

# Pennsylvania Homeschool Requirements Reference

*For the Josie Education Program*

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## Compulsory Attendance

Children in Pennsylvania must attend school **from age 6 until age 18** or until graduation. Before age 6, homeschooling activities are entirely voluntary — no registration or reporting required.

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## Filing Requirements (beginning the year she turns 6)

Each year by **August 1**, the homeschool supervisor (parent/guardian) files with the **local school district superintendent**:

1. **Home Education Affidavit or Unsworn Declaration**
  - Includes:
    - Parent/supervisor name, address, contact info
    - Child's name and age
    - Statement of subjects to be taught (educational objectives)
    - Proof of immunization or exemption
    - Certification that adults in home have no recent disqualifying criminal convictions
    - Statement that instruction will be in English
  - Must be **notarized** or use an **unsworn declaration** (Pennsylvania allows either).
2. **Educational Objectives by Subject**
  - Short bullet outline—one or two sentences per subject is sufficient.

- You can use the *Resonance Curriculum* overview for this section.

### 3. Health/Medical Record Form

- Proof of medical and dental exams or religious/ethical exemption.

### 4. For Returning Years

- File a new affidavit each August 1.
- Submit annual evaluation (see below).

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## Required Records & Portfolio

Maintain a **contemporaneous log** and **portfolio** each school year.

Include:

- Log of instruction or attendance
- Reading list / materials used
- Samples of written, artistic, and project work
- Photos or evidence of learning experiences

**Portfolio due by June 30** each year.

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## Annual Evaluation

Each year, Josie's work must be reviewed by a **qualified evaluator** (certified teacher, psychologist, or licensed professional experienced with children).

The evaluator writes a **one-page certification** stating that an "appropriate education" is occurring.

Submit this evaluation to the superintendent by **June 30** with the portfolio.

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## Required Instructional Time

Grade Level	Required Instruction	Equivalent
Elementary (K–6)	180 days or 900 hours/year	About 5 hours/day, flexible
Secondary (7–12)	180 days or 990 hours/year	About 5.5 hours/day, flexible

Homeschoolers may count field trips, reading, art, chores, and outdoor exploration as part of instructional time.

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## Required Subjects

### Elementary (K–6)

English (reading, writing, spelling)  
Arithmetic  
Science  
Geography  
U.S. & Pennsylvania history  
Civics  
Health & Physiology  
Physical Education  
Music & Art  
Safety / Fire Safety

### Secondary (7–12)

English (composition, literature, speech)  
Mathematics (algebra, geometry, etc.)  
Science (biology, chemistry, physics, etc.)  
Social Studies (U.S. & world history, civics, economics)  
Health & PE  
Art, Music, Humanities, and Electives

*Your Resonance Curriculum covers all subjects through its integrated design.*

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## Portfolio Storage Recommendations

- Keep a **digital copy** in **Google Drive** each year (PDF scans and photos).
- Maintain a **binder copy** for evaluator viewing.
- Store the final signed **evaluation** in both locations.



## Optional Testing (Required at Grades 3, 5, 8)

Pennsylvania law requires standardized testing in **reading/language arts and math** at grades 3, 5, and 8.

Any nationally normed test (e.g., CAT, Iowa, TerraNova) or the state assessment may be used.

Results go in the portfolio but are not submitted for grading.



## Resources

- **PA Department of Education:** [education.pa.gov](http://education.pa.gov) → Home Education Programs
- **Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA):** [hsllda.org/state/Pennsylvania](http://hsllda.org/state/Pennsylvania)
- **PA Home Education Law (24 P.S. § 13-1327.1)** — official statute
- **Sample Affidavit Template:** available from PDE or homeschool organizations



## Summary Checklist

Timing	Action
Before age 6	No filing required — build early curriculum freely

Each Aug 1 (starting age 6)	File affidavit + objectives + health form
Throughout year	Keep log + portfolio evidence
By June 30	Obtain evaluator review & submit to district
Grades 3, 5, 8	Include standardized test results
Every year	Refile affidavit for next year