

CONNECTICUT

Compulsory Attendance Ages: “five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age ... unless such child is a high school graduate....” Parents may elect not to send a five or six year old child to school by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. Connecticut General Statutes § 10-184.

Required Days of Instruction: None.

Required Subjects: Reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, United States history, and citizenship, including a study of the town, state, and federal governments. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184.

Homeschool Statute: No specific statute, but Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184 describes the “duties of parents” to provide instruction or cause their children to be instructed in certain subjects. Failing this, they should enroll a child [of school age] in school. On November 7, 1990, the Connecticut Board of Education implemented “Revised Procedures Concerning Requests from Parents to Educate Their Child at Home.” They deem compliance with these suggested procedures as satisfying the requirements of Sections 10-184 and 10-220 of the General Statutes. (These procedures are optional.)

1. “The State Board of Education acknowledges the right of parents to instruct their children at home as an alternative to public school attendance.”
2. Within 10 days of the start of a home instruction program, parents must file a “Notice of Intent” form with the local superintendent.
3. Among other things, this form must include “name of teacher, subjects taught, days of instruction, and the teacher’s method of assessment.”
4. “A parent, by filing a notice of intent, acknowledges full responsibility for the education of their child in accordance with the requirements of state law. Receipt of a notice of intent in no way constitutes approval by a school district of the content or effectiveness of a program of home instruction.”

Teacher Qualifications: None.

Standardized Tests: Not required by statute or regulation. However, “an annual portfolio review will be held with the parents and school officials to determine if instruction in the required courses has been given.” (“Revised Procedures,” p. 3).

Religious Freedom Act: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-571b.