

HOME SCHOOLING GUIDELINES

Lane Education Service District

1200 Highway 99 North, Eugene, Oregon 97402 - (541) 461-8285

www.lesd.k12.or.us/homeschooling/index.html

The following information is based on Oregon Revised Statute 339.035 and Oregon Administrative Rule 581-021-0026 through 581-021-0035, which is the current legislation that addresses home schooling. This handout is intended to serve as a quick reference guide to answering the most commonly asked questions. Additional information and documents can be found on the Lane ESD website.

REQUIREMENTS:

Parents or guardians must meet the following requirements to home school in Oregon:

1. **NOTIFICATION:** Parents/guardians of students between the ages of 6 and 18 must notify their ESD in writing when they teach their students at home or arrange for a private tutor or home school program. Written notification must be provided to the ESD within 10 days of withdrawal from a public or private school or within 10 days of the start of the new school year for students who have never attended a public or private school. Notification forms can be printed from the Lane ESD website. A confirmation letter will be mailed to the parent/guardian within 90 days of receipt of the completed forms.

This notification will remain active from year-to-year unless Lane ESD is advised of a change **by the parent/guardian**. Please contact the home schooling department at (541) 461-8285 before registering or returning your student to public/private school or if you are moving out of the Lane County area. Withdrawals are only accepted from parents/guardians.

2. **TESTING:** It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to arrange for a qualified and neutral test administrator. A list of qualified testers currently registered with the Oregon Department of Education and a list of approved tests is available on the Lane ESD website. Parents are responsible for all testing costs.

If your student did not attend public or private school during the previous school year, testing must be done at the end of grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. If your student attended public or private school during the previous school year the first examination shall be administered at the end of the benchmark grade that follows an 18 month grace period.

PURPOSE OF ACHIEVEMENT TESTING: Lane ESD requests test results from home school students at the completion of grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. Testing must be completed by August 15 and the results forwarded to the Lane ESD. "Satisfactory educational progress" requires a test score that is at or above the 15th percentile on the Total Battery National Percentile score.

If the student receives a test score that is below the 15th percentile, the parent/guardian may continue home schooling the following school year but will be required to have the student take another test prior to the end of that school year. If the test score on the second test shows a declining score, the student must take an additional test within one year of when the second test was administered and the Lane ESD may:

- (a) Allow the student to continue to be taught by a parent/guardian; or
- (b) Place the education of the child under the supervision of a person holding a current Oregon teaching license who is selected by the parent/guardian at the expense of the parent/guardian and require that the student take another test prior to the end of that school year.

If the parent/ guardian does not consent to placing the education of the student under the supervision of a licensed teacher, the Lane ESD may order the student to public school for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months as determined by the Superintendent.

TEST SCORE DOCUMENT: The following information must be submitted with each test score:

- Student's name, address and date of birth;
- Tester name, address and phone number;
- Tester qualification statement (i.e. "neutral, certified teacher," "on state lists," etc.);
- Test name, test form, test level, grade level and date test was given;
- Total Battery National Percentile score submitted on an official document such as a copy of the test report, a copy of a letter from the tester, etc. (This is the *only* score that is acceptable.)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT A TEST SCORE OR EVALUATION: If required test results or evaluations are not submitted upon request by the Lane ESD the student will be removed from the home school rolls. Non-compliance with the home school laws results in the student being subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements (ORS 339.020) and may be necessary for him/her to return to public or private school. Violation of these laws will result in the student being truant from his/her local public school and is punishable as a Class C violation (ORS 339.990).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students identified as eligible for and receiving special education and related services at their public school may be evaluated by the school's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team to determine satisfactory educational progress. The parents/guardians of students (identified by the public school) also have the option of choosing a private service provider(s) to evaluate and determine satisfactory educational progress according to the recommendations of a Privately Developed Plan (PDP). These options require that the student is actively receiving services through an IEP or PDP program. If a parent/guardian does not choose to access the services of either the IEP team or a PDP team the student must be tested with a standardized achievement test by a qualified and neutral test administrator. Evaluations/tests are required prior to the end of age-appropriate grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. Please refer to the Lane ESD website for additional home school information regarding students with disabilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

RELEASE OF INFORMATION: The Lane ESD by policy releases "directory information" to interested businesses and organizations upon request. Directory information includes student name, student electronic address and the most recent previous school or program attended. Federal law requires each local school district and/or ESD to provide (upon request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education) access to the names, addresses and telephone listings for secondary students. If you do not want your student's information released to the above mentioned individuals or organizations please forward a completed "Release of Information" form to the Lane ESD. If one has already been forwarded to Lane ESD in the past it is not necessary to provide it again unless you wish to change your choices.

CURRICULUM: The Lane ESD and local public schools do not provide materials and/or curricula. Parents/guardians are responsible for the acquisition and cost of materials/curriculum. Grade specific performance standards can be found on the Oregon Department of Education website at www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/. Parents/guardians are encouraged to provide instruction in the courses of study ordinarily taught in the public schools.

IMMUNIZATIONS: Home schooled students aren't required to be immunized but it is recommended in order to provide protection while away from the home or in the event of exposure to disease. A current immunization

schedule can be found on the website for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES: Home schooled students are eligible to participate in interscholastic activities representing the public school attendance area in which the home schooled student resides. This eligibility is contingent upon the student receiving a test score at or above the 23rd percentile on a standardized achievement test. The test shall be taken at the end of every school year (prior to August 15) and shall be used to determine eligibility for the following year. **The test results must be submitted to the resident public school district to verify eligibility.** A school district may adopt alternative requirements in consultation with the parent. Please contact your resident public school district if you have questions regarding interscholastic activities. Additional information from the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) can be found on the Lane ESD website.

DRIVER PERMIT/LICENSE: The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requires a Statement of Enrollment signed by Lane ESD for home schooled students before a driver's permit or license can be issued. This statement is available for students in compliance with registration and testing requirements. A request form can be printed from the Lane ESD website. **Please submit request form to Lane ESD at least one week in advance** of when the completed statement is needed. Students who fall out of compliance with home school laws after receiving a permit or license may be reported to the DMV resulting in a possible suspension of driving privileges.

GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA (GED) AND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS: Public schools are not required by law to award credit for home school work. The acceptance of high school credit earned in a home school program is determined by local school district board policy (OAR 581-021-0210).

Home schooled students 16 or 17 years of age who wish to pursue a General Education Diploma (GED) through a licensed testing site must submit a completed Parent Authorization Form to the Lane ESD Home School Department. This form can be printed from the Lane ESD website. **Please submit completed form to Lane ESD at least one week in advance** of when it is needed by the testing site. A home schooled student who pursues a GED is not released from regular home school testing requirements until Lane ESD receives official written verification that the student has been awarded a GED certificate.

POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES: An application for post-secondary scholarships in Oregon as well as the FAFSA can be found on the website for the Office of Student Access and Completion (www.getcollegefunds.org).