

Why Not Call It Homeschooling?

Non-Accredited Private School

As COVID-19 continues its march through our communities, more Kansas families are considering homeschooling their children. Your local library is one place families can turn when searching for information on laws regarding home schooling. This article is a jumping off point for information that could help a new homeschooler get started on the right path. Take your time with understanding the material. Feel free to ask your librarian for help while you're doing your own research. You might not get everything right the first time, it's okay to make mistakes so long as we learn from them. You are not the only one considering homeschooling to be a preferable option.

One benefit to homeschooling is that there are no requirements for when to start or stop schooling; starting in September is not required. Homeschooling is said to be more flexible, and more affordable. Although there is less oversight, homeschooling can provide a valuable opportunity for the students to use their preferred learning style in a personalized environment.

The required age of attendance is 7 years old in Kansas, and kindergarten is not mandatory. College education is not required to homeschool your own children, you need only to be a "competent instructor". The time required for public schools is at least 186 days of not less than 6 hours per day, or 1116 hours per year for grades 1-11. Field trips are to be accounted for, if you are record keeping, which is not required in Kansas.

High school students can dual enroll in college courses. 21 credits are required to graduate in Kansas. Choosing a curriculum may seem like a daunting task, only comparable to following the material. There are no requirements for what curriculum to follow, however, the required credits to graduate High School in Kansas are:

English Language Arts: 4 History and Government: 3 Science: 3 Mathematics: 3

Physical Education: 1 Fine Arts: 1 Electives: 6 TOTAL: 21

1. The first step is to withdraw your student from their current school if they enrolled in one, otherwise they may be counted as TRUANT. You want to avoid truancy as much as you want to avoid Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS). A student is “truant” if absent without an excuse, for a “significant portion” of the school day, for three consecutive days, or five days in a semester, or seven days in a school year. *Sample “Intent to Withdraw” Included

2. The Second step is to register as a non-accredited private school.

There are no fees to register. *Mail-in Registration Included

Online Registration: https://apps.ksde.org/naps_form/default.aspx

3. Third step, you may consider checking out the non-profit Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

Approximately \$12/month or \$130/year, the HSLDA can help with getting started, choosing curriculums, legal consultation, and help when it's needed. Having a legal team in your corner is kinda like having insurance. Check them out at: <https://hslida.org/>

4. The fourth step is to choose a curriculum, or find an online classroom.

In Kansas ANY curriculum, even the fun ones, are permissible! There are many different options and it is easy to be overwhelmed in choosing. Some options are sent as a “Box” with all of the material needed, or there are other free options. The HSLDA educational consultants can help with this and many other decisions.

Easy Peasy - Free Online Christian Curriculum

<https://allinonehomeschool.com/>

Khan Academy - Non-Profit Free Online Classes

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

The Monarch School and Institute - Students with Therapeutic Practices and Specific Needs

<https://www.monarchschool.org/>

5. The fifth step is to continue learning.

Having all of the facts is just as important as knowing how to learn them. There’s always another road to walk down, another hill to climb, and more resources.

Intent to Withdraw Letter

Request

Name of your Homeschool _____

Your Address _____

Today's date _____

Name of School Enrollment Official _____

School Name and District, if applicable _____

Address _____

Dear (Official's Name) _____: We are writing to inform you that our child(ren), _____ are withdrawing from (School Name): _____ and will not [complete the current school year/be re-enrolling for the coming school year]. [He/she/they] will instead be attending a private school for the remainder of this school year. Please remove [his/her/their] names from your records. To the extent necessary to complete the enrollment at [his/her/their] new school, you will be contacted directly by the school regarding the transfer of records.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Request for Release of Student Records

Dear School Counselor/Registrar:

The children listed below have been withdrawn from your school. Please release their health, academic and other records, and forward them to the receiving school, as noted below.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Name of Student/s

Last Name	First Name	Initial	Age	Grade Level
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Receiving School

Name of School _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____

Authorization

Name of parent/guardian _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
 (785) 296-3201
 www.ksde.org

Non-Accredited Private School Registration

To comply with the provisions of K.S.A. 72-53,100 through 72-53,102 (see enclosed Kansas Statute document), please provide the information on the form below concerning your non-accredited private school (elementary or secondary). After completing this form make copies for your files and for the school from which your student is withdrawn.

Please provide all information requested below and return the entire page to:

Non-Accredited Private School Attn: Trevor Huffman
 Special Education and Title Services
 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 620
 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
 Fax: (785) 291-3791

You need not register every year. If your name or address should change, please select update on the Online registration form or fill out a "Change of Address Form." If you have questions concerning this form, please call (785) 296-3743 or email thuffman@ksde.org.

This registration is NOT for the purpose of enrolling in a Kansas approved virtual entity.

Starting School Year: _____
Current Year

Name of Your Private School: _____

Phone (if available): _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address (if available): : _____

Name of Private School Official Custodian: _____

Phone (if available): _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address (if available): : _____

Only if information is different from Custodian.

Name of Parent (Guardian): _____

Phone (if available): _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address (if available): : _____

FACT SHEET



Homeschooling In Kansas

General Information

All homeschools are classified as Non-Accredited Private Schools in Kansas and must follow the regulations set forth by law.

Kansas does not specifically authorize “home instruction” or “homeschooling” by state statute. However, Kansas does recognize Non-Accredited Private Schools. There is no fee charged to register a non-accredited private school.

A non-accredited elementary or secondary private school is one that satisfies the state’s compulsory school attendance laws, but which is not accredited by the State Board of Education.

Compulsory school attendance laws apply to children who have reached the age of 7 and those who are under 18 years of age (may be under 7 for children identified as handicapped). Every parent or guardian of children in that age group must require such children to attend a public, private, denominational, or parochial school for the duration of the school term.

