



From VHENE, June 26, 2023

RE: Requirements of the new home study law.

Date: June 14, 2023, Governor Phil Scott signed into law a new Home Study statute.

Vermont law has always required the enrollment and attendance of children between the ages of 6 and 16 in an educational setting where learning experiences are to be provided and that these educational settings are to track the progress of each child. A home study program is one of the choices that parents can choose from. The compulsory attendance statute specifically says:

*“A person having the control of a child between the ages of six and 16 years shall cause the child to attend a public school, an approved or recognized independent school, an approved education program, **or a home study program for the full number of days for which that school is held...**”*

July 1, 2023, is the effective date and the main difference between the new home study law and the old one is the amount of paper work that needs to be submitted to the state. To enroll in home study in Vermont after July 1st, there will be two types of notices and here is what each notice requires:

1. Enrollment Notice:

- a. That a person in control of a child between age 6 and 16 submit an enrollment notice consisting of the intent to homeschool, the child’s age, name, address, and parental/guardian’s signatures. Provide documentation to a documented disability, if one exists. This information is submitted once.
- b. Parents/guardian must attest that they will provide 175 days of instruction in the minimum course of study. No submission of a minimum course of study.
- c. Parents/guardians must attest that they will annually assess the child’s educational progress and maintain that assessment on file. The law states that there are 5 assessment options to choose from: a standardized test, teacher assessment, parent report and portfolio, grades from an online academy, or the results of a GED. No submission of an assessment.
- d. Parents/guardians must attest that if the child has a documented disability, that they will provide the adaptations needed to instruct the child. No submission of adaptations.

2. Annual Notice:

- a. Once a completed Enrollment Notice has been provided,
- b. a parent/guardian shall annually “notify the Secretary on or before the start of each following year of the parent’s or guardian’s intention to continue to provide instruction through a home study program

3. The Agency of Education is to provide both types of enrollment forms that families need to fill out to complete this process.

For families that wish to enroll in Home Study, there is much work that needs to be done by the Agency of Education to get forms ready and update the home study guidelines per the new law. They are the ones tasked with creating the process by which families enroll. VHENE asks that families be ready to give the AOE some grace to get this done. They had very little notice between the Governor signing this and its effective date of July 1st, 2023. Please consider delaying your enrollment 1-3 weeks to give them a bit more time to get things up and running. There is no deadline to submit the enrollment notice but it should be done before the start of school in your local district. This notice does not expire like the old one did. Your child should remain enrolled until you withdraw your child from home study. Should you choose to ignore or forget the submission of the annual notice, you could end up facing the local truancy officers or DCF asking where your child is enrolled.