

WHY HOME SCHOOL? Many reasons – Top 5 ...convictions, problems, escape ...

The **first responsibility** you have to your children in home schooling is to decide if you are ready to make the commitment necessary to stick to it. You can, by God's grace, give a good education to your children, but it is hard work and sacrifice on your part.

Establish your own philosophy of home education. Set goals for each child, both long & short range.

- What do think your children should be learning? How to you want this learning to happen?
- How do you want to run your school? More in curriculum section.
- Are there any deficits in your child? Is your child accelerated in any way?
- Any learning differences? Any behavior/character issues?

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare. Read books, check out websites, attend seminars or conferences, and talk with other homeschoolers.

- ***You Can Teach Your Child Successfully*** by Ruth Beechick (gr. 4-8)
- ***The Three R's*** by Ruth Beechick (gr. K-3)
- ***The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*** by Debra Bell
- ***Home Learning Year by Year*** by Rebecca Rupp
- ***Educating the Wholehearted Child*** by Sally Clarkson
- ***102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum*** by Cathy Duffy
- www.chefofalabama.org www.hsllda.org

ALABAMA STATE LAW

- Church School, Private School, Private Tutor
- How CRCS fits in
- Our responsibility to member families
- Member families' responsibility to CRCS
- To apply on-line, go to <http://crossroadschristian.us>

CURRICULUM

- Learning styles – How does your child learn? Visual, auditory, kinesthetic (tactile), social
- Methods/Philosophies: Traditional, Unit studies, Classical, Charlotte Mason, Unschooling, Eclectic
- Co-operative learning
- List of major publishers
- Other resources – library, videos, APT, websites www.aptv.org
- Using the public school at home option IS public school.

GET ORGANIZED

Household

- Set up a file system. Keep sample copies, child's best work.
- Set up a calendar – school, church, family.
- Clean out your closets and shelves. You'll need more room for books!

Recordkeeping

- Daily lesson plans – this is the legal document!
- Quarterly evaluations
- Year-end summary reports
- Transcripts

Schedule

- Year round or nine months?
- 3 hours a day – elementary; 5 hours a day – junior and senior high

ALABAMA STATE LAW (from the Code of Alabama 1975)
alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/codeofalabama/1975/coatoc.htm

Compulsory attendance ages are between the ages of 6 years and 17 years. The parents of a 6-year-old student (who has not previously been enrolled in an on-campus public, private, or church school) may opt out of enrolling the child in school by written notification to the local school board that the child will not be enrolled until age 7. If a student attends a church school prior to his or her 16th birthday, then he or she may withdraw at age 16. (Ala. Code 16-28-3).

Since July 1, 2014, Alabama law now expressly recognizes home instruction by someone other than a state-certified private tutor as an option for complying with the compulsory attendance requirements. Most homeschoolers in Alabama are enrolled in church schools, in spite of the fact that this was not specifically defined in the Code of Alabama. The new law now redefines a church school to include either on-site or home programs.

Before July 1, 2014 private schools were not an option for homeschoolers. Alabama law required that private schools be approved by the state superintendent of education; teachers in private schools had to be state-certified; public school courses were required to be taught. Now, a private school is defined as "only such schools that are established, conducted, and supported by a nongovernmental entity or agency offering educational instruction in grades K-12, or any combination thereof, including preschool, through onsite or home programs." Since a person is a legal entity, this means that private schools are now an option for parents who want to teach their children at home, whether it is through an established private school or through a private school created with the home as its main location.

According to this new Alabama law, there are now three viable alternatives for home schools. The sections of the Code of Alabama which define and apply to these alternatives are given following each method.

- Attend a church school (Ala. Code 16-28-1; 16-28-7; 16-28-8; 16-28-16).
- Attend a private school (Ala. Code 16-28-1; 16-1-11; 16-28-7; 16-28-8; 16-30-3; 16-30-4; 16-40-1).
- Instruction by a private tutor (Ala. Code 16-28-5).

There are no teacher qualifications required to teach in a church school or a private school. A private tutor must be certified by the state of Alabama (Ala. Code 16-28-5).

The new law states that no public two-year or four-year institution of higher learning may deny admission to an otherwise qualified student based on the fact that the student attended, graduated from, or is enrolled in a nonpublic school. Graduates of church schools (and now private schools) will no longer be required to take the GED exam in order to be admitted to a state college.

Additionally, the new law makes it clear that nonpublic schools are not subject to licensure or regulation by the state or any part of the state government, like the state department of education. Crossroads Christian School will continue to operate as a church school.

The AHSAA recognizes a homeschool student as one who is receiving a home-based, parent-directed education in compliance with Alabama law in a home program of a church school, a home program of a private school, or with an Alabama-certified teacher (private tutor). In compliance with Alabama law, a homeschool student must be registered as such through the local city-county board of education.

You may hear that you do not have to register with your local school district IF you use the private school law. This is based on the wording in the 2014 law that the state does not regulate homeschoolers. Regulation and reporting are two different things; no matter which way you choose to homeschool, you must let the local school district know where your child is enrolled in school.

Types of Learners:

Visual Learner

Auditory Learner

Kinesthetic Learner

Social or Group Interactive Learners

Various Methods/ Philosophies:

Traditional

Unit Studies

Classical

Charlotte Mason "Living Education"

Unschooling

Eclectic