

ALASKA

Compulsory Attendance Ages: Between 7 and 16 years of age. A child who is six years old and enrolled in the first grade in public school is subject to the compulsory attendance law. A parent may withdraw such a child from public school within 60 days of enrollment, and the child will not be subject to the compulsory attendance law until age seven. Alaska Stat. § 14.30.010(a) and (c).

Required Days of Instruction: None.

Required Subjects: None.

Home schools have five options, four of which are under alternative statutes.

Home School Statute:

Option 1: If the child “is being educated in the child’s home by a parent or legal guardian,” the child is exempted from compulsory attendance. Alaska Stat. § 14.30.010(b)(12). Under this option, there are no requirements to notify, seek approval, test, file forms, or have any teacher qualifications.

Alternative Statutes Allowing Home Instruction:

Option 2: Tutoring by an Alaska-certified teacher. Alaska Stat. § 14.30.010(b)(1)(B).

Option 3: The child “is equally well-served by an educational experience approved by the school board as serving the child’s educational interests despite an absence from school, and the request for excuse is made in writing by the child’s parents or guardian and approved by the principal or administrator of the school that the child attends” Alaska Stat. § 14.30.010(b)(11).

Option 4: A homeschool may qualify as a “religious or other private school” if it meets the following requirements:

- a. the child’s parent must file an annual notice of enrollment with the local superintendent by the first day of public school. Alaska Stat. § 14.45.110(a);
- b. the school must maintain monthly attendance records showing 180 days of school attendance each year. Additionally, the school calendar and the number of enrolled students in each grade must be annually reported to the Commissioner of Education. Alaska Stat. § 14.45.110(b); and
- c. the school must certify to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) that it maintains permanent student records reflecting immunizations, physical examinations,

standardized testing, academic achievement, courses taken at the school, and level of eligibility for an Alaska performance scholarship. Alaska Stat. § 14.45.130.

- d. A school with children of more than one family must file a corporal discipline policy with the DEED. Alaska Admin. Code tit. 4, § 42.200.
- e. All of the above forms are available online at <https://education.alaska.gov/forms/> under the heading “PRIVATE SCHOOLS.”
- f. “(1) ‘private school’ means a school that does not receive direct state or federal funding; (2) ‘religious school’ means a private school operated by a church or other religious organization that does not receive direct state or federal funding.” Alaska Stat. § 14.45.200.
- g. “(a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, a religious or other private school . . . is exempt from other provisions of law and regulations relating to education except law and regulations relating to physical health, fire safety, sanitation, immunization, and physical examinations. (b) A religious or other private school that is exempt under this section is not required to comply with AS 14.33.120(b), 14.33.125, or 14.33.127.” Alaska Stat. § 14.45.100.
- h. If a school is not operated in compliance with this section, it is *not* exempt from other requirements and must make monthly attendance reports and annual reports to the Commissioner of Education. Alaska Stat. § 14.45.030.

Teacher Qualifications: Options 1, 3, 4: None. Option 2: A private tutor must be an Alaska-certified teacher. Alaska Stat. § 14.30.010(b)(1)(B); *see also* § 14.20.020 (certification requirements).

Standardized Tests: Options 1, 2, 3: None. Option 4: Testing is only required for fourth, sixth, and eighth grades. Standardized test results must be made available to the Department of Education upon request. The parent may select any nationally standardized achievement test that measures achievement in English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics. Alaska Stat. § 14.45.120.