

# Home Schooling in Wallowa County

Wallowa ESD – Region 18  
107 SW first Street, Suite 105  
Enterprise, OR 97828  
[info@wallowaesd.k12.or.us](mailto:info@wallowaesd.k12.or.us)

## **SIGNING UP**

**How can I register my student for home schooling?** The home schooling statute, which became effective in September, 1985 (updated 1999) states that parents, guardians or tutors of home schooling students in Oregon must notify the ESD Superintendent of their plans to educate their children at home. Written notice must be given to Wallowa ESD at least ten (10) days prior to withdrawing the student from school. Request a notification form and submit to:

Superintendent  
Wallowa ESD – Region 18  
107 SW First Street, Suite 105  
Enterprise, OR 97828  
Phone: 541-426-7600

The following information is required:

- 1) Student's full name
- 2) Birth date
- 3) Whether or not the student has disabilities
- 4) Name of the public school district in which the child resides
- 5) Relationship, name, address and phone number of the person providing notification.

### **Do I have to notify my local school district?**

Parents are not required by law to notify the local school district of their intent to home school. When Wallowa ESD has received your completed form, we will send a receipt of notification to you and a notice to your local superintendent.

### **Do I need to notify Wallowa ESD each year?**

No, you must notify Wallowa ESD as provided by ORS 339.030(1)(c)or(d) within 10 days of beginning to home school or within 10 days of when the student is withdrawn from private/public school; or when a child who is taught by a parent, legal guardian or private teacher moves to a new education service district.

### **How old does a student have to be in order to register for home schooling?**

Students between the ages of 7 (before September 1) and 18 years may be registered for home schooling.

### **What if I don't register my student for home schooling?**

The compulsory attendance law requires that all students between the ages of 7 and 18 years attend public/private school or be registered for home schooling. Your student may be reported as truant if she/he is not registered with Wallowa ESD for home schooling and court action may follow.

### **What should I do if I move or re-enroll my child in public/private school?**

Notify Wallowa ESD either by phone or in writing when you move or re-enroll your child in public/private school.

## **TESTING INFORMATION**

### **Do home school students need to be tested?**

Yes, home school students must be tested in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 by August 15, in accordance with the following procedures:

- A. The parent or legal guardian shall select an examination from the list of approved tests and arrange to have the test administered to the child by a neutral qualified person.
- B. If the child is withdrawn from public or private school, the first test shall be given to the child at least 18 months after the date on which the child was withdrawn from public or private school.
- C. If the child never attended public or private school, the first examination shall be administered to the child prior to the end of grade 3.

### **At what age must a home-schooled child be tested?**

Testing for grade levels 3, 5, 8, and 10 shall occur by August 15. The first year is defined as when the child is seven by September 1, or earlier at the parent's discretion. Testing must also be administered at least 18 months after the date a child is withdrawn from public or private school. All costs for the testing and scoring are the responsibility of the parent.

### **Which test will be used?**

Tests approved for assessment of satisfactory progress by home school students (2017) are:

- \* Terra Nova 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
- \* Iowa Test of Basic Skills
- \* Stanford 10<sup>th</sup> edition

### **How will the ESD know if the test administrator is qualified?**

The State Department of Education provides a list of qualified testers annually. If a person becomes qualified after the list is processed they can obtain a letter from the State Department stating their approval. A copy of the letter should be kept on file with Wallowa ESD.

### **Will Wallowa ESD or the local school district give the test to the student?**

Wallowa ESD will not give tests to home schooling students unless requested. Some local school districts allow testing of home school students with their regular students. Results of tests given in the local school district may be submitted as home schooling tests. The test must be given and submitted according to the approved timeline. It is up to the local school district to decide whether or not to include home schooling students in the district testing program. The ESD may charge for this service.

### **How will I know if the student has passed the test?**

The student must show satisfactory educational progress. The student must score at or above the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile on one of the approved tests, or the student can score no lower than she/he did on the previous composite test to show satisfactory educational progress. The first test administered is used for the baseline.

