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Louisiana Homeschooling Options

There are two available options for parent who choose to homeschool their child in the state of Louisiana:

1) Home Study Program

- a) Parents must apply to the Board of Education for approval of the Home Study Program within fifteen days after commencement
- b) To be eligible for TOPS the child must be registered in the Home Study Program for Grades 11 and 12.
- c) The initial application or renewal application shall be approved if the parent certifies that the home study program will offer a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered by public schools. The initial application must include a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. This is not required for the renewal.
- d) A renewal application must be submitted by October 1st of the school year or twelve months after the initial approval, whichever is later.
- e) A renewal application shall be approved is the parents submit satisfactory evidence that the program has in fact offered a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered by public schools at the same grade level. Parents must be prepared to submit with the renewal application a packet of materials which may include such documents as:
 - copies of standardized tests
 - a complete outline of each subject taught
 - a list of books and materials
 - copies of the student's work
 - statements of third parties who have observed the child's progress

2) Home-Based Private School

- a) A home school can operate as a private school if it meets the following requirements:
 - has an adequate physical plant- a home
 - has instructional staff members- parents/guardians
 - operates 180 days
 - receives no Federal or State funds
- b) Home-based private schools must report to the State Department of Education their total attendance as of the 30th day or their school term.
- c) Students who are withdrawn from public school during the school year, or who attended public school the year before enrolling a private school, must provide a written notification of enrollment in a private school s/he attended within 10 days of enrollment. This notification must include:
 - Student's legal name
 - Date of birth
 - Gender
 - Race

Compulsory Attendance Age: 7 years and 18 years

Required Days of Instruction: 180 days

Required Subjects: a curriculum of a quality at least equal to that offered by public schools at the same grade level

Teacher Qualifications: None

Standardized Tests: Parents have three options for renewal under the homeschool law (Home Study Program). A renewal application for the Home Study Program shall be approved if one of these qualifications is met:

1. The child receives passing score on LEAP test
2. The child scored at or above his grade level on a CAT or other standardized test approved by the board or has "progressed at a rate equal to one grade level for each year in the Home Study Program."
3. A teacher certified to teach at the child's grade level writes a statement that het child "is being taught in accordance with a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to public schools" or at least equal to that offered by public schools to a child of similar disabilities."