

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Compulsory Attendance Ages:	“at least 6 years of age and under 18 years of age” New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated § 193:1. “A child who reaches the sixth birthday after September 30 shall not be required to attend school... until the following school year.” N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193:1(II).
Required Days of Instruction:	None required for home schools.
Required Subjects:	Science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the U.S., and an exposure to and appreciation of art and music. N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193-A:4(I).

Home School Statute/Relevant Case Law: N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193-A. Legislative purposes: “The general court recognizes, in the enactment of RSA 193-A... that it is the primary right and obligation of a parent to choose the appropriate educational alternative for a child under his care and supervision, as provided by law.... The general court further recognizes that home education is more individualized than instruction normally provided in the classroom setting.” The New Hampshire Supreme Court in *Appeal of Pierce*, 451 A.2d 363, (1982) reaffirmed the fundamental right to home school: “Thus while the State may adopt a policy requiring children to be educated, it does not have the unlimited power to require they be educated in a certain way or place.... Home education is an enduring American tradition and right. . . . Thus approval requirements for non-public school education may not unnecessarily interfere with traditional parental rights.”

Commencing a Home Education Program

1. A parent is required to file an initial notice with the participating agency within 5 days of commencing a home school program or provide subsequent notice upon a change of participating agencies when moving into a new school district. N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193-A:5(I).
2. A notice is filed with the parent’s choice of a “participating agency”—either the commissioner of education (not recommended), public school district superintendent, or principal of a non-public school (recommended). N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193-A:5. (I). See HSLDA’s website for a list of private schools who serve as participating agencies for homeschoolers. See www.hslda.org/nh for member forms.
3. The notice must include the children’s names, addresses and birth dates. § 193-A:5(II).
4. If a family terminates a home education program a written notice of termination must be filed with the commissioner of education and, in addition, the resident district superintendent or nonpublic school principal within 15 days. N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193-A:5(III). Participating agencies are required to acknowledge a notification within 14 days.

Record keeping

The parent is required to maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program consisting of a log of reading materials used and samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the child. The parent is expected to retain the portfolio for two years. N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193-A:6(I).

Teacher Qualifications

None Required.

Assessment

N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193-A:6 requires that parents annually evaluate students in their home education program. The evaluation is kept by the parent and not sent to a participating agency. The parent can satisfy the evaluation requirement by:

1. A written evaluation of educational progress prepared by a certified teacher or a current non-public school teacher selected by the parent, after reviewing the student's portfolio and discussing with the parent or child; or
2. The results of any national student achievement test administered by a person meeting the provider's or publisher's qualifications, with a composite score at or above the 40th percentile; or
3. The results of the state student assessment test used by the resident district, with a composite score at or above the 40th percentile; or
4. An evaluation using any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent and the participating agency.

Completion

N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193:1 allows parents to exempt their children who are under age 18 from compulsory attendance if they have completed a home school program at the high school level. The law allows parents to “document[t] the completion of a home school program at the high school level by submitting a certificate or letter to the department of education.” HSLDA has created a model letter for members to use at hsllda.org/nh.