

The Alabama State Department of Education is the authority on all education matters, and the State Superintendent is the chief executive officer of that department. It is the Superintendent's job to "explain the true intent and meaning of the school laws".

The ALSDE website was previously www.alsde.edu. That website had documents on file explaining laws pertaining to homeschooling and an FAQ page with helpful information for parents. The department recently made a new website and shut down the old one. The new website is www.alabamaachieves.org. Unfortunately, the new website no longer contains many documents and information that were previously available. While some documents are at least mentioned & have links to external sources that provide pdf copies, some documents were completely abandoned and are difficult to hunt down from third party sources. Also, their Homeschool FAQ page remains unfinished leaving parents little information to go on to make sure they are properly following the law.

We do, thankfully, have links to an archived version of the old website:

On this page you can see where certain documents were uploaded to the ALSDE website, the dates they were uploaded, and the names of the people that uploaded them.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210126074221/https://www.alsde.edu/ofc/osp/NonPublic%20School%20Information/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

On this page you can see ACT 2014-245 which amended the educational code of Alabama.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170706174015/http://www.alsde.edu/ofc/osp/NonPublic%20School%20Information/Regulation%20of%20Non-Public%20Schools%202014.pdf>

On this page you can see the document the ALSDE released giving clarification on SB 2014-245

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170706174011/http://www.alsde.edu/ofc/osp/NonPublic%20School%20Information/Private%20School%20Law%20Bullets.pdf>

Additionally, we have a screen shot of the old FAQ page that clarifies what is required and expected of homeschoolers.



Sections

Specialized Treatment Centers

Non-Public Schools

▼ Q: I homeschool my children. Am I required to register with the state?

A: While Act 2014-245 requires that private schools (except church schools) register annually with the Department of Education, it is the interpretation of the State Superintendent of Education that this requirement does not apply to home school students. The collection of information regarding tuition, number of instructors, enrollment, value of property, and general condition of the school, tend to lend themselves to a brick and mortar facility rather than a home school environment.

▼ Is a "cover school" required for home schooling in Alabama?

It is the opinion of the State Superintendent of Education that a "cover school" is not required of parents who choose to home school their children.

▼ Q: Do the same requirements (such as they are) exist for all nonpublic schools, regardless of whether they're affiliated with a church or not?

A: No. Only private schools are required to annually register with the ALSDE.

▼ Q: If someone starts a nonpublic school and does not register with the ALSDE, will that person be reprimanded or forced to comply?

A: The ALSDE is not authorized to license or regulate any private, nonpublic, or church school offering instruction in grades K-12 or any combination thereof.

▼ Q: The law requires guardians to prove their children ages 6-17 are in school by giving their names to the local superintendent, is that right?

A: Yes. Parents' homeschooling their children should notify the local public school superintendent that they are homeschooling their children. This notification is only required at the initial decision to homeschool, and is not required to be made annually.

▼ Q: Does the ALSDE (or any other agency) check to make sure a parent has notified the superintendent of participation in home or church schooling?

A: No. The ALSDE is not authorized to license or regulate any private, nonpublic, or church school offering instruction in grades K-12 or any combination thereof.

Finally, it is worth noting that the Montgomery County BOE's website has a homeschooling FAQ page that reiterates the information that was detailed on the old state website.

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3852/MPS/3333013/Homeschool_FAQ.pdf