

# Home Education Programs

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) understands that the mandated closure of Pennsylvania schools due to the COVID-19 response effort may be causing some uncertainty for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, particularly for families that elect to homeschool their children.

Home Education Programs (also known as homeschooling) are programs where the education of a student is directed by a parent, guardian or legal custodian ("homeschool supervisor"), as provided by Section 1327.1 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, rather than a school entity. Additional guidance is available in the [Home Education Program](#) Basic Education Circular on PDE's website.

Below are questions and answers related to the impact of the COVID-19 response effort on homeschool programs and students for the 2019-20 school year. PDE will update this document with additional guidance as needed.

*Page last updated: 4:30 pm on April 10, 2020*

**Are homeschooled students required to complete standardized assessments of the parents' choice in grades 3, 5, and 8, given that statewide assessments (PSSAs, Keystone Exams and PASAs) were cancelled for public schools for the 2019-20 school year?**

The requirement for homeschooled students to complete standardized assessments is waived for the 2019-20 school year.

**Are the annual homeschool evaluations and required evaluator's certifications waived for the 2019-20 school year?**

Act 13 of 2020 waives the annual evaluation and required evaluator certifications for homeschool students for the 2019-20 school year. Act 13 specifically waives the following requirements:

- An annual written evaluation of the student's educational progress as determined by a licensed clinical or school psychologist or a teacher certified by the Commonwealth or by a nonpublic school teacher or administrator (24 P.S. § 1327.1 (e)(2)); and
- An evaluator's certification stating that an appropriate education is occurring for the school year under review shall be provided by the homeschool supervisor to

the superintendent of the public school district of residence by June 30 of each year (24 P.S. § 1327.1 (h.1)).

**The home education law requires 180 days of instruction or 990/900 hours of instruction. Because this requirement is waived for public schools for the 2019-20 school year, is it also waived for students participating in a home education program?**

The 180 days of instruction requirement has been waived for homeschooled students. Homeschool supervisors are strongly encouraged to provide as much instruction as possible before the end of the 2019-20 school year. Supervisors are encouraged to use as many digital resources as possible while following social distancing guidelines.

**If a parent/guardian chooses to homeschool a student during the COVID-19 school closures, what is the process for submitting the homeschool affidavit?**

The process for starting a home education program remains the same. The homeschool supervisor must submit the notarized affidavit and other required documents to the school district of residence prior to starting a home education program.

If there is an intention to continue to homeschool beyond the 2019-20 school year, the homeschool supervisor must submit a new affidavit to the superintendent's office no later than August 1 of each school year a child is homeschooled.

**How would a parent/guardian that decides to homeschool a student fulfill the requirement of submitting a notarized affidavit during a statewide "stay at home" order or due to lack of access to notaries?**

Parents should contact the district of residence to determine the best approach to fulfill this requirement. Homeschooling may not begin until the notarized affidavit and supporting documentation are submitted to the school district.

Taken from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov).