



Homeschool Help

1. Getting Started

Now that you have made the decision to homeschool, getting started on the right track is very important. Deciding what curriculum to use is the first step to take. There are several curriculums available to home educators. You can decide to use one, more than one, or even mix and match subjects from different resources. Listed below are a few providers of homeschool curriculum. Please understand that every family and child is different, and may have different ways of learning, and in no way are we endorsing the use of any of these curriculums, but rather offer these as possible resources. It is your family's responsibility to decide and acquire homeschool curriculum.

A Beka 1-877-223-5226 www.abeka.org

Abundant Homeschool Resources 1-256-729-1489 www.abundantresources.com

Christian Liberty Press 1-800-348-0899 K-12 Curriculum Kits

Greenleaf Press 1-800-311-1508 Teaching materials

KONOS 1-205-274-0823 K-6 unit study curriculum

Rod and Staff 1-606-522-4348 K-8 curriculum materials

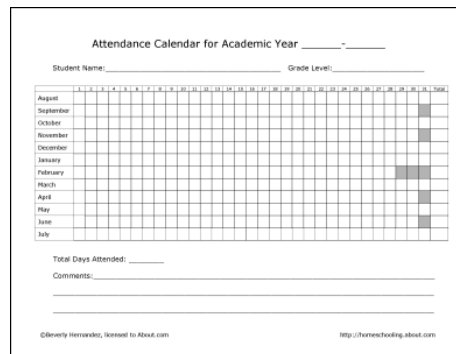
Sonlight Curriculum 1-303-730-6292 K-10 Christian Curriculum

Harvest Homeschool, highly recommends enrolling in CHEAHA (Christian Educators At Home of Anniston) support group which holds curriculum fairs and used book sales each year. You will receive online newsletters every other month to inform you of events and activities in the area for homeschoolers, and other resources to help you in your homeschooling journey. It is not mandatory that you join CHEAHA. More information on the services offered through CHEAHA can be found at <http://cheaha.blogspot.com/>. There are many other resources that can be found online to help out homeschoolers and is very worth looking into. Should you find yourself in circumstances you cannot find help for, please call the administrators and we will do our best to help or point you in the right direction.

2. Alabama Law

There are very few laws in the state of Alabama concerning homeschoolers. One of these laws is that for each child ages 7-17 must be enrolled in either a private, public or church school. Homeschoolers fall under the category of church school. For each child age 7-17 a Church Enrollment form must be submitted to the Superintendent of the Board of Education in which the student(s) would be enrolled in public school. Harvest Homeschool will provide the form for each student enrolled in our church school, and will submit these forms to the Superintendent of the Board of Education. For those who wish to start their educating their child or children before the age of 7 will fill out the form for church records, but will only be sent to the Superintendent if requested by the parent.

Other records that must be kept, and submitted to Harvest Homeschool, is attendance records and high school transcripts starting in grade 9. Public and private schools require 175 days of attendance each year and 140 days required for private tutor. Attendance for homeschoolers is determined by "school days." School days are any day you designate as a day of learning whether you are actively pursuing your educational objectives or simply going on a field trip in which education is going on. Harvest Homeschool requires a minimum, but not limited to 160 days a year. Harvest Homeschool will provide an attendance chart if needed.



The form is titled "Attendance Calendar for Academic Year" followed by a blank line for the year. Below the title are fields for "Student Name:" and "Grade Level:". The main part of the form is a grid with months listed on the left (August through July) and days of the week (S, M, T, W, T, F, S) at the top. Each day of the week has a corresponding column of boxes for each month. Below the grid are fields for "Total Days Attended:" and "Comments:". At the bottom, there is a copyright notice "©Beverly Henderson, licensed to About.com" and a URL "http://homeschooling.about.com".

3. Keeping Records

As stated above, the only records required by the state and Harvest Homeschool is an attendance record and transcripts for those students in grade 9-12. If this is your first year homeschooling after having been in public school, you will be required to withdraw your child from the public school. Harvest Homeschool will provide the form in which you are to submit to the public school in order to withdraw your child and receive his or her school records. It is not the responsibility of Harvest Homeschool to keep records for you. The school records will be sent to you to keep should the need ever arise that they be transferred to another school. Your child's records are your responsibility. Should your child graduate from Harvest Homeschool, we will keep a permanent record of his or her transcripts and or other pertinent information. Harvest Homeschool will send two copies of highschool transcripts to the colleges or selected branch of the military at the request of the parent or student. Any additional requested transcripts will be sent for a \$25 fee. Although not required by law, Harvest Homeschool suggests that you keep good records of your child's education. Should the need arise that your child's records be submitted, you will have them ready.

4. Testing

Testing is a great way to see how your child is doing academically. Although not required of homeschoolers, Harvest Homeschool recommends that your child be tested around the 3rd or 4th grade, and from then on. There are many tests available to homeschoolers. Listed below are tests available for different grade levels. Harvest Homeschool is not responsible for administering or providing these tests.