Upon request of the superintendent of the education service district, the parent or legal guardian shall submit the results of the examination to the education service district.

### **What if the student does not show "satisfactory progress"?**

If the ESD Superintendent finds that the child is not showing satisfactory progress based on the test results and other available information, the parent/guardian will be notified in writing, and the ESD Superintendent may order the parent or guardian to send the child to school for the remainder of the school year. If the child is not returned to school after the ESD Superintendent gives the order, the parent or guardian will be violating the compulsory school attendance laws and may be fined up to \$100 and/or jailed up to 30 days if convicted. The parent or guardian may appeal this decision by filing a written

statement with the State Superintendent in Salem. The appeal must be made within thirty (30) calendar days, and include a copy of the test results for the current and prior school year(s), and the Superintendent's reasons for returning the child to school. A copy of the appeal must be given to the Wallowa ESD Superintendent. The State Superintendent will answer with thirty (30) calendar days after receiving the appeal. During this time period, the student is not required to attend school. The State superintendent's answer may be appealed to circuit court.

### **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND CURRICULUM**

#### **Where do I get materials, such as books and workbooks?**

Wallowa ESD and local school districts are not required by law to provide student books or workbooks. Parents may call their local public school principal or superintendent for more information on district policies for loaning books.

#### **How do I know what to teach?**

Contact your public school principal or counselor. They may provide some guidelines regarding what is being taught in the regular school program.

#### **What if the student learns at home using the materials of a correspondence or online school, or online curriculum?**

Students learning at home using materials of a correspondence or online school are considered home school students and must be registered with Wallowa ESD (unless they are 16 and the parent or guardian has had them released from compulsory education by their resident district high school). Students educated in a state recognized private school are not considered home school students.

### **INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES**

#### **What are the requirements for home school students regarding athletic activities?**

Home school students may participate in interscholastic activities in his/her resident district if the student meets all of the requirements:

- A. Achieves a composite test score that is not less than the 23<sup>rd</sup> percentile on any of the approved tests.
- B. Submits student's composite test score to the district prior to participation in an interscholastic activity.
- C. Any public school student who chooses to be home schooled may participate in interscholastic activities while awaiting test score results.
- D. A school district may adopt alternative requirements, in consultation with the parent or legal guardian of a home school student, that a student must meet to participate in interscholastic activities, including but not limited to a requirement that a student submit a portfolio of work samples to a school district committee for review to determine whether a student is eligible to participate in interscholastic activities.

### **SCHOOL RECORDS**

#### **Will a home school student receive a high school diploma?**

Wallowa ESD does not give diplomas to home schooling students. Parents may contact the local school superintendent or high school principal regarding any local district policies on accepting credits toward diplomas.

#### **Where are the student's permanent school records kept?**

The home schooling student's permanent school record will be kept in the last public or private school attended. The Wallowa ESD keeps home schooling notifications and requested test results.

## **HANDICAPPED STUDENTS**

### **What if the student is handicapped or suspected of having a handicapping condition?**

The State Department of Education has developed special administrative rules to cover the special needs of handicapped students. Visit [www.oregon.gov/ode/](http://www.oregon.gov/ode/) or call Wallowa ESD.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **How can I get a copy of the State statute and administrative rules on home schooling?**

Copies are available from:

Linda Jo Brufladt  
State Department of Education  
Public Office of Student Services  
255 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, OR 97310-0203  
Phone: 503-378-3600, ext. 2707

The State Department fills requests periodically, so there may be a waiting period. They also can answer any questions regarding home schooling.

### **Where can I find current information on Home Schooling in Oregon, including a current list of Home School Testers?**

For qualification requirements and current lists of testers, laws, data, resources, and other home schooling information:

[www.oregon.gov/ode/](http://www.oregon.gov/ode/)