

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES AND HOME SCHOOLS

1. What may a school district require of a parent who wishes to exempt a school age student from school attendance?

In accordance with [53G-6-204](#) Utah Code, a local school board shall excuse a school-age child from attendance, if the school-age child's parent or legal guardian files a signed affidavit with the school-age child's school district of residence" that:

- a) the school-age child will attend a home school
- b) the parent or legal guardian assumes sole responsibility for the education of the school-age child, except to the extent the school-age child is dual enrolled in a public school as provided in Section [53G-6-702](#).

2. What are the requirements for days and hours of instruction of a home-schooled student?

A local school board may not require a parent of the homeschooled minor to maintain records of instruction or attendance.

3. When a parent has submitted the signed affidavit as provided for in the statute, is a school district required to provide a certificate excusing a school age child from public school attendance?

A local school board shall issue a certificate excusing a school-age from attendance:

- a) "Within 30 days after receipt of a signed affidavit filed by the school-age child's parent or legal guardian".
- b) on or before August 1 each year thereafter unless:
 - the school-age child enrolls in a school within the school district;
 - the school-age child's parent or legal guardian notifies the school district that the school-age child no longer attends a home school; or
 - the school-age child's parent or legal guardian notifies the school district that the school-age child's school district of residence has changed.

4. What is the responsibility of the school district for curriculum, assessment, selection of materials, evaluation of home school instruction, or designating the time and place of instruction?

The district has no authority or responsibility relative to any of the above. The curriculum, assessment, selection of home school instruction, and the time and place of instruction are all the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian.

5. May the school or district make textbooks, assessments, resource materials available to home school parents?

Yes, at the school's/district's discretion. Also see [R277-604-4](#) where a student "may" participate in statewide assessments by coordinating with the school.

6. My homeschooled daughter who is in 5th grade wants to attend the local school Valentines party. How should I make arrangements for her attendance?

Contact your daughter's boundary school principal and explain your request. Schools should be accommodating. You can find the boundary school by calling the resident school district. Most school districts have websites that provide school names and contact information.

7. My son wants to participate in the third grade reading program. How can I arrange this?

If an (elementary) home schooled student wants to participate in "an academic activity" for a portion of the school day or on a regular basis, the parent should contact the school and arrange for the student's attendance. For the child's safety and for the school's accountability, the school may request parent's contact information and additional emergency contact information prior to the child's participation. If the academic program or activity includes field trips, parent(s) may be asked to accompany the student, at the school's discretion.

8. If my home schooled child wants to be dually enrolled (enrollment in public school for part of the school day or for a specific school class or activity), what is the procedure?

The school will require that the parent has filed the affidavit described under question #1, above. The school should explain that the class is generally scheduled from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and that the child is welcome to attend, but that the schedule may change from time to time without advance notice to parents. It is unlikely that a child can participate in the class every day at exactly the same time. It is the responsibility of the parent to be aware of the school's schedule. Both parents and teachers should be flexible and cooperative. See [53G-6-702 "Dual Enrollment"](#) for additional information.

9. If my high-school age home schooled student wants to participate in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities. What rules may apply?

Students may participate in any co-curricular or extracurricular activity in the public school, subject to compliance with the same rules and requirements that apply to a full-time student's participation in the activity, consistent with Utah Code Section [53G-6-702](#) and [-703](#) and Board Rule [R277-438](#). The student will not be required to enroll in additional public school courses, other than the classes required for participation in the activity. (e.g. participation in a chorus class may require a child to be enrolled in 6th period Concert Choir; varsity wrestling may require a 1 period weight training class).

10. I homeschool my 9th grade daughter. She takes two courses through Washington K-12, an online school program, and I would like her to take a music and debate class at the local high school. How can I arrange this?

The student can be enrolled in both public schools as long as the state funding amount, or weighted pupil units (WPU), is not exceeded. The state pupil accounting system allows each school to claim its part of the WPU but does not allow one student to be funded for more than 7/7 of a WPU. Washington K-12 can claim the student for 2/7 of the state funding amount, and the local high school can claim 2/7 of the WPU, totaling 4/7.

LINKS OF INTEREST

Minors Exempt from School Attendance Law - [53G-6-204](#)

Dual Enrollment Law - [53G-6-702](#)

Dual Enrollment Rule - [R277-438](#)

Private School and Home School Students' Participation in Extracurricular Activities in a Public School Law - [53G-6-703](#)

Pupil Accounting Rule - [R277-419](#)

Private School, Home School, Electronic High School (EHS), and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Student Participation in Public School Achievement Tests Rule (Home School Students) - [R277-604](#)