



HOME / FIELD GUIDE

FIELD GUIDE

How to Start Homeschooling in 2026 — A Method-Neutral Field Guide for Every Family, Every Entry Point, Every Approach

The canonical starter guide for the 2026 family — covering every entry point from fresh kindergarten to a mid-stream high-school senior, every approach from classical to Charlotte Mason, Reformed, Catholic, secular, Montessori, unschooling, traditional textbook, unit study, online academy, and hybrid, across the United States and ten international regions, with five worked first-year budgets and a 90-day plan per family situation.

UPDATED MAY 1, 2026

EVERY HOMESCHOOL EDITORIAL TEAM

300 MIN

Introduction

The question this booklet answers is the one Every Homeschool receives more than any other: *I want to homeschool — where do I start?* Some version of that question arrives every week, from families standing at very different doorways. A parent of a four-year-old whose preschool just folded. A father whose third-grader is hating phonics at a private Christian academy. A mother whose sixth-grader spent six years in a rigid evangelical textbook program and is asking for something else. A couple withdrawing four children, ages eight to fourteen, from a public district mid-year. A grandparent who

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Most existing answers presume one of two things. They presume the family knows which method it wants — Charlotte Mason, classical, unit study, textbook, eclectic — and offers a starter pack inside that method. Or they presume the family is starting at kindergarten with a young child and a blank schedule, and ignores the much more common situation: a child who has already been somewhere else, mid-stream, with habits and gaps that the curriculum has to absorb. Both presumptions are wrong often enough that the most consequential first conversations a new family has with itself are about something other than method. They are about which doorway the family is actually standing in.

This booklet is organized accordingly. Part one — sections one through three — covers what every family does, regardless of method, in a defensible order. The legal launch comes first because it is binding and because the truancy clock runs from the day a child is withdrawn, not from the day the family files paperwork. Money comes second because the Education Savings Account landscape changed faster between 2022 and 2026 than any single state-by-state primer can keep up with, and a family in a universal-eligibility state in 2026 spends a different first year than a family in a no-program state. The four pre-method decisions come third because method is downstream of worldview, budget, parent time, and state framework — not upstream.

Part two — sections four through nine — sorts families by entry point rather than by method. A fresh-kindergarten family choosing among Memoria Press, Sonlight, AmblesideOnline, Easy Peasy, and The Good and the Beautiful is making a different decision than a family pulling four children out of public school in March. A family with one sixth-grader who has done six years of Abeka is making a different decision than a family with one fourth-grader leaving a Christian classical school after three years of Latin. The streams in this booklet — Stream A through Stream F — exist because those situations have stopped being interchangeable. Each stream describes who arrives there, what the first ninety days look like, what publishers serve the tradition options inside that stream, what curriculum gaps the parent has to absorb personally, and what the realistic parent-time cost is.

Three things this booklet refuses to do. It does not advocate one method. A Charlotte Mason curriculum and an Abeka K5 print kit are described in the same matter-of-fact register, with the same level of detail, with the same inline links to publisher-current pricing, with no editorial preference between them. It does not sell a curriculum. Every Homeschool collects no affiliate revenue from any publisher named in these pages, and the order in which publishers appear inside each stream is alphabetical or chronological, not promotional. It does not simplify the fifty-state legal landscape into a single paragraph. The launch table in section one runs across all fifty states plus the District of Columbia, and the differences between Texas (no notification, no testing, no portfolio) and New York (Letter of Intent plus IHIP within twenty-eight days plus four quarterly reports plus annual assessment) are real differences that families ignore at the cost of a truancy investigation.

The tradition spread runs the full register. Christian families across every denomination — Reformed, evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Mennonite-Plain — are described alongside Latter-day Saint, Jewish, Muslim-tradition, and explicitly secular families using the same descriptive vocabulary. The Good and the Beautiful is described as the publisher identifies itself (non-denominational Christian) alongside the fact that founder Jenny Phillips is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with no editorial color attached to either fact. Wildwood Curriculum is described as explicitly secular and inclusive of Pagan, Jewish, and Buddhist contributors. Mater Amabilis is described as the canonical free Catholic Charlotte Mason curriculum. Ani Ve-ami is described as the first Jewish homeschool curriculum built on Charlotte Mason principles. The reader concludes; the booklet states facts.

Two existing Every Homeschool publications carry the depth that this booklet cross-references rather than duplicates. The first is the long-form history at [Trivium](#), [Quadrivium](#), and [Charlotte Mason — A Booklet on Classical Education from Augustine to 2026](#), which traces the seven liberal arts from Augustine's *De Ordine* through the twentieth-century American classical revival. The second is the state-by-state ESA

approved-vendor notes. The two function as the long companions to this short on-ramp.

A note on what comes after section nine. The present booklet covers the United States — the legal launch in fifty states plus the District of Columbia, the ESA landscape, the publisher market, the entry-point streams. The companion volume now in research covers ten regions outside the United States: Canada, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the European Union (with country-by-country detail on Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden where homeschool law is most contested), the Gulf states (with detail on the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar where US-curriculum homeschooling is widespread among expat families), and Latin America (with detail on Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile). That second half ships separately when the jurisdictional research clears editorial review. For now, the United States on-ramp is the present document.

The audience this booklet is built for is the family that has decided — tentatively, conditionally, in some cases under pressure — that the next thing they are going to do is homeschool, and is now trying to figure out what that means in their actual house with their actual children this September. The ambition is to be the document that family reads first, cites in conversations with relatives who have opinions, and consults again in October when the first plan needs adjusting. The booklet does not replace conversations with the state Department of Public Instruction, the family CPA, the family attorney, or other licensed professionals where those conversations are warranted, and the call-outs in the text flag those moments. What it does is put the foundational facts on one shelf, with primary-source links beside each one, so that the rest of the family's research begins from a defensible baseline rather than from a Facebook thread.

A final word on register. The American homeschool conversation carries decades of accumulated tradition heat, and a booklet that enters that conversation has a choice. It can pick a side. It can perform neutrality while quietly favoring one tradition. Or it can describe what is there. Every Homeschool was founded on the third posture and

The Good and the Beautiful and to Mater Amabilis, to Memoria Press and to Mosdos Press, with the same descriptive vocabulary and the same level of detail. The reader concludes. The booklet states facts.

WHERE THIS LEAVES US

Entry point first, then method. Worldview, budget, parent time, and state legal framework are the four decisions that come before any curriculum choice. The streams in this booklet — Fresh K, Early Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School, High School, Multi-Grade Family — are organized around the doorway a family is actually walking through, not around the method the family will eventually pick.

1. Legal first: the launch every state expects

Every state homeschool launch reduces to the same five operational questions, regardless of which regulatory tier a state sits in. Who receives the notice, when, and in what form. What records the family must keep. Whether annual testing is required, and if so which tests qualify. How a child already enrolled in public school is formally withdrawn — a step that is procedurally separate from the homeschool launch in roughly twenty-eight states. And what pathway exists for a child with an Individualized Education Program, a Section 504 plan, or a documented disability who needs services to continue. A family that answers these five questions in the right order does not get a truancy letter. A family that answers them out of order — and there are well-documented ways to do this — can be in compliance on the homeschool side and out of compliance on the public-school side simultaneously.

The four legal categories

Ill. 574 (1950), Indiana, Michigan under the [2025-26 Nonpublic and Homeschool Manual](#), Missouri, New Jersey under [State v. Massa \(1967\)](#), Oklahoma — protected directly in [Article XIII §4 of the state constitution](#) — and Texas under [Texas Education Agency v. Leeper \(Tex. 1994\)](#). In these states no state agency receives a homeschool launch notice. Withdrawal from a public-school enrollment, where one exists, still requires its own letter to the local school.

Notification only covers roughly twenty-six states, where a one-time or annual filing satisfies the state but no recurring testing or portfolio requirement attaches. California operates the Private School Affidavit (PSA) filed annually with the [California Department of Education](#) between October 1 and 15 under EC §33190. Arizona requires the affidavit to the county superintendent within thirty days of starting and is then one-time unless the family moves. Wisconsin requires the PI-1206 form by October 15 to the [Department of Public Instruction](#).

Notification plus testing or evaluation covers approximately ten states. Florida requires a Notice of Intent to the district within thirty days under [Fla. Stat. §1002.41](#), retention of a portfolio for two years, and an annual evaluation chosen from one of five options (certified teacher evaluation, nationally normed test, state assessment, psychologist evaluation, or district-approved alternative). North Carolina requires a Notice of Intent through [DNPE](#), an upload of the chief administrator's high school diploma under [G.S. §115C-563\(a\)](#), and an annual nationally standardized achievement test in English grammar, reading, spelling, and math, retained one year at the home school per [DPI requirements](#). Tennessee Independent Path requires Notice of Intent before the school year, four hours per day for 180 days, attendance records, and standardized testing in grades 5, 7, and 9 administered by the Commissioner or an LEA-approved testing service per the [Tennessee Department of Education](#).

