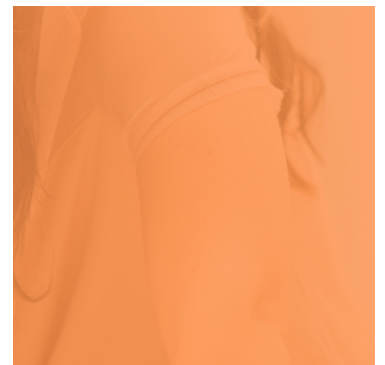
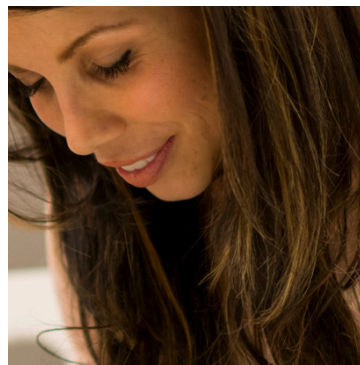


Homeschooling

A guide for parents

Where learning knows no boundaries: Homeschooling, empowering education from the comfort of home



Explore More



California Department of Education

“In California, there are several ways that parents educate their children at home: through an existing private school, through a public charter or independent study program, and in many instances by opening their own private home based school and filing the Private School Affidavit (PSA) with the California Department of Education (CDE).*

California Department of Education
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/homeschool.asp>)



*Homeschooling laws and regulations differ from one state to the other. Please check your state laws regarding homeschooling or contact us at info@copticedu.org for further assistance.

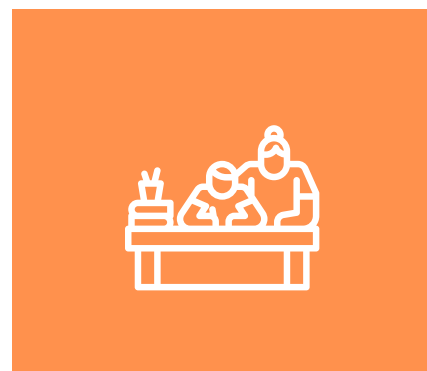
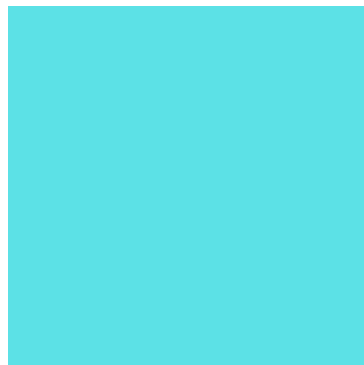


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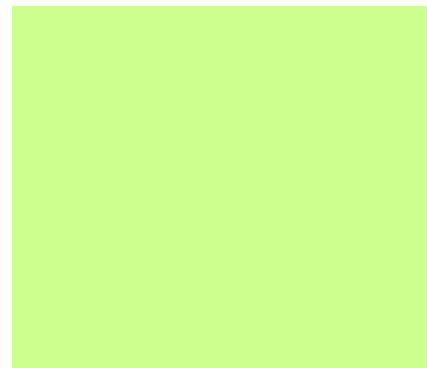


HOME
SCHOOLING





Homeschooling



The CDE does not provide guidance on how to homeschool, yet there are many resources to assist parents with their endeavors.

“Parents who file the private school affidavit to privately educate or ‘homeschool’ their children must select and provide all curricular, instructional, and other materials.”

California Education Code (EC) Section 33190 requires a copy of the Affidavit be kept at the school. Requirements of what must be included in the Affidavit are also outlined in EC Section 33190. EC Section 48222 states:

The attendance of the pupils shall be kept by private school authorities in a register, and the record of attendance shall indicate clearly every absence of the pupil from school for a half day or more during each day that school is maintained during the year.

Parents are not required to report to their school district. However, keeping in mind that the school district has responsibility for checking on school-age children not attending school, you might avoid confusion by informing the district that you intend to homeschool or privately educate your children. In addition, public school districts are required to verify that the private school affidavit filing requirements have been met in order to verify a child’s exemption from compulsory education. This typically involves providing the district with a copy of the filed affidavit.

California Homeschooling

- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/psaleaguidance2023.asp>
- <https://www.movingbeyondthepage.com/how-to-homeschool-in-your-state/homeschooling-in-california/>



Homeschooling in California offers a variety of options to best fit the family's needs. Deciding on which option to pursue depends mostly on the amount of flexibility, independence, and structured support wanted. Following are the four options:

- **Credentialed Teacher/Tutor**

Does the parent have a teaching credential at the child's grade level? Is there a trusted tutor in mind with the right grade level and content credentials? If so, then this option might be right.

