

Hot Springs Homeschool Academy



Handbook 2025-2026

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Hot Springs School District 23-2 Mission Statement:

"Work, Learn, Achieve, Celebrate."

We believe that.....All students can learn. • Academic excellence is the focus of learning and supports the total development of the student. • Students learn best when they are actively involved. • Students are individual learners with differing learning styles, maturation rates, and educational needs. • Students must be given the opportunity to reach their potential. • Students can learn to productively work both individually and cooperatively with others.

We believe that.....Our purpose is to prepare all students to succeed. Parents must be active partners with the school in the students' education. • Students, staff, and community must be involved in the decision making process. • Schools and communities must be willing to change when it is in the best interest of the students. • It is vital to be committed to academic excellence in our schools.

Disclaimer: As a handbook for a pilot program, changes may be made throughout the year as we learn what works best for students and families. Families will be notified of changes to the handbook.

Purpose:

The Hot Springs School District 23-2 is expanding its focus, creating access to homeschool families who choose to have their children participate. This is limited to grades 6-12.

Who is Eligible?

Factors such as capacity, student attendance, and history of student success will be considered when assessing eligibility during the enrollment process. Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year ends on September 1st. Families are encouraged to register before May 31st for thorough preparation both for the school and families.

Eligibility criteria includes:

- Residents of the Hot Springs School District 23-2 are eligible to enroll their child (6th-12th grade) for the Hot Springs Homeschool Academy.
- Admittance to the program will be for students who were homeschooled for the 2024-2025 school year.

What are my students' options for enrollment?

The Bison Homeschool Program is open to Hot Springs School District 23-2 students who are interested in part-time enrollment (online or in-person), full-time enrollment (online or in-person) or a blended combination.

- Online Self-Paced Courses
 - a. Middle School- [Courses](#)
 - b. High School- [Courses](#)
- In-person On-Site Courses - [Course Catalogue](#)
- Blended combination of online and/or in-person part-time or full-time

How do I register my student(s)?

Student registrations and enrollments will be accepted through September 1st or until student capacity is reached. The application will be two-fold.

- a. Complete the online interest survey - [link](#)
- b. Complete the student registration process - [paperwork](#)

Once the application form has been received, the district will review the submitted application.

Communication for acceptance will occur by July 1st. The school will then schedule an orientation with each family between August 1 and the first day of the school year. The orientation will determine the student's plan of study for the 25-26 school year, including online classes and/or on-site classes.

What are the expectations for participation?

- Hot Springs School District will provide 6th-12th graders with access to the online learning platform, Acellus, along with a school-issued chromebook, if needed.
- The parent/guardian is the primary supervisor and support of the student's education. Families will meet with the school once per quarter either in-person, Zoom, or through a telephone conference. Together, they will review assignments, discuss problems or areas of concern, and then plan the next quarter's goals.
- Students are expected to progress through online self-paced courses in a timely manner. Students that continually do not make progress will be removed from the Hot Springs Homeschool Academy and the Acellus program.
- Students may complete online self-paced courses early.
- A student can complete two grade levels for core classes maximum per academic year, then will be limited to elective courses.
 - Students must pass a course with a C or higher to move into the next year's coursework.
- In the event a student does not maintain the recommended academic pacing (2+ weeks behind), the school will arrange a meeting with the family to help support the student and progress.
- The enrollment with the school district allows middle school (grades 6-8) and grade 11 students to participate in state testing. This will provide academic achievement growth and feedback in regards to state standards and comparison to their peers. In addition, that state test for grade 11 beginning school year 25-26 will be the ACT.

How does the In-Person On-Site Courses work?

If enrolled into In-Person, On-Site Courses, all school policies apply to students attending including any dress codes, conduct, and academic expectations. [Handbook](#)

- Homeschool students can enroll in any course/subject offered to that grade level at the Hot Springs School District.
- Students who attend In-Person On-Site Courses will follow the pacing, expectations, and guidelines established by the teacher.

Communication Procedures:

- For the online classes, communication will be done through school email.
 - Progress meetings will be scheduled every quarter (phone call, Zoom, or in-person).
- For In-Person, On-Site Course students, communication with the teacher will be done through the Middle/High School communication procedures.

How is my students' attendance tracked?

- The teacher will take attendance each regular class period for In-Person, On-Site Courses.
- The School will take attendance for Online Courses by monitoring students' login dates, time spent in program, and/or coursework completed/progress monitoring.

- Per district policy, anything over 7 (seven) absences is considered excessive.
- Families should share planned extended absences due to vacations or other circumstances with the school so they can modify pacing recommendations to meet your family's needs.

School-Issued Device:

If requested, students may receive a school-issued device for their online learning. This device is to be used exclusively for academic purposes and is not a family and personal device. See the [handbook](#) for further information.

HOT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT; Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of a computer, or the files of another user, without the consent of the individual, school administrator, or technology administrator will be considered an act of vandalism and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the current Student Handbook. Additionally, if the computer or device is damaged in any way it will be determined by administration for the Parent or Guardian to cover replacement costs. Replacement costs will be determined upon evaluation of the damaged device.

Truancy & Removal from Program:

If a student has missed 15 consecutive school days (no activity logged within the Online Self-Paced Course and/or attendance for In-Person, On-Site Courses), the student will be dropped from the school district per SD Admin Rule 24:17:03:06.

SD Admin Rule 24:17:03:06: Student count for state aid purposes. No student who has an unexcused absence of 15 consecutive school days may be included in the count of the attendance center for state aid purposes, retroactive to the last day the student attended school or had an excused absence. An excused absence, for purposes of this section, includes medical illness and enrollment in a short-term group care education program for up to 90 consecutive school days. Nothing in this section supersedes the student due process requirements referenced in SDCL chapter 13-32, article 24:07, or other applicable law.