Notification plus testing plus portfolio covers five states. Massachusetts requires *prior written approval* from the local school committee under [Care and Protection of Charles](#),

notarized affidavit by August 1 under [24 P.S. §13-1327.1](#), contemporaneous instructional logs, standardized testing in grades 3, 5, and 8 (the parent cannot administer), and an evaluator review by June 30 per [HSLDA's Pennsylvania compliance guide](#). Rhode Island requires local school committee approval under [R.I. Gen. Laws §16-19-2](#). Vermont requires an annual Notice of Intent filed at least ten business days before starting under [16 V.S.A. §166b](#) and operates under the attestation model since H.461 (2023) per the [Vermont Agency of Education](#). The District of Columbia operates under DCMR Title 5-A Chapter 52, with annual notice and portfolio review through the [Office of the State Superintendent of Education](#).

The five-step launch sequence

Across every tier, the operational launch reduces to the same five ordered steps. Determine which tier the state sits in. File whatever the state requires within the timing window. Begin the recordkeeping pattern the state expects from day one rather than reconstructing it later. Decide whether the state requires testing this year and, if so, schedule the test before the calendar gets crowded. Withdraw the child from any prior public-school enrollment *after* the homeschool launch is acknowledged where the state requires acknowledgment, or *concurrently* where the state does not. The order matters. North Carolina families regularly receive truancy letters because they withdrew first and waited for DNPE acknowledgment second; Massachusetts families receive truancy letters for the same reason in reverse, having withdrawn before the school committee approved.

The withdrawal step is the one new families most often miss. Roughly twenty-eight states treat the homeschool launch notice and the public-school withdrawal as procedurally separate operations. In Texas, no state filing exists, but a written letter to the public-school principal or registrar is required to close the cumulative file. In California, the PSA filing covers the homeschool launch but a separate written withdrawal closes the prior-school cumulative file. In New York, the Letter of Intent and

bureaucratic entities, and each runs its own clock. A family that does not close the public-school side gets letters from the district's truancy office while remaining fully compliant on the state homeschool side.

Special-needs accommodation pathways

Three structural patterns exist for children with documented disabilities who need services to continue. The first is **public dual-enrollment for IEP services**: the student is educated at home for academics but enrolled in the public district for the IEP-driven therapy, speech, occupational therapy, or other service. Colorado, North Carolina, Ohio, Massachusetts, New York, Minnesota, and Virginia all permit this dual arrangement in some form. The second is **categorical ESA funding tied to documented disability**: Indiana's [INESA](#) provides up to \$20,000 per IEP-documented student per year, Mississippi's Special-Needs ESA at \$6,500 and up requires documented disability, Arizona's ESA carries special-needs add-ons by IDEA category up to approximately \$22,000–\$45,000, and North Carolina's ESA+ provides approximately \$9,000–\$17,000 per documented disability per the [NC SEAA](#). The third is **private services entirely**: Texas, Illinois, Oklahoma, New Jersey, Alaska, Michigan, and Missouri leave families to procure speech, occupational therapy, evaluations, and tutoring from the open market. Federal IDEA does not extend equitable-services funding to homeschoolers in the same way it does to private-school students.

The Montana picture changed in late 2025. The state's Special-Needs ESA was blocked by the [Lewis & Clark District Court](#) in December 2025, with existing enrollees grandfathered through June 30, 2026. Wyoming's Steamboat Legacy Scholarship was likewise blocked earlier in 2026 and then unblocked when the [Wyoming Supreme Court](#) reversed the lower-court injunction on May 14, 2026, restarting the \$50 million program. *Verify with attorney* for the special-needs legal landscape in any state where the family's child has an active IEP, because state-by-state movement on these programs has been particularly volatile in 2025–2026.

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

reference covering both stateside and overseas situations. Overseas military and DoD civilian families are exempt from US state compulsory-attendance statutes while overseas per [Military OneSource](#) and may or may not be subject to host-country school laws depending on host requirements. The [DoDEA Virtual High School](#) offers three programs: DVHS Supplemental, DVHS Expanded Eligibility Participation Program (E2P2), and the Non-DoD Schools Program for overseas command-sponsored families with educational allowances. Special-needs (EFMP) families receive priority NDSP placement; on-base school enrollment options vary by installation.

State quick-reference patterns

A handful of states are common enough among first-year families to warrant their own quick-reference paragraph here. The full state-by-state launch table is published as a separate Every Homeschool reference at hsllda.org/legal with statute anchors per state.

Texas: no state notification, no testing, no portfolio. The *Leeper* decision (1994) established private-school treatment, and the [Texas Education Agency](#) page confirms TEA does not regulate, register, or accredit homeschool programs. The single operational requirement is a withdrawal letter to the prior public-school principal or registrar (no state form exists). Texas families enrolled in TEFA carry the additional documentation burden the program imposes. **Florida:** Notice of Intent to the district within thirty days of starting per [Fla. Stat. §1002.41](#); portfolio retained for two years; annual evaluation chosen from one of five options; the Notice of Intent doubles as the withdrawal trigger. **North Carolina:** Notice of Intent through DNPE; chief administrator high school diploma upload required; annual nationally standardized test in English grammar, reading, spelling, and math; the 2026 NOI window closed May 1 and reopens July 6, 2026, per [DNPE NC.gov](#); do not withdraw from public school until DNPE acknowledgment is received. **California:** annual Private School Affidavit (PSA) to the California Department of Education between October 1 and 15. **New York:** Letter of

WHAT SECTION ONE ESTABLISHES

The five-step launch — tier, file, record, test, withdraw — is the same in every state, and the order in which the steps are taken is the difference between a clean launch and a truancy letter. The four-tier scheme published by HSLDA is the standard reference; the state-by-state detail in those pages is hyperlinked above for direct verification. Withdrawal is its own operation in roughly twenty-eight states. Special-needs accommodations sit in three structurally distinct buckets: dual enrollment, categorical ESA, or private services entirely. None of this is optional reading; the remainder of this booklet assumes the family has already completed the legal launch.

2. Money and ESA: what to spend in year one

The single most-cited number in homeschool money conversations is the **\$600-per-student annual median** reported by the National Home Education Research Institute in its [Research Facts on Homeschooling](#), set against an average \$16,446 per public-school student in taxpayer cost. The same NHERI source places the United States homeschool population at approximately 3.408 million students in 2024–25, roughly 6.3% of school-age children, with about 41% of homeschool families identifying as non-white or non-Hispanic. The \$600 figure is the median. Actual year-one spending varies materially by structural choice, and a family that pursues an Education Savings Account in a universal-eligibility state can spend rather more than \$600 without spending its own money.

Six budget bands

The bands a family typically lands in, ranked by structural choice rather than by ambition:

- **Boxed curriculum plus one outsourced subject (math subscription, online language):** \$800–\$1,800
- **Hybrid or co-op enrollment (Classical Conversations, university-model school):** \$1,500–\$4,000 per child
- **Online accredited academy (Liberty University Online Academy, Veritas Scholars Academy):** \$2,500–\$10,000 per child
- **Microschool or Acton Academy private tuition:** \$11,000–\$14,000 per child

The free-stack budget is real and used by tens of thousands of families. It typically combines [AmblesideOnline](#) for the Charlotte Mason framework with public-domain books from [Project Gutenberg](#) and library borrowing for everything not in the public domain, or [Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool](#) for a complete Christian K–12 curriculum at no cost, or [Wildwood Curriculum](#) for free secular Charlotte Mason. Trade-off: parent research time replaces dollars, and the physical book inventory is limited to library availability.

The ESA landscape in 2026–27

The Education Savings Account picture changed faster between 2022 and 2026 than most reference materials track. The headline distinction is **homeschool-eligible** versus **homeschool-excluded**. ESA programs that route through accredited nonpublic schools — Iowa Students First, Indiana Choice, Tennessee EFS — require enrollment in a participating private school as the funding mechanism, even when the student is educated at home. True homeschool ESAs flow funds directly to a parent-controlled account. Twelve programs in the universal or near-universal homeschool-eligible tier as of May 2026.

Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Account runs approximately \$7,000–\$8,000 typical for grades 1–12 (90% of the base support level under [A.R.S. §15-2402](#)), about

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Universal since 2022.

Florida's Personalized Education Program via Step Up For Students runs approximately \$8,000 per student varying by county, with the 2026–27 figure published in July 2026. Universal in eligibility, but capped at 140,000 students with income priority up to 400% of the federal poverty level. The 2026–27 application closed April 30, 2026, and the program is at capacity for the current cycle.

West Virginia's Hope Scholarship is projected at \$5,435 for 2026–27 and becomes universal for K–12 starting in the 2026–27 cycle. The new application window runs March 2 through June 15, 2026 at 100% funding, tiered to 25% funding through February 28, 2027. Existing private and homeschool families are eligible for the first time.

Utah's Utah Fits All Scholarship runs \$4,000 for home-based students ages 5–11, \$6,000 for home-based ages 12–18, and \$8,000 for full-time private school enrollment, with a \$120 million total allocation for 2026–27. Renewals are prioritized; new applications run via the Odyssey marketplace.

