

Home schooling is not the same as public school online, as many families did in March due to the pandemic. Home schooling means that you've turned in a notice of intent to your child's school district, which states that you're no longer a part of the public school system and are taking charge of your child's education on your own.

Even parents who work full time can find ways to home-school, said Brian D. Ray, president of the National Home Education Research Institute. That might mean connecting with local support groups and cooperatives, or getting a relative involved to help.

*Suggest watching Carl Broggi's [Learn to Homeschool](#) on the www.publicschoolexit.com webpage and/or Colin Gunn and Joaquin Fernandez, www.Indoctrinationmovie.com. **Exodus Mandate also has IndoctriNation DVDs available on our website, www.exodusmandate.org.**

1. Find out your state home school requirements

Home schooling is legal in all 50 states. However, every state has different home schooling laws and requirements, which you can find on your state department of education's website. You can also find a list of laws by state on www.hslda.org.

2. Search for home school groups

You'll find both national and local groups on Facebook -- just search for "home schooling" and your town or county. If you already know someone in your area who home-schools, ask them for help, too. Many areas have home school pods or co-ops where you can pair up with other families for lessons. This might look different due to COVID-19, but may still exist in some form -- perhaps outdoor, socially distanced classes.

Finding a home school community in your area can help you with just about everything -- navigating curriculum options, setting up a schedule and just figuring out what you're doing. **Find a church** that supports and encourages homeschooling! It also potentially gives you the opportunity to share the teaching burden with others, and give your kids some social time. www.homeschool.com/supportgroups

www.thehomeschoolmom.com/find-other-homeschoolerscommunity/ (See Co-Op Method)

Read this link posted Homeschool Mom (March 2016): <https://demmelearning.com/learning-blog/how-to-connect-with-otherparents/>

<https://www.familyeducation.com/school/homeschoolinggroups/connecting-other-homeschoolers-you-probably-know-some-already>

3. Choose a school space and a schedule

Decide where your home school space will be -- ideally, somewhere where everyone can sit comfortably and concentrate. This might mean using the kitchen table, or putting desks in the same room.

One of the perks of home schooling is that your schedule can be far more flexible than in a traditional school. If your kids are early risers, start the day earlier. Depending on their learning style, you may also be able to move more quickly through some lessons and free up time for afternoon activities, like visiting a park, go on a nature hunt, etc.

4. Look for curriculum options

Searching for lessons online can be overwhelming -- there are hundreds of options available. You can find boxes that provide books and curriculum materials for a whole year of a given subject, or fully online programs. What you choose should depend on your child's learning style, and what you feel comfortable with as a parent teacher.

Many people take a hybrid approach: A parent might teach reading and writing, and have their child take a math course online, along with "electives" like coding or a language.

Whatever blend you choose, you don't have to spend much money on curriculum. On average, parents spend around \$600 per year per child for materials. But there's a very wide range: Some spend under \$100, and others spend thousands. You can definitely get by for relatively little cost: A lot of home school groups sell or trade used curriculum boxes, so you might get something that originally cost a couple of thousand dollars for just a couple of hundred. **Facebook Pages**: Homeschool Curriculum: Buy/Sell/Trade, Homeschool Classifieds, Homeschool Curriculum – New & Used, etc.

Schoolhouseteachers.com, publicschooexit.com, FPEUSA.org, Classicalconversation.com, Liberty University Online, Bob Jones, Apologia, Alpha and Omega, homeschoolacademy.com, face.net, etc.

Record Keeping Sites: <https://homeschoolhelperonline.com/?s=record+keeping> Missouri Homeschool Mom Amy Smith developed this free site which has 14 forms.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/homeschool-record-keeping-forms-1833483> A classic year-long attendance form and a Physical Education form.

5. Be flexible about home schooling

Home schooling offers you a great opportunity to take advantage of the world around you. Say you notice a bird's nest built in your backyard -- you can throw out the science lesson you were planning for that day and instead pull out the Field Guide to North American Birds and pivot to learning about that together.

This might seem strange at first, but remember, you do not need to recreate an institutional school in your home. If you do, you're going to miss out on many of the benefits of home-based education.