For Grades 3-6

Personalized Achievement Summary System (PASS) 1-360-835-8708
California Achievement Test (CAT) administered at home 1-847-259-4444
For Grades 7-12

Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) Offered Through CHEAHA yearly
ACT or Scholastic Aptitude Test Check with local college
IOWA Basic Skills Test 1-800-845-5731
California Achievement Test 1-847-259-4444



The parent may administer the PASS and CAT test at home. If your child will be going on to college, the college ACT or SAT are required, but only administered through local colleges or high schools. Alabama colleges typically require the ACT.

5. Legal Advice

The Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) provides legal services for homeschool families from all over the nation. Membership in HSLDA is optional and the responsibility of each family covered under Harvest Homeschool. The cost of membership is about \$100 per family per year. With membership, HSLDA will provide legal counsel and pay all legal fees if you are taken to court for an education related issue. Applications are available by calling 1-540-338-5600, or by contacting Harvest Homeschool. Being a member of CHEAHA allows you to receive a membership discount.

If you do not wish to use HSLDA, you can get a referral by contacting the Alabama Bar Association.

6. Progress Reports

Harvest Homeschool, is in no way, responsible for the rate of progress of your child. However, we think it is a good idea to make a progress report on your child's year. This will be an evaluation of how your child is progressing in his or her education. Each child is different and each child will learn at his or her own rate. Setting educational goals at the beginning of the year, and evaluating the progress of reaching those set goals can be a good way to determine how well you and your child are doing. Although we recommend you make a progress report on your child, we do not require it. You may send a copy to Harvest Homeschool if you desire.

7. School Fees And Information

The fee for Harvest Homeschool is \$55 per family.

Your family will receive each year:

Enrollment forms and letter of intention to homeschool sent to your local Board of Education.

A copy of your child's enrollment form and any letters of withdrawal needed for public or private schools.

Email updates where applicable.

Graduation ceremony for all graduating seniors.

Two official transcripts sent to requested institutions.

Access to a curriculum library located at the church.

Prayer and support.

* \$10 late fee for enrollment after September 30th of the school year.

IF PAYING BY CHECK, YOUR ENROLLMENT WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL CHECK HAS CLEARED. ALL RETURNED CHECKS WILL BE CHARGED A \$35 SERVICE CHARGE AND MUST BE TAKEN CARE OF WITHIN 10 DAYS OR THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL BE NOTIFIED OF POSSIBLE TRUANCY.

8. High School Diplomas

Harvest Homeschool is not a state accredited school. We offer 2 types of diplomas to Harvest Homeschool graduates, Academic Achievement Diploma, and a Life Skills Achievement Diploma. Lack of Accreditation should not hinder the acceptance of our diploma and transcripts for higher education. Many Colleges and Universities are now seeking out homeschool graduates. Keeping good records during high school years is very important if your child is to pursue a higher education.

Academic Achievement Diploma

Listed below are the minimum requirements to receive this diploma.

Submit record documenting a minimum of 25 credits of study.

English 4 credits

Mathematics 3 credits

Science 4 credits

Social Studies 4 credits

Bible 4 credits *(may be met through a daily bible reading program and church attendance)

Health 1 credit

Electives 5 credits *(should include foreign language)

Electives can be, but is not limited to, Computer, music, art, driver's education, home economics, electronics, wood shop, and auto mechanics class.

Remember! This is a minimum requirement! The more you accomplish towards a higher education the better!

Note: certain additional fees may apply to cover the cost of diploma, and or graduation ceremony.

Life Skills Achievement Diploma

This diploma is offered to those students who plan to enter a certain occupation or life skill that does not require a college degree (i.e. homemaker, trade skill, etc.)

Requirements for this diploma are as follows:

Submit records documenting a minimum of 25 credits of study to include the following:

English 3 credits

Mathematics 2 credits

Science 2 credits

Social studies 3 credits

Bible 4 credits (met through a daily bible reading program and church attendance)

Health 1 credit

Electives 10 credits (should be oriented towards students specific life skill)

Note, certain additional fees may apply to cover the cost of diploma, and or graduation ceremony.

All high school classes should be documented in transcript form. Classes should be listed, number grade earned, credit earned, and final letter grade earned.

For easier record keeping, a printable transcript form can be printed.

Reminder: Transcripts are not official until approved by Harvest Homeschool.

Transcripts will not be accepted by any institution unless stamped, signed and delivered in a sealed envelope directly from Harvest Homeschool.

9. All Records

Harvest Homeschool requires that each family submit attendance records and transcripts to;

Harvest Homeschool
520 Golden Springs Rd.
Anniston, AL 36207



Or you can email them to homeschool@hcog.tv