Arkansas' LEARNS Education Freedom Account runs \$7,208 standard or \$8,162 for former Succeed Scholarship recipients, with the application window running March 9 through June 1, 2026. Universal as of 2025–26.

New Hampshire's Education Freedom Account provides a base \$4,265.64 plus differentiated aid for low-income, disability, and English language learner students, up to roughly \$9,000 total. Priority deadline April 2026; universal since SB 295 was signed June 10, 2025.

Louisiana's LA GATOR Scholarship operates on tiered amounts: \$5,243 for families at or below 55% of MFP standard, \$7,626 for families at or below 80% MFP and below 250% FPL, and up to \$15,253 for IDEA-disability students. The 2025–26 application window ran March 1 through March 16. Homeschool families in Louisiana cannot remain

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Wyoming's Steamboat Legacy Scholarship at \$7,000 per family per edu.wyoming.gov was blocked through early 2026 and unblocked by the [Wyoming Supreme Court](#) on May 14, 2026. Superintendent Megan Degenfelder is restarting the \$50 million program; first-come-first-served disbursement.

Missouri's [MOScholars / Family Paced Education](#) provides up to \$6,375 per student, approximately 50% of the state adequacy target of \$6,760. Eligibility tiers expand the cap for IEP students (up to 175%), LEP students (up to 160%), and FRPL-eligible students (up to 125%). Income-tested or IEP-tested.

Tax-credit programs in **Idaho** and **Oklahoma** operate differently. Idaho's [Parental Choice Tax Credit](#) provides up to \$5,000 per student (refundable), with \$7,500 for qualifying disability. Advance-payment income limit is 300% federal poverty (2024 baseline); the credit cannot be used to pay a parent. Oklahoma's [Parental Choice Tax Credit](#) caps the homeschool benefit at \$1,000 per student (private-school students get \$5,000–\$7,500), with HB 3705 signed May 13, 2026 raising the statewide cap to \$275 million. Application open through June 15, 2026 for 2026–27.

Texas' [Texas Education Freedom Account](#) is in its first year for 2026–27. Per the [TEFA Program](#) page, the homeschool benefit is \$2,000 and the private-school benefit is \$10,474. Application ran February 4 through March 17, 2026. The \$2,000 homeschool amount is materially below the universal-state programs above, which is the operative fact for Texas families weighing whether ESA enrollment is worth the documentation overhead.

ESA marketplaces and what counts as an allowable expense

ESA programs route family spending through state-contracted Education Management Account platforms. Knowing which platform a state uses tells the family which vendor catalog applies. [ClassWallet](#) runs Arizona ESA, North Carolina ESA+, Arkansas LEARNs, and several smaller programs. Odyssey runs Utah Fits All, Louisiana LA GATOR, and

Universal allowable categories across most marketplaces include curriculum and instructional materials, testing fees (AP, SAT, ACT, CLT, CLEP), tutoring and educational therapies, online courses, computer hardware (often capped — TEFA caps at 10% of the annual amount; Arizona allows but with documentation), specialty service providers (speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy), and in some programs postsecondary education. Categories typically not allowed include parent compensation (Idaho, Arizona, and most programs explicitly prohibit), religious instruction in some secular states, field trips and extracurricular activities (varies), and family vacations or transportation costs.

The four-scenario reimbursement matrix that follows is what actually happens at the kitchen table when a family sets a year-one budget.

Scenario A — Eligible-and-funded. A family in Arizona, Utah, Arkansas, or New Hampshire's universal-eligibility programs with a year-one budget of approximately \$2,800 (curriculum, co-op, one outsourced subject, standardized test) receives roughly \$7,000 in ESA reimbursement. Net family cost: \$0, with the remainder rolling forward in the account. Cash-flow timing: most ESAs disburse quarterly, so the family fronts Q1 spending (~\$700) before the first reimbursement clears. Documentation burden: all purchases through the approved-vendor platform, with receipts required for some categories.

Scenario B — Eligible-and-funded with hybrid enrollment. A family in Arizona enrolling at [Acton Academy Cy-Fair](#) at \$11,500 tuition plus \$500 in supplemental materials carries a \$12,000 budget. Arizona ESA reimburses approximately \$7,000–\$8,000 if Acton qualifies as an approved provider; net family cost lands at \$4,000–\$5,000. Many state ESAs allow approved private-school tuition payment, but the parent must verify the school is on the state's approved-vendor list before enrollment.

with income at or below 300% FPL, advance payment is available, otherwise refunded at filing. Net cost typically \$0 for budgets at or below \$5,000.

Scenario D — Excluded state. A family in California, New York, Michigan, Illinois, Oregon, or any state without a homeschool-eligible ESA receives no state reimbursement. Families in states with ESA programs that explicitly exclude homeschoolers — Iowa, Indiana (Choice), Ohio, Tennessee EFS, South Carolina ESTF — are similarly outside the funded category. South Carolina's ESTF is particularly worth flagging: the law specifically prohibits Options 1, 2, and 3 homeschool students from participation, though the ESTF parent-signed agreement satisfies SC compulsory attendance separately under SC Code 59-8-115(I). Federal tools available regardless of state status: 529 plans cannot fund K-12 homeschool curriculum (only K-12 tuition at private school plus higher-ed). Coverdell ESAs fund K-12 books, supplies, and equipment up to \$2,000 per year, federally available regardless of state ESA status. *Verify with CPA* for Coverdell allowable expenses, which differ from state ESA allowable lists.

Documentation discipline from day one

ESA spending creates a state audit trail. Year-one ESA families adopt a recordkeeping pattern from day one rather than reconstructing it in March. One bank account dedicated to ESA spending if the program disburses to a family bank (Utah does; Arizona uses ClassWallet directly). Receipt capture within thirty days of every purchase (some programs auto-capture via the marketplace; ClassWallet, Odyssey, and EMA do). Annual program assessment required by some ESAs — Florida PEP requires a Student Learning Plan and a state-approved annual assessment; Arizona ESA requires reading, grammar, math, social studies, and science instruction certification. Return of unused funds at high-school graduation: Arizona ESA closes the account four years after no postsecondary enrollment; Utah and others return to the state treasury after the term-of-eligibility ends.

May 2026.

The homeschool-excluded ESA tier

Several states operate ESA programs that look like homeschool programs in the marketing material but exclude homeschool families in the statute. These are the programs most commonly misunderstood. **Iowa Students First ESA** per [Iowa Department of Education](#) runs \$8,148 in 2026–27 but is restricted to “Iowa-accredited nonpublic school” only; homeschoolers are explicitly excluded. **Indiana Choice Scholarship** per [in.gov/doe](#) is universal in 2026–27 but covers private-school tuition only; homeschoolers are excluded. INESA (Indiana Education Scholarship Account) is the separate disability-only program at up to \$20,000 per student plus \$8,000 per sibling and moves from Treasurer to DOE July 1, 2026. **Tennessee Education Freedom Scholarship** per [tn.gov/education](#) runs \$7,530 in 2026–27 but requires enrollment in an EFS-registered Category I, II, or III non-public school; homeschoolers cannot apply directly. The EFS application closed February 6, 2026. **Ohio EdChoice Expansion** per [education.ohio.gov](#) runs K–8 up to \$6,166 and 9–12 up to \$8,408 (sliding-scale by income); private-school tuition only. **South Carolina ESTF** per [sc-estf-program.com](#) runs \$7,500 but the statute specifically prohibits Options 1, 2, and 3 homeschool students from participation. **Georgia Promise Scholarship (SB 233)** per [gosa.georgia.gov](#) is homeschool-eligible only if the family is from a Georgia public school attendance zone in the bottom 25% of school ratings; rising-K students are eligible without prior enrollment.

Two states with no current ESA program of any kind illustrate the policy volatility: Nebraska’s LB 1402 was repealed by the 2024 referendum; Kentucky’s Amendment 2 was defeated in November 2024. Other no-program states as of May 2026: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine (town tuitioning private only), Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota,

WHAT SECTION TWO ESTABLISHES

The NHERI median is \$600 per student per year. ESA programs in 2026–27 cover roughly half the country in some form. Twelve states run universal or near-universal homeschool-eligible programs; another six operate homeschool-excluded ESAs that are commonly mistaken for inclusive; the remainder run either disability-only programs or no ESA at all. The marketplace platform — ClassWallet, Odyssey, Step Up — determines the vendor catalog. Documentation discipline from day one keeps audit risk low. Verify the family’s specific state through the linked primary-source pages before committing budget; the landscape moves.

3. The four decisions that come before method

Most curriculum-discovery reading flips the order. It puts method first (“classical, Charlotte Mason, unit study, eclectic”), invites the family to identify with one of the camps, and then sells the publishers inside that camp. The order is wrong on its face. Method is the smallest of the five decisions a first-year family makes. The practical constraints come first: legal framework, budget, parent time. The fourth decision is the positive one — what formation tradition the family wants to apprentice the child into — and this booklet follows the framing Simon P. Kennedy lays out in *Against Worldview: Reimagining Christian Formation as Growth in Wisdom* (Lexham Press, 2024).

