

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Standards, Curriculum and Instruction
165 Capitol Avenue - Hartford, Connecticut 06106

MEMORANDUM

TO: Individuals Inquiring about Homeschooling in Connecticut
SUBJECT: Information Concerning Educating Children at Home

Thank you for inquiring about educating your child(ren) at home. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) provides guidance to school districts, which is contained in the enclosed circular letters. Such guidance is based upon state statutes pertaining to the duties of parents and boards of education. Enclosed, please find an information packet regarding *Connecticut's Procedures for Educating Children at Home*. It includes:

1. *Procedures Concerning Requests from Parents to Educate their Child at Home* (Circular Letter: C-14, July 15, 1994) with attachments:
 - Updated *Selections from the Connecticut General Statutes Regarding School Attendance* revised January 1, 2011; and
 - Sample form: *Notice of Intent – Instruction of Student at Home*

(Note: The above guidance does not reflect the change in mandatory attendance to ages five to eighteen, as discussed below.)

2. *Duties of Boards of Education and Parents to Cause Children to Attend Public School* (Circular Letter: C-4, August 10, 1998) with attachment:
 - Sample form: *Acknowledgement of Option to Exempt Attendance of Child Five or Six Years of Age from school*
3. Connecticut's *General Educational Development (GED) Testing Program: Homeschooling and GED Alignment – Policies and Procedures for Parents/Guardians*

If you intend to educate your child at home, contact the local Superintendent of Schools to find out your local Board of Education's policy on home instruction. Obtain an *Option to Exempt* or *Notice of Intent* form (discussed below) from the Superintendent of Schools. Depending upon the Board's policy, both forms may be similar to the samples included in this packet.

Pursuant to state statutes, all children five to eighteen years of age must be enrolled in a public school or the parents must demonstrate that their children are receiving equivalent instruction elsewhere. A parent who wishes to educate his/her child at home must file the *Notice of Intent* form for each year that they intend to educate the child at home. In addition to the yearly notices, many school districts require a "portfolio review" at the end of the school year to ensure that each child is receiving instruction in the courses required by statute. There are two exceptions to the mandatory attendance requirement:

1. A parent who is not intending to send a child five or six years of age to school must appear personally at the school district office and sign the *Option to Exempt Attendance* form. This exemption is valid for only one school year. Therefore, this process must be followed for *each year* that the child will not be attending school.

2. When a child reaches the age of seventeen, such child may withdraw from school with written parental consent. The parent must appear in person at the school to sign the withdrawal form.

Two CSDE Web sites are listed below - one with Web pages for the state's curricular frameworks and the second for general GED information. Other Web sites are listed with information that might assist you, including two homeschooling resources in the state. Please note, however, that CSDE does not endorse any home instruction organization or product.

- CSDE Web site: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/curriculum>
- CSDE GED Information: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/ged>
- CT Education Network: <http://www.ct.gov/cen/site/default.asp> - This link has information about electronic resources that could be used in homeschooling.
- CT Virtual Learning Center (CTVLC): <http://www.ctvirtualearning.org/>.
- Connecticut Home Education Association: www.cthomeschoolnetwork.org (or call Info-line at 1-800 203-1234 or simply dial 211 within Connecticut and ask for information on contacting the Connecticut Homeschooling Network). This organization may provide you with links to Connecticut homeschooling families and resources, or others who may be available to speak with you about homeschooling. There is also a resource section on this site that lists a few choices for home school curriculums and programs. Note: CSDE does not endorse any home instruction organization or product. As Connecticut's homeschooling statutes state, parents/guardians have the right to home school as long as they can provide evidence that the curriculum used is equivalent to that which is taught in the public schools.
- The Education Association of Christian Homeschoolers (TEACH): www.teachct.org (or 860-938-6765).
- Additional curriculum resources: <http://www.ct-cheer.com/curriculum.htm> - This link includes a listing of resources, such as education Web sites focused on curriculum areas in science, social studies, math, and English.