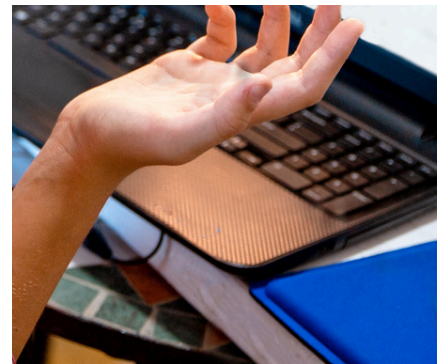
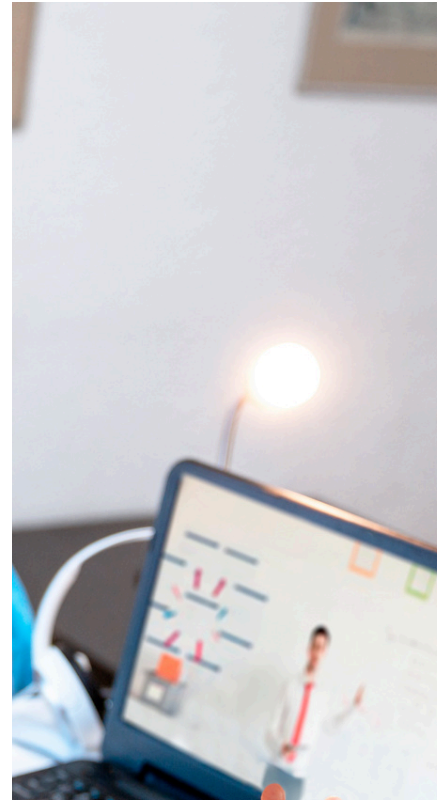
Here are the basics:

- Requires basic subjects: math, reading, social studies, and science
- Leaves parent free to determine specific content
- Requires the least amount of record keeping
- Requires at least 3 hours of instruction per day for a minimum of 175 days per year
- Specifies that instruction must occur between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm

- **Private School Affidavit**

The Private School Affidavit (PSA) officially withdraws the child from public school, making the parent the official teacher and administrator of their own private school. While this might sound daunting, it gives the parent plenty of flexibility, and there are several websites available to help with the record keeping and requirements. Here are some details about the PSA option:

- Requires basic subjects: math, reading, social studies, and science
- Leaves you free to determine specific content
- Requires some record keeping
- Requires you to file a PSA with the CA Department of Education between October 1st and 15th every year



- **Private School Satellite Program**

The PSP option will vary widely depending on the private schools in the area. With this option, a private school has filed its own affidavit and will perform the administrative tasks, allowing the parent to focus on teaching. By signing up for a satellite program, the parent becomes a teacher for the private school they choose. The private school will then provide some support in curriculum and activity planning, record keeping, and administration. With the PSP option, it is important to remember the following:

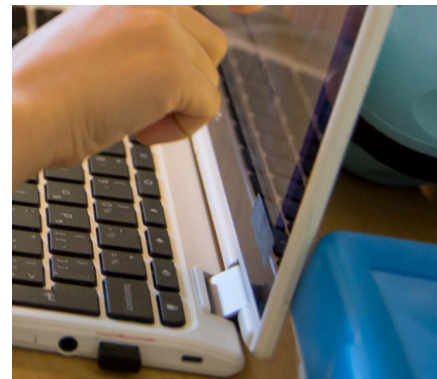
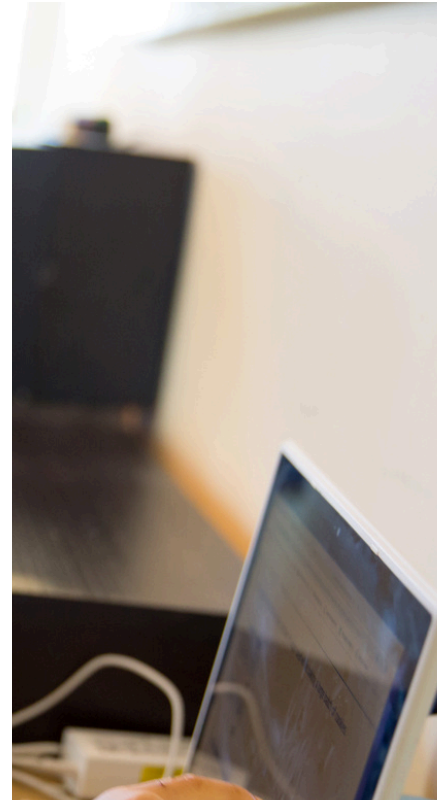
- Tuition fees may apply
- The parent is responsible for purchasing books and supplies
- The parent will have the support and assistance of the school
- The parent may be subject to certain additional requirements

The best way to determine if this option is right is to explore the available private school satellite programs in the area. Parents may find one that is the perfect fit!