Kennedy’s central argument applies far beyond its Christian framing: formation is built up over years like tiles in a mosaic, not downloaded as a finished system on day one. Families pick tiles — books, teachers, practices, communities, liturgies — and the mosaic comes into view inductively as the child grows in wisdom, practical and spiritual. The decision a family is making at the start is therefore not “which worldview do you want this curriculum to match?” but rather “which tradition’s tiles are we going to spend the next twelve to fifteen years assembling?”

Every Homeschool Curriculum ESA Guides Directory Issues

deliverable calendar that shapes every subsequent choice. A family in Texas under *Texas Education Agency v. Leeper* has no state filing at all and a wide-open curriculum field. A family in North Carolina has a Notice of Intent window through [DNPE](#) that closed May 1 and reopens July 6, plus mandatory annual nationally standardized testing in English grammar, reading, spelling, and math. The legal framework defines what records the family will keep, what testing the child will sit, and what documentation will eventually need to support a high-school transcript if college is on the horizon. Section 1 covers all fifty states and DC; the operative point for this framework section is just to recognize that the legal posture is the gate, and the budget, time, and formation decisions are downstream of it.

Decision two: budget

Budget is the second decision because it constrains structural choice before it constrains publisher choice. A family that has decided to spend \$0 has already decided to use AmblesideOnline, Easy Peasy, Wildwood, or Khan Academy as the spine — there are no other complete-curriculum free options serving every formation tradition at full K–12 depth. A family that has decided to spend \$11,000 per child has already decided that microschool-style hybrid enrollment is in the picture. Most families land somewhere between, and the structural choice they make at the budget stage determines what publisher conversations are even worth having.

The five real budget tiers, with the structural patterns that fit each:

- **\$0 free stack:** AmblesideOnline (Christian-aligned), Wildwood (secular), Easy Peasy (Christian), or Khan Academy Kids (secular early years), library borrowing, Project Gutenberg for out-of-copyright books. Trade-off: parent research time replaces dollars.
- **\$300 floor:** One math program, one phonics program, one literature spine, used books. Math Mammoth at \$42, All About Reading Level 1 at ~\$80 used, Story of the

Every Homeschool Curriculum ESA Guides Directory Issues

Complete Parent Kit plus Child Kit (~\$700), or BJU Press Grade 5 Kit (~\$1,001 at Christianbook discount).

- **\$5,000 hybrid / live-online year:** Classical Conversations community plus curriculum (~\$495 base plus \$400–\$600 family-supplied math/phonics/writing plus optional enrichment class), or Veritas Scholars Academy four-course year (\$4,000–\$5,000), or Wilson Hill Academy four-class year (\$2,800–\$4,200) plus family-supplied supplements.
- **\$11,000+ microschool tuition:** Acton Academy Cy-Fair (\$11,500), Marietta GA (\$13,150), Northwest Austin (\$13,310); varies by location.

The bands matter for ESA planning. ESA awards in current programs land in the \$2,000–\$8,148 range, sufficient to cover most boxed curriculum plus co-op tracks but not full microschool tuition without family co-pay. A family in an ESA-eligible state can plan a \$7,000 budget with no net family cost; the same family in an excluded state plans the same \$7,000 budget with full retail exposure.

Decision three: parent time

Parent time is the decision families most often underestimate. A curriculum that requires the parent to read aloud for ninety minutes per day, lead narration for thirty minutes, and prep the next day's lessons in the evening is not the same time investment as a curriculum that arrives in a box, opens to a daily script, and gets closed at 11:30 AM. The difference between “open and go” and “parent-prep heavy” is the difference between a sustainable two-child morning and a household that quietly stops homeschooling by Christmas.

The parent-intensity scale used in this booklet has four levels. **Very high:** AmblesideOnline, Sonlight read-aloud, Tapestry of Grace planning, Konos units, Memoria Press Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten — parent leads every lesson aloud and does substantial evening prep. **High:** Charlotte Mason curricula generally, Master

Time4Learning, K12 state-funded virtual schools, online live-class academies — student works independently or with the academy teacher; parent is learning coach.

A two-parent household with one parent home full-time and the youngest child in nap range can sustain very-high-intensity curricula. A single-parent household, or a household with both parents working, or a household with four-plus children spanning preschool through high school cannot sustain very-high-intensity curricula across every child without one of them moving toward the low-intensity end. The parent-time math is one of the two most honest conversations a first-year family has with itself. The other is the formation question below.

Decision four: formation tradition

Decisions one through three are constraints. Decision four is the positive question: *what formation tradition does this family want to apprentice the child into over the next twelve to fifteen years?* The premise of this section follows Kennedy's argument in *Against Worldview*: a Christian education is not a worldview-system delivered to the child as a finished product on day one. It is a slow, organic process by which the child grows in *wisdom* — practical and spiritual — through exposure to particular books, teachers, practices, liturgies, and communities. The classroom and the home contribute tiles to a mosaic; the child assembles the mosaic over years; the master plan is God's and the picture comes into view inductively. The same logic applies, with appropriate substitutions, to non-Christian formation traditions. The secular family is apprenticing the child into specific practices and a specific intellectual tradition. The Jewish family is apprenticing the child into Torah and a covenantal community. The Catholic family is forming the child within the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. No family is downloading a finished system on day one.

Stated practically, the formation question becomes: *which tradition's books, teachers, and practices does the family want to apprentice this child into?* The American 2026

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Presbyterian) covers Veritas Press and the Logos / Wilson Hill / New Saint Andrews orbit headquartered in Moscow, Idaho. **Christian (Catholic)** covers Mother of Divine Grace, Seton Home Study, Kolbe Academy, Catholic Heritage Curricula, RC History, Mater Amabilis. **Christian (fundamentalist)** covers Abeka and Bob Jones University Press as the two largest publishers in the print-curriculum tradition. **Christian (Mennonite-Plain)** covers Christian Light Education and Rod & Staff. **Latter-day Saint** is small in number of dedicated publishers but large in adoption: The Good and the Beautiful, founded by Jenny Phillips in 2015, identifies as non-denominational Christian; the founder is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; the curriculum is classified by Every Homeschool as LDS per the formation-tradition taxonomy. **Jewish** includes Mosdos Press for literature, the Torah-Through-Literature curriculum from Ani Ve-ami for Jewish Charlotte Mason, and supplements through Torah Umesorah and Bnos Yisroel. **Secular** covers Build Your Library, Blossom & Root, Torchlight, Oak Meadow, Moving Beyond the Page, Wildwood Curriculum, and the Bauer / Well-Trained Mind Academy track for explicitly secular families.

The decision a family is making is not whether to buy a curriculum that matches the family's tradition perfectly on every page. The decision is which mosaic the family is helping the child build, and which tiles — which books, which teachers, which practices, which liturgies — the chosen publishers contribute toward that mosaic. A Catholic family using Sonlight typically substitutes the Protestant Bible curriculum with a Catholic catechesis spine while keeping the Sonlight history and literature for their breadth of living-book exposure. A secular family using Memoria Press typically substitutes the Christian Studies religion track and uses the Latin and core skills intact, valuing the inductive grammar tradition Memoria represents. A Mennonite family using Saxon Math typically uses Saxon as-is. Substitution is the norm, not the exception. What matters is whether the family is honest with itself about which tiles are coming from where, and which formation tradition the mosaic will eventually represent. Kennedy's formulation is the editorial frame this booklet adopts: teaching wisdom builds a worldview over time; attempting to install a finished worldview short-circuits the apprenticeship.

[Every *Homeschool*](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

has effectively chosen Mater Amabilis (free, Catholic, Charlotte Mason). A secular family with a \$5,000 budget, low parent-time availability, in a portfolio-review state, has effectively chosen Wilson Hill Academy or Veritas Scholars Academy with online live classes producing graded work that doubles as the portfolio. An evangelical family with a \$1,500 budget, moderate parent-time availability, in a notification-only state with no testing, has effectively chosen Sonlight or Memoria Press or A Gentle Feast — depending on whether they want literature-based, classical, or Charlotte Mason.

The method conversation that takes a hundred Facebook posts to settle often resolves in twenty minutes once the four decisions above are named explicitly. The streams that follow — Stream A through Stream F — are organized around *where the family is starting from*, not around the method they will land on, because the streams are stable realities and the methods are choices.

WHAT SECTION THREE ESTABLISHES

Method is the smallest of the five decisions a first-year family faces. Worldview, budget, parent time, and state legal framework come first. Worldview determines which publishers will require in-home substitution and which will not. Budget determines structural choice before publisher choice. Parent time determines whether very-high-intensity curricula are even sustainable. State framework constrains curricular freedom in testing-mandate, portfolio-review, and ESA-funded contexts. Once these four are settled, the method choice usually makes itself.

