
Private Schools and Home Study Programs

The Atlanta Board of Education (ABE) supports student success and school choice by recognizing parent/legal guardians' right to implement home study programs. Parents/legal guardians residing within the City of Atlanta who wish to use home study programs shall submit annually a Declaration of Intent to Utilize a Home Study Program and monthly shall submit attendance records to the Superintendent or designee. Every parent, guardian, or other person residing within the state of Georgia having control or charge of any child or children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays shall enroll and send such child or children to a public school, a private school, or a home study program. Private schools, home study programs, and operational The rules and guidelines for operating a home study program and reporting requirements for home study programs are defined in state statute O.C.G.A. §20-02-0690. The ABE authorizes the Superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

~~as follows:~~

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- ~~1. Georgia law recognizes the existence of public schools, private schools, and home study programs as educational entities.~~
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- ~~2. As used in this subpart, the term "private school" means an institution meeting the following criteria or requirements:~~
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 - ~~a. The primary purpose of the institution is to provide education or, if the primary purpose of the institution is religious in nature, the institution shall provide the basic academic educational program specified in paragraph (D) of this subsection;~~
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 - ~~b. The institution is privately controlled and operates on a continuing basis;~~
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 - ~~c. The institution provides instruction each 12 months for the equivalent of 180 school days of education with each school day consisting of at least four and one-half school hours;~~
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 - ~~d. The institution provides a basic educational program that includes, but is not limited to, reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science;~~
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~~— Within 30 days after the beginning of each school year, it shall be the duty of the administrator of each private school to provide to the school superintendent of each local public school district that has residents enrolled in the private school a list of the name, age, and residence of each resident so enrolled. At the end of each school month, it shall be the duty of the administrator of each private school to notify the school superintendent of each local public school district of the name, age, and residence of each student residing in the public school district who enrolls or terminates enrollment at the private school during the immediately preceding school month.~~

~~Enrollment records and reports shall not be used for any purpose except providing necessary enrollment information, except with the permission of the parent or guardian of a child or pursuant to the subpoena of a court of competent jurisdiction; and~~

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~~f. Any building used by the institution for private school purposes meets all health and safety standards established under state law and local ordinances.~~

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~~3. Parents or guardians may teach their children at home in a home study program that meets the following requirements:~~

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~~a. The parent, parents, or guardian must submit within 30 days after the establishment of a home study program and by September 1 annually thereafter a declaration of intent to utilize a home study program to the superintendent of schools of the local school district in which the home study program is located;~~

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~~b. The declaration shall include a list of the names and ages of the students who are enrolled in the home study program, the address where the home study program is located, and a statement of the 12-month period that is to be considered the school year for that home study program. Enrollment records and reports shall not be used for any purpose except providing necessary enrollment information, except with the permission of the parent or guardian of a child or pursuant to the subpoena of a court of competent jurisdiction;~~

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~~c. 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 educational development (GED) equivalency diploma, but the parents or guardians may employ a tutor who holds at least a high school diploma or a general educational development (GED) equivalency diploma to teach such children;~~

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~~d. The home study program shall provide a basic academic educational program that includes, but is not limited to, reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science;~~

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~~e. The home study program must provide instruction each 12 months to home study students equivalent to 180 school days of education with each school day consisting of at least four and one-half school hours unless the child is physically unable to comply with the rule provided for in this paragraph;~~

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~~f. Attendance records for the home study program shall be kept and shall be submitted at the end of each month to the school superintendent of the local school district in which the home study program is located.~~

~~Attendance records and reports shall not be used for any purpose except providing necessary attendance information, except with the permission of the parent or guardian of a child or pursuant to the subpoena of a court of competent jurisdiction;~~

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~~g. 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 to evaluate their educational progress at least every three years beginning at the end of the third grade, and records of such tests and scores shall be retained but shall not be required to be submitted to public educational authorities; and~~

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~~h. The home study program instructor shall write an annual progress assessment report that shall include the instructor's individualized assessment of the student's academic progress in each of the subject areas specified in paragraph (D) in this subsection, and such progress reports shall be retained by the parent, parents, or guardian of children in the home study program for a period of at least three years.~~

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~~Any person who operates a private school without complying with the requirements of subsection (B) of this Code section or any person who operates a home study program without complying with the requirements of subsection (C) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100.~~

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~~4. The State Board of Education shall devise, adopt, and make available to local school superintendents, who shall in turn make available to administrators of private schools and parents or guardians with children in home study programs, such printed forms and procedures as may be reasonably necessary to carry out efficiently the reporting provisions of this Code section, but such printed forms and procedures shall not be inconsistent with or exceed the requirements of this Code section.~~