Registration Requirement

Non-accredited private schools are required by law to register the name and address of the private elementary or secondary school (homeschool) with the State Board of Education. Registration consists of completing a form provided by the state showing the name and address of the school and the name and address of the official custodian of the school’s records.

Registering a school does not mean the school has been “approved” by the State Board of Education.

Teacher Requirements

Non-accredited private schools are not required to employ teachers who are licensed by the state, but their courses must be taught by competent instructors.

Hours of Instruction

Classes must be held for a period of time which is substantially equivalent to the time public schools are in session. The time required for public schools is at least 186 days of not less than 6 hours per day, or 1116 hours per year for grades 1-11.

Curriculum and Books

Non-accredited private schools are responsible for acquiring their own books and curriculum materials. Books may be purchased from private organizations, checked out through the public library, or rented from the public school with district approval. The public school is under no obligation to make books and materials available to students attending other schools.

No books, curriculum materials, guidelines, or technical assistance on curriculum development are available from the State Department of Education for non-accredited private schools.



Homeschooling In Kansas

NON-ACCREDITED PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Credits

When a student transfers to a non-accredited private school, the school previously attended must be notified by the parent/guardian that the student is changing schools. If a student simply stops coming to school, the school is required by law to report the student as truant.

It is in the best interest of students attending non-accredited private schools that accurate and complete records of their progress be kept. These records will be needed if the student transfers to a public or an accredited school, or applies for admission to a college or university.

If a student transfers from a non-accredited private school to an accredited school, the accredited school is not required to accept the transfer of credit. The accredited school may find it necessary to test the student in order to make a decision regarding the transfer of credit.

Kansas Graduation Requirements-minimum for Accredited Public and Accredited Private Schools and recommended for non-accredited schools:

- 4 units of English Language Arts
- 3 units of History and Government
- 3 units of Science
- 3 units of Mathematics
- 1 unit of Physical Education
- 1 unit of Fine Arts
- 6 units of Electives

Diplomas

Private schools, including non-accredited schools issue their own high school diplomas. These diplomas are not recognized by the State of Kansas as meeting any requirements. The State does not issue diplomas.

Entering College

Colleges and universities determine their own criteria for admission of students who graduate from a non-accredited private school.

Most institutions of higher education will require a Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED) or other criteria to be met for admission.

For more information, contact:

Trevor Huffman
Special Education and Title Services Team
(785) 296-3743
thuffman@ksde.org

Non-Accredited Private Schools (Home Schooling) Website:
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=416>



Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212

(785) 296-3201

www.ksde.org

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.

Revised 7/14/2020



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SUMMARY - K.S.A. 72-4345-4347

Private Elementary and Secondary School Registration

K.S.A. 72-4345 through 72-4347 requires the official custodian of each private elementary and secondary school to register the name and address of the school with the State Department of Education. The State Department will maintain a compilation of such registrations solely to make available to a school district, an accredited nonpublic school, or a private elementary or secondary school to which a pupil transfers, the name and location of the private elementary or secondary school from which the pupil transferred so that request may be made by the transferee school district, accredited nonpublic school, or private elementary or secondary school for the pupil's records.

72-4345. Nonaccredited private schools; pupil records; definitions. As used in this act:

- (a) "Private elementary or secondary school" means an organization which regularly offers education at the elementary or secondary level and attendance at which satisfies the compulsory school attendance laws of this state, but which is not accredited by the state board of education.
- (b) "Pupil records" means all records, files and data of pupils who are or have been in attendance at a private elementary or secondary school.
- (c) "Official custodian" means any officer or employee of a private elementary or secondary school who is responsible for the custody and maintenance of pupil records.

History: L. 1982, ch. 286, § 1; July 1. (formerly K.S.A. 72-53,100)

72-4346. Same; registration of name and address required; state board of education, administration and duties.

- (a) The official custodian of every private elementary or secondary school shall register the name and address of the private elementary or secondary school with the state board of education.
- (b) The state board of education shall administer the provisions of this act and shall prepare and maintain a compilation of the registrations submitted under subsection (a).
- (c) Upon transfer of a pupil from a private elementary or secondary school to a school district, an accredited nonpublic school, or another private elementary or secondary school, the state board of education, upon request of the school district, accredited nonpublic school, or other private elementary or secondary school therefor, shall make available the registration of the private elementary or secondary school from which the pupil transferred.

History: L. 1982, ch. 286, § 2; L. 1986, ch. 268, § 3; July 1. (formerly K.S.A. 72-53,101)

72-4347. Same; purpose of registration requirement.

The purpose of this act is solely to make available to a school district, an accredited nonpublic school, or a private elementary or secondary school to which a pupil transfers, the name and location of the private elementary or secondary school from which the pupil transferred so that request may be made by the transferee school district, accredited nonpublic school, or private elementary or secondary school for the pupil's records.

History: L. 1982, ch. 286, § 3; L. 1986, ch. 268, § 4; July 1. (formerly K.S.A. 72-53,102)



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Non-Accredited Private School Change of Information Form

Please provide the information requested below and return the entire page to:

Non-Accredited Private School
Attn: Trevor Huffman
Special Education and Title Services
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 620
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
Fax: (785) 291-3791

Original Information

Name of Your Private School: _____

Name of Private School Official Custodian: _____

Phone (if available): _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address (if available): : _____

NEW INFORMATION (Please fill in any information that has changed)

Name of Your Private School: _____

Phone (if available): _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address (if available): : _____

Name of Private School Official Custodian: _____

Phone (if available): _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address (if available): : _____