4. Stream A — Fresh kindergarten

Stream A is the fresh-kindergarten family: a child age five or six who has never attended formal school, with parents now beginning what will be the first of approximately twelve years of home education. The family has the advantage of starting from zero — no

learn. Section four orients the Stream A family around the question that determines almost everything else: how much formal academic instruction is appropriate at this age, and which publishers serve which answers.

The delayed-academics tradition

The most consequential intellectual debate inside Stream A is whether formal academic instruction belongs in the kindergarten year at all. The case against — the so-called **delayed-academics** or **better-late-than-early** position — is anchored in the research of [Raymond and Dorothy Moore](#), whose 1975 book grew out of a 1972 *Harper's* article opposing California legislation that would have made school compulsory at age two years nine months. The Moores' core empirical claim, summarized at the [Moore Foundation](#), is that formal academic instruction before age eight produces no durable advantage over later starts and may correlate with reduced long-term achievement. The [Moore Formula](#) is structured around three components: study, work, and service.

Charlotte Mason herself wrote in *Home Education* (1886) that a parent's first duty is to secure for the young child "a quiet growing time, a full six years of passive receptive life, the waking part of it for the most part out in the fresh air." The [AmblesideOnline Year 0](#) framework restates this as: "the chief function of the child during the first six or seven years of his life is to find out all he can, about whatever comes under his notice, by means of his five senses." Year 0 on AmblesideOnline is explicitly not a formal AmblesideOnline year. The focus areas are child-directed exploration, outdoor time, gentle academics introduced through play, and observation.

The case for systematic phonics instruction at age five or six is empirically anchored in the National Reading Panel report of 2000, which found a moderate effect of systematic phonics on reading ($d=0.41$ overall), larger when started before first grade ($d=0.55$) than when started after ($d=0.27$). The practitioner-friendly summary at [Reading Rockets](#) lays out the implications for early elementary curriculum design. The two positions are not

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

against resistance.

The two positions are not as opposed as Stream A parents sometimes hear. The Moores object to age-2 academics; the National Reading Panel finds systematic phonics effective when delivered to readiness-aged children.

The Stream A publisher landscape by formation tradition

Christian (evangelical, non-denominational). Sonlight's Kindergarten All-Subjects Package serves ages five through seven and includes History, Bible, Literature plus all skill subjects, with a 20% discount on All-Subjects Packages per Sonlight policy. My Father's World Discover (PreK-2) is the early-years entry to the MFW family-learning cycle. Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool, founded by Lee Giles and online since 2011, provides free complete Christian K-12 curriculum at no cost with Bible as a daily subject. Five in a Row, founded by Jane Claire Lambert in 1994, organizes its early Volume 1 (19 picture books) for ages 5-9 with the optional Bible Supplement available separately.

Christian (classical). Memoria Press Junior Kindergarten covers letters and beginning sounds, number recognition 0-15, beginning letter formation, colors and color words, reading comprehension and vocabulary, calendar skills, crafts, music, and poetry. The Memoria Press Kindergarten Curriculum runs a 34-week school year, written for five half-days; the primary goal is learning to read. The phonics spine is First Start Reading (25 phonetic stories) plus three colorful readers. The Kindergarten Curriculum Manual standalone is \$30.00; the full Kindergarten Package runs \$569.95 sale (retail \$716.22) per Rainbow Resource MPCKPK listing as of May 2026.

Christian (fundamentalist textbook). BJU Press K5 Complete Grade Textbook Kit provides a complete kindergarten kit with optional video lesson access via homeschoolhub.com; subject offerings within K5 include Beginnings (readiness/early literacy), Math K5, and Phonics & English K5. The BJU Press K5 Math individual kit is

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Christian (Charlotte Mason). [AmblesideOnline Year 0](#) covers ages from birth until formal school begins around age six or later. Year 0 has goals and suggestions but no rigid schedule. The Year 0 Booklist is published separately at [AmblesideOnline Year 0 Books](#). AmblesideOnline is free; no notification or permission is required to use. [The CMEC Early Years](#) covers foundational principles and developmentally appropriate activities for young children. [Juniper Pines](#) publishes a Charlotte Mason guide for ages 3–6 explicitly built around the “quiet growing time” principle.

Catholic. [Mater Amabilis](#) publishes a free online Catholic Charlotte Mason curriculum covering Prep Level (ages approximately 3–6); Maureen Wittmann maintains the site. [Catholic Heritage Curricula](#) publishes a Preschool Core Kit at \$108.35 and a Kindergarten Core Kit at \$201.15 as of May 2026; the publisher charges no tuition or enrollment fees, only the cost of materials. [Kolbe Academy](#) offers a Preschool Program plus K–5 Online with Newman Guide recognition and NAPCIS accreditation; Kolbe’s tuition rates are dated effective February 4, 2026 on the school’s tuition page.

Latter-day Saint. [The Good and the Beautiful Language Arts Level K](#) is available as a free PDF download; the Course Book Level 1 Language Arts is \$28.99 print. The publisher identifies as non-denominational Christian; founder Jenny Phillips is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; the Every Homeschool classification is LDS. Levels 1, 2, and 3 Course Sets are sold individually as boxed kits with course book plus reading boosters. Current edition release dates: Level 1 (June 14, 2022), Level 2 (July 12, 2022), Level 3 (June 6, 2023) per [TGTB New Editions FAQs](#).

Secular. [Khan Academy Kids](#) is a free, no-ads, no-subscription early-learning app for ages 2–8, aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Common Core, developed in collaboration with Stanford learning experts. [Wildwood Curriculum](#) provides Form I (ages 6–9) for free with explicit secular framing; book selections derive from PNEU programmes (1920s–1930s). [Blossom & Root](#) publishes Early Years Vol. 1 for pre-K through grade 8 as PDF download, secular and nature-based.

[Every Homeschool](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

across formation traditions.

The **Spalding Method** was developed by Romalda Bishop Spalding in 1957; she had studied directly under Dr. Samuel Orton. *Writing Road to Reading* is currently in its sixth revised edition (Spalding plus Mary E. North, ed.). The Spalding Method teaches 70 phonograms and approximately 30 spelling rules; together these unlock approximately 80% of English spelling per [Memoria Press's phonics article](#). Spalding teacher certification course access via Spalding Resource Center is \$150 per year.

Logic of English publishes two complete reading-and-spelling lines: Foundations (early) and Essentials (older). *Foundations* is divided into Levels A, B, C, and D; each level contains 40 lessons, eight assessments, controlled readers, and games. Common placement per the [Logic of English support page](#) is Foundations A and B for kindergarten and C and D for first grade. The Foundations A bundle is approximately \$243 retail.

All About Reading publishes five levels: Pre-reading, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4. The methodology is Orton-Gillingham-based, multisensory, with 20-minute daily lessons delivered via a scripted teacher's manual per the [All About Learning Press page](#). Pre-Reading is \$119.95 and Levels 1 through 4 materials kits are \$159.95 each as of May 2026 publisher pricing. Free placement and readiness tools are available via the [Reading Placement Tests](#) and the [Reading Readiness Assessment](#). The publisher offers a one-year money-back guarantee.

The first ninety days for Stream A

A defensible Stream A first ninety days, regardless of worldview, looks something like the following. **Days 1–14:** read one book about what the family is doing — Susan Schaeffer Macaulay's *For the Children's Sake* for Charlotte Mason families, Susan Wise Bauer's *The Well-Trained Mind* for classical families, the Moore Foundation's *Better Late Than Early* for delayed-academics families. Set up the household rhythm: a morning

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Days 15–45: begin one phonics program at 15–20 minutes per day, four days per week. The publisher’s readiness assessment determines whether the child is ready; if not, return to read-aloud and free play and reassess in a month. Begin a daily read-aloud of the publisher’s recommended early-reader booklist or the Five in a Row Volume 1 selections or the AmblesideOnline Year 0 list. Begin a nature notebook (a blank sketchbook); the parent helps with species identification.

Days 46–90: add brief math at 10–15 minutes per day, four days per week. For Stream A this is typically Saxon Math K (Homeschool Kit retail \$258.33 per Rainbow Resource), Math-U-See Primer or Alpha (per [Math-U-See](#)), Singapore Dimensions Math K through PK–5 (per [Singapore Math](#)), or RightStart Mathematics Level A (Book Bundle \$97.50 plus the RS2 manipulatives kit \$219.75 for a \$317 first-year cost per [RightStart Math store](#)). Begin picture study (one master painter per term, five-minute observations followed by oral description with the picture turned over) and composer study (one composer per term, played during meals or rest time). Begin a weekly outdoor nature walk if not already part of the daily routine.

Three things the Stream A first-ninety-days plan does not include. **No screen-based early-academic apps as the spine** — the Moores, Mason, and the AmblesideOnline FAQ all flag this; Khan Academy Kids and similar tools work as supplements and not as the primary reading instruction. **No daily worksheets at length** — a five-year-old who completes more than two pages of seatwork per day is doing first-grade work, not kindergarten work, and the family should reassess pacing rather than push. **No timed testing** — most Stream A states do not require it; Florida and the few states that begin testing as early as grade 3 (Georgia) do not require it of kindergarteners.