- **Independent Study Programs**

The ISP is a great option for parents who intend to homeschool only one child or keep students out for only a year or two. With this option, the child remains enrolled in either a public or charter school but receives instruction from the parent. The parent will be considered a teacher's aide and have a credentialed teacher assigned to advise and monitor them and the child. It is important to remember the following:

- Materials may be available on loan
- Support systems, structure, and curriculum flexibility will vary across school sites
- Religious material may not be taught until after the school day
- The parent must agree to have the child tested in accordance with school policy
- As with the PSP program, with the ISP program it is important to research specific options available in the area. With the right teacher supervising the independent study program, this could be the perfect option



Other Educational Options

Many public schools offer independent study or home-based study as an option. California has a growing number of **charter schools** which offer different types of schooling in non-traditional settings. To learn what options your local schools offer, start by asking the public school district in which you live what programs allow schooling at home. You might also contact other school districts near yours or your county office of education. If your district or county does not offer a program that a neighboring district or county offers, you may be able to obtain an inter-district transfer that allows your child to be registered in another district's program.



Independent Study

Independent study is a different way of learning. In independent study, a student is guided by a teacher but usually does not take classes with other students every day. The student works independently. The contact for information for Educational Options/Independent Study is noted below:

- **Independent Study and Alternative Programs of Choice**

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/is/index.asp>

Educational Options Office, California Department of Education
916-322-5012



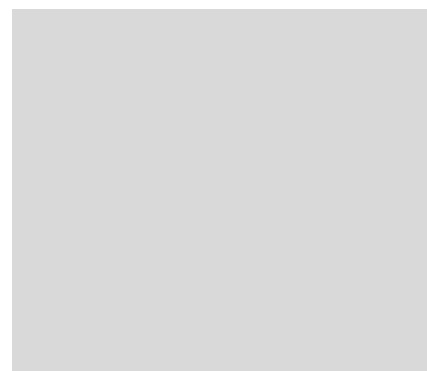
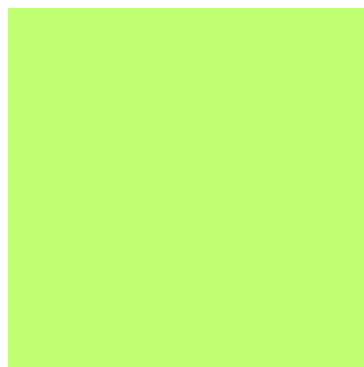
Charter Schools

There are many public charter schools that offer more flexibility for students and parents and some that cater to those who are focusing on home-based instruction. You can search for charter schools using the **California School Directory**

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/schooldirectory/>

or the Charter School Locator

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/cs/index.asp>.



How Homeschool Charter Schools Work in California

The experience of homeschooling using a public charter school is a unique one. It might best be described as “co-education” between parents and the school system. When homeschooling families register with a charter school, their child is still a part of the public-school system. The parent is considered a teacher’s aide. Parents should investigate the Charter schools carefully to find the school that best fits their needs. The state of California pays for the curriculum, supplies, and classes, which works as an advantage for many parents. The homeschool stipend California offers can usually be used in a variety of ways in these charter schools.

If a family has decided to go the route of a charter school for homeschooling, there are many variables from school to school that are worth researching before making the choice. Factors one would want to know about each school could include:

- Type of curriculum offered
- Flexibility of curriculum choices
- On-site attendance time required by students
- Availability of teachers for questions
- How available stipend funds must be used
- How standardized testing is handled
- Record keeping required





Filing the Affidavit



- Private School Affidavit <https://www3.cde.ca.gov/psa>
Online filing system used by anyone wishing to file a PSA for the current school year. Note: If you're unable to file the PSA online, please contact the Private School Data office for additional filing options.

- Private School Affidavit Instructions
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/psainstructions.asp>
Instructions for completing the PSA.

- Private School Affidavit Information
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/affidavit.asp>
Information on filing and maintaining a PSA.





