



Lowcountry Homeschool Association

ASSOCIATION STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS

Lowcountry Homeschool Association (LHA) believes that each home school family needs to have a full understanding of the home school laws and their requirements.

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW: The following section enumerates each part of the law provided in section 59-65-47 of which are required by LHA members who reside in South Carolina in order to be in compliance with the law.

MEMBERSHIP. Parents or guardians maintaining a membership with a "Third Option" accountability association, which has no fewer than fifty members, may teach their children from the home school setting. ***LHA has more than fifty members, which allows you to teach your children from the home school setting.***

THIRD OPTION EXEMPTION. Continuing compliance with the academic standards and requirements of a "Third Option" accountability association exempts the home school from the requirements of the "First Option" (provided in section 59-65-40), or the "Second Option" (provided in section 59-65-45). ***Should you register with LHA, you are exempt from the requirements of the "First Option" and the "Second Option." You do not need your instruction or enrollment with LHA to be approved by the district board of trustees in your district. We will handle everything once you register. Please ensure you properly withdraw your children from school and keep that in your records.***

LAW A. A parent must hold at least a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED).

LAW B. The instructional year is at least one hundred eighty (180) days.
LHA provides attendance records for you to print and use for each child.

LAW C. The curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature. ***The parent-guardian shall maintain all educational records, including but not limited to copies of records from a contracted tutor, teacher, or college. Most colleges issue a report card with units earned, please ensure they include the numeral percentile grade for proper high school credit, GPA scoring, and ranking purposes.***

LAW D. Educational records shall be maintained by the parent-teacher and include: (1) a plan book, diary, or other record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent-teacher engage; (2) a portfolio of samples of the student's academic work; (3) a semiannual progress report including attendance records and individualized documentation of the student's academic progress in each of the basic instructional areas specified in item (C) above.

GEORGIA LAW: Pursuant to Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690), the following are requirements for home study programs:

Effective July 1, 2012, parents or guardians who wish to teach their children at home in a home study program must annually submit to the Georgia Department of Education a **Declaration of Intent** to Utilize a Home Study Program by September 1 or within 30 days after a program is established. The Georgia Department of Education will provide for electronic submittal of the Declaration of Intent. Please see the information below on how to submit the Declaration of Intent and the attendance reports. ***You will see the link to this on the registration page. The law specifies that no-third party is allowed to register for you. So you must click the link provided on our website and ensure you file.***

1. The declaration must include the names and ages of the students, the address where the program is located, and the dates of the school year.



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2. Parents or guardians may teach only their own children in the home study program provided the teaching parent or guardian possesses at least a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma (GED). Parents or guardians may also employ a tutor who holds at least a high school diploma or a GED to teach such children.
3. The home study program must include, but is not limited to, instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science.
4. The school year must include the equivalent of 180 days of at least 4-1/2 hours of instruction per day unless the child is physically unable to comply with this requirement.
5. As of July 1, 2013, you are no longer required to submit attendance to the Georgia Department of Education.

For driving permits or licenses all that is needed is the Declaration of Intent with a 36 character parent signature. This document replaces the Certificate of Attendance and should be submitted with all other Driver Service's required documents to obtain a driving permit or license.

6. Students in home study programs shall be subject to an appropriate nationally standardized testing program administered in consultation with a person trained in the administration and interpretation of norm referenced tests. The student must be evaluated at least every three years beginning at the end of the third grade. Records of such tests shall be retained. ***Testing is available throughout the state and nearby. We will make announcements for these. LHA partnered with Blackwell Homeschool Testing which will be set for the Spring.***
7. The instructor shall write an annual progress assessment report in each required subject area for each student. These reports shall be retained for at least three years. ***For your convenience, this form is available on our website. See Member's Area for your filing options. At minimum the Annual Progress Assessment is required.***

PRIVACY POLICY. Information given to Lowcountry Homeschool Association is confidential and cannot be released without written or verbal consent from the member; however, your membership status may be verified either verbally or through written form including electronic mail or facsimile. LHA may send a Letter of Enrollment as verification or proof of enrollment to authorities requesting your membership status. Information may include your child's name.

Regarding homeschool records, as a member of LHA, you, the parent/guardian, agree to maintain in your home the appropriate records as stated in the law above (Law D). If in the event your home school records are being requested by authorities, it is the parent/guardians responsibility to provide these, not LHA. LHA is not required by law to maintain these records.

RETURNING TO TRADITIONAL SCHOOL SETTING. Should you, the parent/legal guardian, decide to return your student to a public/private school setting, it is your responsibility to provide the public/private school administration with a copy of your student's Home School Records, Report Cards, and Transcripts.



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CODE OF CONDUCT. You acknowledge and agree to adhere to the following Code of Conduct at any event, activity, field trip, meeting, party, or anything offered in my area (if available):

- Member families will act in such a way that their words and actions promote the unity and encouragement of fellow home school families.
- Member families will avoid acting in such a way that is considered disrespectful, offensive, immoral, intimidating or rude.
- Member families will avoid gossiping to or about other families.
- Member families will be responsible for their own children's behavior to ensure they are acting in accordance with this code of conduct.
- Any members of the Association that persist in violating this code of conduct are considered to be conducting themselves in a way that is contrary to the specific and primary purposes of the Association, and may be asked to make a change or forfeit their membership.

This Code of Conduct applies only during those times and places that members (to include parents, designated guardians and children) are participating in or supporting sponsored activities, or when communicating through the Yahoo Group message boards, website, or on any of our Facebook groups/pages.

PHOTO RELEASE & WAIVER OF LIABILITY. You give express permission for photos taken at events of yourself, your child/children, and your guests, to be: posted online, on the Facebook group or page and yahoo groups, in member directory, correspondences, newsletters, year book, news release, or support group materials unless expressed otherwise herein.

By participating with or joining this association, and/or any of our online groups, you, your heirs, successors and assigns, hereby forever release, indemnify, and do not hold Lowcountry Homeschool Association, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and agents, harmless from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, costs and expenses arising from or in any way related to participation with this association, group, events, field trips, activities, and meetings. Furthermore, Lowcountry Homeschool Association is not responsible for the minors in your party at any event or field trip, and expects you to supervise the minors in your care at all times.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN. You have authorization to homeschool your child/children and acknowledge that you have legal custody of the students you're registering.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. An *Annual Statement of Compliance* is due on or before June 5th for all registered students. Submission of the Statement of Compliance is only done through our website. You will receive a copy of your submission by electronic mail. **Georgia Residents only need to file the Annual Progress Assessment Report.**

ALTERNATIVE REPORTING. LHA provides its members with the capability to fill out, online, a *Semi-Annual Progress Report*, this form is required by law to keep in your records but optional to turn in to LHA. It is due on or before January 15th. The *Annual Academic Record Form*, is due on or before June 5th for each student except Seniors. **Senior academic records are due May 30th to allow time for ranking.** For your convenience these forms are also available on our website. You will receive a copy of your online submission by electronic mail. Mail and electronic mail are also acceptable forms of submitting these records.

AGREEMENT. By completing the registration form and submitting, whether by hard-copy or through our website, mailed or sent electronically, you hereby agree that you are in fact qualified to homeschool and will comply with all standards & requirements as said herein.

RETURN TO REGISTRATION

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Lowcountry Homeschool Association
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