Stream A math readiness

Math in Stream A often gets short attention because the publisher marketing is so heavy on reading. The honest sequence is that reading takes priority because every other subject is gated by it, but a daily ten-to-fifteen minute math block four days per week

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

plus the RS2 manipulatives kit \$219.75 one-time); Math Mammoth Light Blue Grade 1 (\$42.50 digital); Beast Academy Level 1 (for the child showing early conceptual strength). The Stream A family that picks one of these and runs it consistently through May is in better shape than the family that bought two programs in August and is using neither by January.

The Stream A family with a child who is not yet ready for formal math instruction at age five has the Charlotte Mason and delayed-academics answer: count things during the day (steps on the stairs, items in the grocery cart, blocks in the tower), measure things in the kitchen (cups of flour, spoonfuls of salt), notice patterns outside (petals on flowers, legs on insects). Numeracy precedes arithmetic. The child who has counted to a hundred in real-world contexts and recognizes basic one-more / one-less patterns by age six enters Math-U-See Alpha or Saxon Math 1 with the conceptual scaffolding already in place.

WHAT SECTION FOUR ESTABLISHES

Stream A starts with the formation-tradition decision and the early-academic decision: how much formal instruction belongs in the kindergarten year at all. The publisher landscape spans every formation tradition from AmblesideOnline (free, Christian-aligned) through The Good and the Beautiful (LDS) through Memoria Press classical Christian (mid-range paid) through Wildwood (free, secular) through BJU and Abeka (fundamentalist textbook). Reading instruction is the load-bearing decision: Spalding, Logic of English, and All About Reading dominate across formation traditions. The first ninety days are short on seatwork and long on read-aloud, outdoor time, and the household rhythm that will sustain the next twelve years.

5. Stream B — Early elementary mid-stream

curriculum the prior school used. The first thing this family does is not order curriculum. The first thing this family does is **deschool**.

The deschooling month

John Holt, in *Teach Your Own* (1981), defined deschooling as “changing the laws to make schools non-compulsory and to take away from them their power to grade, rank, and label people.” The contemporary practitioner usage — what families actually do for the first weeks after withdrawal — was developed by [Pat Farenga](#) (Holt’s collaborator and updater of *Teach Your Own* for the 2003 edition) and [Sandra Dodd](#), the prominent advocate for what she calls radical unschooling. The widely-cited rule of thumb among long-time homeschool advocates — surfaced on Sandra Dodd’s deschooling page and at [HSLDA](#) — is one month of deschooling per year of formal schooling. The formula is practitioner-derived, not a peer-reviewed finding.

The deschooling concept includes the parent as well as the child. [TheHomeSchoolMom’s explainer](#) makes the case that the parent has more years of school-shaped expectation to unlearn than the child does. Stream B parents who skip the deschooling step and order a full Sonlight Core or a Memoria Press grade kit on day one frequently find by Halloween that the child is fighting the curriculum because the child is fighting school. Families that build in three or four weeks of read-aloud, library trips, museum days, baking, hand-craft work, and unstructured outdoor time before opening any curriculum report better year-one outcomes — though the published evidence here is practitioner consensus rather than controlled study.

Placement testing the first week

Even during deschooling, the family does one piece of academic work in week one: placement testing. Sonlight publishes the [Saxon Math placement test](#) families use for math transitions; Singapore, RightStart, Beast Academy, and Teaching Textbooks all

measure different fluencies) and a half grade above age in Saxon (because Saxon and Abeka are both spiral-procedural and the methods translate cleanly). Stream B families who order curriculum at the prior school's grade level without a placement test routinely buy materials that are too easy or too hard, and either return them or muscle through; both cost time and money the family does not need to spend.

The Stream B publisher landscape

The Stream B family that has deschooled and placement-tested has the same set of publisher options as Stream A but with one consequential addition: the family has lived through the mid-stream switch already and is more sensitive to whether the new curriculum is open-and-go or parent-prep heavy. Open-and-go matters more in Stream B than in Stream A because the family has less margin for the parent-research time the all-free stack requires.

Christian (open-and-go). Master Books is a Christian homeschool publisher operating under the New Leaf Publishing Group; approximate full-year all-subjects pricing as of 2026 is \$250–\$350 per grade-level four-subject set, with individual subject packs from \$40+ per the Master Books Spring 2026 Catalog. America's Story (American history series) targets grades 4–5 in a Charlotte Mason adjacent style; Master Books Academy provides parallel video-based delivery. Master Books is the open-and-go Christian curriculum many Stream B families pick up after deschooling because the daily lesson plans are scripted and the parent prep is minimal.

Christian (textbook traditional). Abeka and BJU Press represent the largest evangelical traditional textbook publishers and match families coming out of private Christian schools that used similar approaches. Stream B families coming from an Abeka school often stay on Abeka or move to BJU; the methodology and presentation are similar enough that the child does not feel the curriculum changed.

[Practice Book Level 3](#)). The publisher classification under the Every Homeschool taxonomy is LDS; the publisher self-identifies as non-denominational Christian. [A Gentle Feast](#) by Julie Ross runs a Feast Table Membership at \$29 per month founding-member rate (2025–26 cycle) per the [A Gentle Feast](#) announcement.

Catholic. [Mater Amabilis](#) continues to serve through Level 1 (approximately first to third grade), free. [Catholic Heritage Curricula](#) publishes a First Grade Core Kit at \$246.05 and grade-by-grade kits running approximately \$108–\$377 depending on grade as of May 2026; the publisher does not charge tuition or enrollment fees. [Seton Home Study School](#) runs approximately \$600–\$800 per year for elementary grades (1–8) including books per the [Seton Cost](#) page. Reviews describe Seton as the most academically rigorous of the Catholic homeschool providers per [howdoihomeschool.com](#).

Secular. [Blossom & Root](#) publishes Levels 1 through 6 organized by grade, all delivered as PDF download, with subjects per level including nature-based science, language arts (with integrated geography), art (with integrated math concepts), and optional study of world religions. Level 3 is designed for ages 8–11. [Build Your Library](#) by Emily Cook publishes Levels 0 through 12 in a secular Charlotte Mason literature-based format that does not include math. Level 1 (Grade 1, ages 6–8) covers Ancient World plus Nature Study; Level 2 (Grade 2) covers Middle Ages plus Earth/Geography/Space; Level 3 (Grade 3) covers Early Modern plus Chemistry per [Numa](#). Lesson plan pricing is \$30–\$60 per level. [Torchlight Curriculum](#) publishes Levels Pre-K through 4 (Pre-K targets ages 4–5; Level 4 targets ages 9–13), self-described as “secular with Humanist underpinnings.”

The first ninety days for Stream B

Weeks 1–4 (deschooling): no formal curriculum. Library trips three times per week. Read-aloud of one chapter book per week. Museum, zoo, or outdoor day at least weekly. The parent reads one book about home education and one book about the family’s

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Week 5 (placement and ordering): placement-test in math and reading using the publisher tests linked above. Order the curriculum based on the placement results, not on the prior school's grade level. [Cathy Duffy's 102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum](#) is the canonical method-and-style decision tool for choosing curriculum based on educational philosophy and learning style; the book provides the worksheet families use to identify their philosophy of education before reviewing curricula. The free supplement at [cathyduffyreviews.com](#) functions as the accepted industry reference for individual program reviews.

Weeks 6–13 (settling): begin the curriculum at half pace for the first two weeks (do every other lesson, or do half of each lesson), then move to full pace by week eight. Establish a daily rhythm — morning math, mid-morning phonics or reading, late-morning read-aloud or content-area work, after-lunch outdoor or hands-on time. Plan for the first October dip: most Stream B families report a motivation crash at week six or seven as the novelty wears off and the daily discipline of the curriculum becomes the new normal. The dip resolves by mid-November in most cases; families who do not push through it but instead drop the curriculum and start over typically end up in the same place by January.

Stream B families with a child placement-tested two grade levels below age range face a particular question: catch up or accept the delay. The published research, summarized at [The Hechinger Report](#), is that intensive daily one-on-one tutoring is the most effective remediation — which is exactly what homeschool offers. [HSLDA](#) makes the same case for pandemic-era public-school learning loss. The practical synthesis is that a Stream B child who is two grades behind in reading at withdrawal will typically catch up to grade-equivalent fluency within nine to twelve months of structured one-on-one phonics instruction. The curriculum sequence does not require skipping ahead; it requires staying on level and trusting the daily compounding.

Content areas in Stream B

second-grader reading at first-grade level may need to drop back to All About Reading Level 1 for a deliberate phonics rebuild; a child reading fluently at grade level may not need a formal phonics program at all and can move directly into vocabulary, spelling, and literature.

