the area of curriculum selection. Option 3 requires affiliation with an accountability association. An accountability association is an organization operated by home schoolers that provides a means of legal compliance for its members under SC home school statutes 59-65-45 (SCAIHS) and 59-65-47 (all others). Each organization has its own policies and membership fees.

NOTE - You MUST be covered by a legal accountability association within 10 days of the beginning of school in your school district or your children will be considered truant.

Some popular accountability groups in this area are: Chase Christian Homeschoolers Association of South Carolina, www.chasesc.com and Homeward Education Association, <http://www.homewarded.com/>

Although not required, affiliation with a support group is a good idea, particularly for those new to home schooling. With over 350 members, a popular support group in the Tricounty area is the Lowcountry Christian Home Educators Association. At its website – <http://www.lchea.net> - parents can get lots of valuable home school information, resources and support.

Other informative websites are:

<http://www.homeschoolcentral.com>

<http://www.home-school.com/>

<http://www.schomeeducatorsassociation.org>

<http://www.kaleidoscapes.com/>

Virtual schools are another option for parents who want their children to be schooled at home but follow a predetermined curriculum.

www.k12.com

www.connectionsacademy.com

For more information on home schooling please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center, JB Charleston at 843- 963-4406 or email: 628FSS.FSFR@charleston.af.mil