Frequently Asked Questions

Because it is such a unique schooling option, it is understandable that you may have many questions about homeschooling using a charter school in California. While the CA Department of Education or one of the state homeschooling associations should be your chief source of information regarding this option, we're addressing some of the top FAQs about charter school homeschooling in CA below.

Q: How do I find a local charter school near me?

- A: The California Department of Education provides a full map for locating charter schools by county.

Q: Do charter schools offer online curriculum?

- A: Many charter schools offer the option of online curriculum for some or all of a student's coursework.

Q: What is an education specialist?

- A: Most charter schools that use independent study offer parents an Educational Specialist as a guide. This person is a credentialed teacher who provides educational support to parents and students.

Additional Resources

The following provides links to educational resources related to public education.

- The [California Content Standards and Common Core Content Standards](#) identify and describe the skills, knowledge, and abilities that all California students should be able to master at each grade level, beginning in kindergarten and continuing through grade twelve.
- The California Curriculum Frameworks provide guidance on how to teach the standards.
- Parents schooling at home and exploring a student's next steps after high school might check with specific colleges, technical schools and prospective employers (e.g., branches of the U.S. military) to learn about student admission or eligibility. Understanding how post-secondary institutions and prospective employers recognize course work completed in alternative education settings is important for parents/guardians considering homeschooling for their high school student. Explore the Coptic Educational Foundation List of Services to help preparing your child to be a competitive university applicant. <https://www.copticedu.org/list-of-all-services>
- CEF offers individual sessions with our expert counselors tailored to the needs of each student to assist creating an academic plan for HS and how to apply for college. For more information parents can book a One-on-One Education and Career Counseling at www.copticedu.org/cef-counseling
- Alternative diploma equivalencies for students not attending public school include the General Education Development (GED) Test and the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE). For more information on how to guide our students to higher education, check CEF publication "[The Pathways to College Guide](#)".
- **Private School Affidavit (PSA) Information:** A parent offering or providing private school instruction and who meets the requirements **shall file an Affidavit.** Parents/guardians planning to file for an exemption to school at home should read the Frequently Asked Questions, "Schooling at Home" <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/psfaq.asp#D>
- While every child is different and should have the freedom to learn in a safe, loving environment at their own pace, HSLDA works to equip parents with educational resources and Compassion grants so more families can experience it. They know the benefits and challenges of homeschooling personally as most of their staff are homeschool parents and grads. <https://hsllda.org/teaching-my-kids/high-school-beyond?>

CEEM

CEF has a partnership with CEEM to provide families with discounted rates for professional assistance with this endeavor. For more information contact us at info@copticedu.org



HOMESCHOOL OPTIONS IN CALIFORNIA



There are three options to homeschool privately in California.

- ✓ Homeschooling as a homebased private school
- ✓ Homeschooling with instruction from a private tutor.
- ✓ Homeschooling with a Private School Satellite Program (PSP)

**WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION
SPECIFIC TO YOUR HOMESCHOOLING
NEEDS?**

VISIT PGS 2 &3 IN THIS BROCHURE



CEEM EDUCATION SERVICES

Kristi Eddy M.Ed is a licensed educator with over 15 years of experience including teaching, serving as an Assistant Principal and Principal. She is an author of three children's books, women's health advocate, and the mother of a three year old. Serving as the CEO of CEEM Education Services and lead consultant is a work of heart allowing her to fuse her passions for learning, writing, and leading others to success.

- 12 Month Curricular Planning and Editing
- High School Curriculum Design for both standard and Advanced Placement Courses.
- Creator of Coding and Culture-Pre-K-5th Coding Curriculum Supplement
- Instructional Coaching and lesson design feedback
- Trainer and Consultant for Regional Leaders at LA based charter networks
- Reporting of Instruction and Learning Data to the Western Association of Schools & Colleges based on CA State LCFF Goals
- American Library Association Moderator- Changing the Writing Narrative
- Curricular Scope & Sequence coaching and design for Secondary Literature & Composition, Economics, and Government
- Creator of the Beauty Undefined Curriculum based on the book Beauty Is

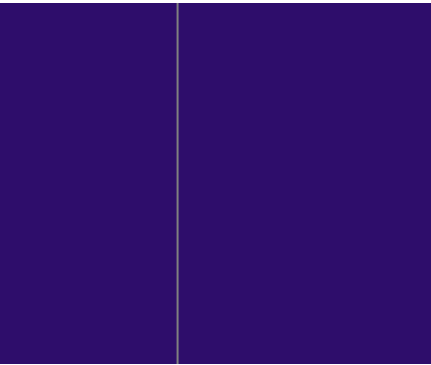


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