History and content area work in Stream B typically anchors on one spine. Susan Wise Bauer's *Story of the World* is the most-adopted four-year world-history rotation for elementary homeschoolers across formation traditions (Volume 1: Ancient Times; Volume 2: Middle Ages; Volume 3: Early Modern; Volume 4: Modern). Each volume runs approximately \$25 for the textbook plus \$35 for the Activity Book; total spine cost for one year is roughly \$60. The narrative is written for a read-aloud format, with comprehension questions, narration prompts, and project suggestions for each chapter. Tapestry of Grace is the integrated alternative for families that want history, literature, fine arts, geography, and Bible all braided into one weekly plan; Stream B families with one or two children typically pick *Story of the World*, while families with three or more pick *Tapestry* — see Stream F.

Science in Stream B uses the same publisher menu as Stream A with grade-level adjustments. Apologia Young Explorer Astronomy or Botany for the family with three children spanning grades one through five works at all three ages because the elementary Apologia format is single-topic-per-year and multi-age. Real Science 4 Kids Pre-Level I (grades 1–2) and Level I (grades 3–5) cover chemistry, biology, physics, geology, and astronomy across the early-elementary band. Pandia Press R.E.A.L. Science Odyssey Level 1 (grades 2–5) is the secular alternative.

The single largest Stream B trap is buying too much curriculum in week one. A first-year family that orders complete Sonlight Core, Saxon Math, All About Reading Level 2, Apologia, plus Brave Writer has bought roughly \$1,400 of curriculum, will use approximately 60% of it, and will spend half the year feeling guilty about the unused workbooks. The defensible Stream B starting basket is one math, one reading or writing,

WHAT SECTION FIVE ESTABLISHES

Stream B starts with deschooling, not curriculum. The one-month-per-year-of-school rule of thumb is practitioner consensus, not research. Placement testing in week one is non-negotiable; the prior school's grade level is not a reliable curriculum indicator. Open-and-go publishers (Master Books, The Good and the Beautiful, Catholic Heritage Curricula, Blossom & Root) match Stream B families with less margin for parent-prep time. Catch-up math, where needed, runs at the rate of structured one-on-one instruction — which is what homeschool offers. The Stream B curriculum order problem — buying too much in week one — is the most common first-year failure mode; the defensible answer is to buy small and add slowly.

6. Stream C — Upper elementary mid-stream

Stream C is the upper-elementary mid-stream family: a child in grades four or five, leaving private or public school, frequently with three or more years of one specific math program already behind them. The archetype that drives the Stream C planning is the family leaving a Christian school that uses Abeka arithmetic and now choosing a homeschool math destination. The Abeka-leaving family is so common that the math transition has become the load-bearing decision in Stream C — more so than in Stream B, where the child has fewer embedded curriculum habits, and more so than in Stream D, where the middle-school transition raises bigger structural questions than which arithmetic series to buy.

The math program the family is leaving

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

the [Abeka Grade 6 Arithmetic Child Kit](#) continues the same spiral procedural pattern. Abeka publishes a free interactive [Scope & Sequence](#) that families can use to identify where the child currently is and what is coming next.

The structural fact most Stream C families do not anticipate is that switching from Abeka is rarely a content shift; it is a **methodology shift**. The five major destinations available in 2026 distribute across two axes: spiral versus mastery, and procedural versus conceptual. Abeka is spiral and procedural. Saxon is also spiral and procedural — the closest methodological match. Singapore is mastery and conceptual — the largest methodology jump. RightStart is mastery, manipulative-heavy, and visual. Math-U-See is mastery, manipulative, and video-supported. Teaching Textbooks is spiral and procedural with the parent-load advantage of being self-grading. Math Mammoth is mastery and budget-conscious, the closest methodological cousin to Singapore. Beast Academy is mastery, conceptual, and competition-math oriented.

Switching from Abeka is rarely a content shift; it is a methodology shift. The choice family makes here will compound over the next eight years.

The seven math destinations

Saxon Math (published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt per [HMH](#)) is the closest methodological match to Abeka. Saxon Math 6/5 is currently in third edition; the Homeschool Kit includes student textbook, tests-and-worksheets, and solutions manual per [Sonlight's product page](#). Saxon Math 5/4 Homeschool Kit (third edition) runs \$152.33 sale (retail \$323.13) per [christianbook.com's Saxon 5/4 page](#) as of May 2026. K-3 kits include teacher manual and meeting book; manipulatives are sold separately. Both Abeka and Saxon are spiral; Abeka is text-heavy, Saxon uses more hands-on manipulatives at K-3.

grades 1-6. Switch cost mid-year for grade 4: approximately \$123 total for both halves of the year (2× Textbook at \$14.50, 2× Workbook at \$14.50, 2× Teacher's Guide at \$32.50) per the [Dimensions 4A textbook page](#). Singapore splits each grade across two semesters, so a family switching mid-year buys only the half they are entering and the cost halves to roughly \$60–\$65.

RightStart Math A–G by Dr. Joan A. Cotter uses the AL Abacus as its signature manipulative per [Cathy Duffy](#). Levels A–F cover K through approximately sixth grade; Levels G and H extend through middle school with geometry focus. Approximate startup cost (manipulatives plus first book bundle) is \$250–\$350; subsequent years \$80–\$100 per book bundle (manipulatives reused) per [Homeschool Picks](#). Year-one switch cost for grade 4 (Level D Book Bundle \$99.25 plus the RS2 Math Set manipulatives \$219.75 one-time): \$319.00 total per the [christianbook.com RightStart category](#). The \$219.75 manipulatives kit is the largest single mid-year-switch cost gotcha in the math table.

Beast Academy (Art of Problem Solving) serves grades 1–5; each level splits into four units A–D. Beast Academy Online runs 800+ lessons, 15,000+ problems, and 700+ instructional videos plus the digital Guides per the [Beast Academy All Titles page](#). Year-one switch cost for grade 4: \$140 bundle (4 student books plus 1-year online practice portal subscription) per the [class-source listing](#); ongoing online subscription approximately \$99.99 per year. Beast Academy is sold by AoPS, the publisher of the Art of Problem Solving textbook stack used by competition-math families.

Math-U-See (published by Demme Learning, founder Steve Demme) uses a Build-Write-Say methodology with the Integer Block Kit (133-piece set). The elementary sequence runs Primer through Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, and Pre-Algebra. Concept progression is locked: Alpha covers place value plus addition and subtraction; Beta is regrouping; Gamma is multiplication; Delta is division; Epsilon is fractions; Zeta is decimals plus percent. Year-one switch cost for grade 4: \$222.55 for the Math-U-See Delta Universal Set (Instruction Manual, 1-year Essential Subscription with lesson

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

covering grades 1–7 (full elementary mathematics). Each grade contains two student worktexts (A and B) with embedded teaching, plus answer keys, tests, cumulative review, and a worksheet maker per the [Math Mammoth Light Blue Series page](#). Year-one switch cost for grade 4: \$42.50 (digital download). Cross-comparison resource available at [Math Mammoth comparisons](#). As of May 2026, Math Mammoth runs a 26%-off sale on digital downloads with code MAMMOTH26, valid through June 1, 2026.

Teaching Textbooks solves the parent-load problem with self-grading software. Math 3, 4, 5 each \$48.95; Math 6, 7 each \$63.95 per the [Teaching Textbooks FAQs](#). The Family Plan caps total annual cost at \$239.95 for 4–8 children per the [Family Plan Digital Course page](#). Self-grading; parent dashboard provides running averages and gradebook visibility. Each course lasts one year plus three months pause time. Methodology: spiral. Per [Cathy Duffy's review](#) Teaching Textbooks is the lowest-parent-load math program at this level.

Bridge-year reality

Saxon Math K–3 emphasizes manipulatives (cubes, cards, charts, teaching clocks, counting sticks) more than Abeka K–3; switching mid-elementary requires a placement test rather than direct grade-to-grade transfer per the [Smarter Learning Guide comparison](#). Singapore Math is conceptual; Saxon and Abeka are procedural. The Stream C family making the math methodology decision is making a decision that will compound over the next eight years. A family that switches from Abeka to Singapore in fourth grade will, by eighth grade, have a child whose mathematical thinking is shaped by bar-modeling and conceptual problem-solving rather than by spiral-drill recitation. A family that switches from Abeka to Saxon will have a child whose mathematical fluency is shaped by the same daily-practice discipline they were already using, applied to a slightly more manipulative-rich K–3 and an indistinguishable upper elementary. Neither path is wrong; the families that struggle most are the ones who pick a methodology

</guides/best-math-curriculum-2026>, which carries the full side-by-side at a level of detail this booklet only summarizes.

