

PUERTO RICO

Compulsory Attendance Ages:	“between five and eighteen years of age” 3 L.P.R.A. § 143b.
Required Days of Instruction:	Same as public schools.
Required Subjects:	Same as public schools.

Home School Statute: None.

Alternative Statutes Allowing Home Schools:

1. “Instruction in the elementary and secondary school shall be free and shall be compulsory in the elementary schools to the extent permitted by the facilities of the state. Compulsory attendance at elementary public schools... *shall not* be construed as applicable to those who receive elementary education in schools established under *non-governmental* auspices.” Puerto Rico Constitution Art. II, § 5.
2. “Attendance at public schools shall not be compulsory for those who are receiving education in schools established under the *auspices of non-governmental entities*.” 18 L.P.R.A. § 2.
3. Most home schools operate as “non-governmental schools.” Non-governmental schools are not clearly defined or regulated by law. Only a “primary or secondary academic” school which “declares, promises, announces, or expresses the intention of granting certificates, diplomas, degrees, or licenses” is required to be licensed (18 L.P.R.A. § 2101-2103 repealed). It seems that only these private “diploma” schools are under Puerto Rico’s private school regulations.

Non-governmental schools, which are recognized in the Puerto Rican Constitution, have no such regulations. Therefore, many home schools or groups of home schools have established “non-government schools” which do not grant diplomas. Instead, such schools issue transcripts demonstrating completed work.

On June 7, 2017, the Governor of Puerto Rico signed into law, Legislative Act P. del. S. 255, which declares Homeschooling as a fundamental right. A fundamental right is the highest right we recognize in our states/territories, equal to free speech and the press. Puerto Rico is the first state/territory to declare Homeschool as a fundamental right. The action strengthens families’ choice to homeschool in Puerto Rico. As long as this law stays in place, Puerto Rico will be one of the safest places to homeschool in the world.

Teacher Qualifications: None required for non-governmental schools.

Standardized Tests: Not required for non-governmental schools.