Other subjects in Stream C

Math is the load-bearing decision but not the only one. Stream C families who have done three years of Abeka also typically have three years of Abeka phonics and reading; the move into independent reading has usually happened by grade four, so phonics is no longer the daily-instruction subject it was in Stream B. Reading instruction in Stream C shifts to literature, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Writing instruction across formation traditions runs through three dominant publishers. [Institute for Excellence in Writing \(IEW\)](#) has discontinued the older *Student Writing Intensive* and replaced it with *Structure and Style for Students*; older blog reviews still recommend SWI by name and should be read with that caveat. Historical SWI level pricing was \$169–\$219 per level depending on format. [Brave Writer \(Julie Bogart\)](#) uses a growth-stage framework — Jot It Down, Partnership Writing, Building Confidence (formerly Faltering Ownership), Transition to Ownership, Eavesdropping on the Great Conversation, Fluency and Ownership. Brave Writer signature add-ons include The Wand (phonics plus punctuation), The Arrow plus The Boomerang (copywork plus dictation from living books). [Writing With Ease](#) by Susan Wise Bauer is a four-year program for grades 1–4 (or older struggling writers); the weekly routine is copywork plus narration plus dictation; the textbook covers all four levels and workbooks for years 1–2 are currently published. [WriteShop Primary \(Books A, B, C\)](#) targets grades K–3; [WriteShop Junior \(Books D, E, F\)](#) targets grades 3–6.

Science for Stream C runs across formation traditions. [Apologia Exploring Creation](#) is Christian, young-earth-creationist, with the Young Explorer series for K–6 by Jeannie Fulbright; the elementary format is single-topic-per-year, multi-age (K–6 family use), 28-week minimum, flexible 2-day-per-week pacing. [Berean Builders](#) by Dr. Jay Wile (formerly Apologia author) takes a chronological-history approach; the elementary

6–8); the Building Blocks series uses spiral teaching covering chemistry, biology, physics, geology, astronomy at each grade level. [R.E.A.L. Science Odyssey](#) by Pandia Press is secular, evidence-based, written by scientists; Level 1 grades 2–5; Level 2 middle/high school. Available titles: Biology, Life, Physics, Chemistry, Earth & Environment, and Astronomy at multiple levels.

The first ninety days for Stream C

Stream C deschools at a faster cadence than Stream B because the child is older, more aware of the change, and more able to articulate what was working and what was not at the prior school. Two to three weeks of deschooling is typical; some families shorten further. The middle of the deschooling period is when the math placement test happens.

Days 1–14: deschool with library, museum, and outdoor time. Read aloud one chapter book per week. Have a conversation with the child about what they liked and disliked at school; write down the answers. Many fourth- and fifth-graders are surprisingly precise diagnostics on their own learning.

Days 15–21: placement-test in math (publisher test for the candidate destination program). Order based on placement, not on prior grade level. Order writing curriculum based on observation of the child's current writing fluency — a Stream C child who can write a coherent paragraph starts at Brave Writer Partnership Writing or IEW; one who cannot starts at Writing With Ease.

Days 22–90: begin curriculum at half pace for two weeks, then move to full pace. Daily rhythm: math first (30–45 minutes at this age), reading or writing second (30 minutes), content area third (history, science, alternating days, 30–45 minutes), read-aloud during lunch or after lunch (30 minutes). Total focused academic time: approximately 2.5–3 hours per day. Stream C families often report the child finishing the day's required work by noon and asking what to do next; the answer for most families is reading, hands-on projects, music practice, outdoor time, or intentional unstructured play. The temptation

[Every *Homeschool*](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

Stream C content pacing and the six-month outcome

Stream C families finish the first year in one of two positions. The first is the family that picked the closest methodological match (typically Saxon, sometimes Math-U-See) and finished the grade-level year on schedule, with the child fluent in the new presentation by spring. The second is the family that picked the largest methodology jump (typically Singapore, sometimes Beast Academy or RightStart) and spent the first semester translating between methods, then caught up in the second semester once the conceptual frame settled in. Both outcomes are defensible. The factor that distinguishes them is not the publisher choice — it is whether the parent and child acknowledged in week three that the new method was different and built in the translation time, or whether they pretended the methods were equivalent and spent fall fighting the curriculum.

The single most-common Stream C error in math is the family that switches publishers a second time in October because the first switch “is not working.” The first switch is almost always working; the family is just feeling the methodology transition. Switching twice in one year produces a child who has done two months of three different math programs — total fluency in none. The defensible Stream C math pattern is one switch in August, no switch in October, full reassessment in May.

History and content-area pacing in Stream C runs faster than in Stream B because the child is older and reads more independently. A Stream C fourth-grader can typically work through *Story of the World Volume 2 (Middle Ages)* in one school year at the published pace plus selected supplemental reading from the activity book. A Stream C fifth-grader can work through *Volume 3* at the same pace. The child who finishes the textbook early — common in Stream C — moves to historical fiction (the Activity Book recommends specific titles per chapter), to biography, or to the next volume. There is no penalty for finishing the year-one history spine in February; there is no benefit to artificially slowing it down to finish in May.

largest methodology jump (mastery conceptual). RightStart and Math-U-See add manipulative weight; Beast Academy adds competition-math depth; Math Mammoth is the budget-conscious mastery option; Teaching Textbooks is the parent-load winner. Placement test, then order; the prior school's grade is not a curriculum indicator. Writing and science have similar publisher options across formation traditions. Afternoon free time is a feature of Stream C, not a bug to fill.

7. Stream D—Middle school mid-stream

Stream D is the middle-school mid-stream family: a child in grades six through eight, leaving private or public school, with the high-school transcript clock now visible at the end of the runway. The archetype for Stream D is the family pulling a single sixth-grader from a private Christian school that used Abeka throughout. The child arrives with seven years of one publisher behind them, a body of academic habits the parents want to keep, and zero Latin, zero foreign language credit, and a writing background that has been graded primarily for grammar mechanics rather than for composition. The family is also a year or two away from beginning to think about ninth-grade credits, which means the curriculum decisions in Stream D have a downstream consequence Stream B and Stream C decisions do not have.

Late-start anxiety

The most common emotional state of Stream D families in the first thirty days is anxiety about being behind. The classical-curriculum marketing of the past decade has trained parents to believe Latin begins in third grade, Greek in seventh, and any later start forecloses the rigorous-classical option. The same marketing has trained parents to believe pre-algebra begins in seventh grade, that a child not in pre-algebra by sixth is on a remedial track, that IEW or Brave Writer should have started in fourth, and that a

summarized at the [Homeschool Academic Achievement Fact Sheet](#), shows that homeschool students score on average 15–25 percentile points above public-school students on standardized tests; the homeschool population includes very large numbers of late-starting and mid-stream children. Black homeschool students score 23–42 percentile points above Black public-school peers per the same NHERI source. The selection bias in homeschool research is real (NHERI samples self-selected homeschool families), so these numbers are best read as “you are not behind” rather than as “you will be exceptional.” [Sonlight’s practitioner essay](#) and the broader [Hechinger Report](#) coverage of catch-up learning reach the same operational conclusion: intensive one-on-one daily instruction is the single most-effective remediation, and intensive one-on-one daily instruction is what homeschool offers.

Starting Latin in middle school

The Latin question is the most-asked Stream D curriculum question. The publisher whose published guidance most directly addresses the late-start anxiety is Memoria Press, founded in 1994 by [Cheryl Lowe](#) and her son Brian. The Highlands Latin School in Louisville, Kentucky — Memoria’s anchor school where the curriculum is field-tested — was founded in 2000. Cheryl Lowe died in June 2017; the company continues under her family and the Highlands Latin School staff.

Memoria publishes a sequenced Latin program designed to be followed straight through: [Prima Latina](#) (grades 1–4, best from grade 2 with a fluent reader) → [Latina Christiana](#) (grades 3–5/6) → [First Form Latin](#) → Second Form → Third Form → Fourth Form. The four Form Series books complete Latin grammar across all five declensions, all four conjugations, all six tenses (active and passive), the subjunctive (in Third Form), and participles, gerunds, and gerundives (in Fourth Form). For a sixth-eighth grade Stream D late starter, the Memoria Press recommendation per the publisher’s own [“Which Latin Program Do I Start With?”](#) article is to enter at First Form, skipping Prima Latina and

students who never touched Latin before. The [First Form Latin Complete Set](#) (May 2026 sale price \$126.50, regularly \$157.60) includes Student Text (34 two-page lessons), Teacher Manual, Student Workbook, Quizzes & Tests, Teacher Key, Pronunciation CD, Vocabulary Flashcards, and 3 DVDs (~9 hours of instruction by Highlands Latin School teacher Jessica Watson). The streaming video lessons are the load-bearing element for parents who do not know Latin themselves: 15–20 minutes per lesson, available via the publisher’s [First Form Latin Instructional Videos](#) page.

Memoria’s default Latin pronunciation is **ecclesiastical** (medieval/church Latin); classical pronunciation audio is sold separately. Ecclesiastical pronunciation aligns with Catholic liturgical Latin (the *Pater Noster*, the *Ave Maria*, the Mass propers and ordinary). The most audible difference: in ecclesiastical, “v” is pronounced /v/ (“veni, vidi, vici”); in classical, “v” is /w/. Reformed and evangelical Stream D families typically pick the classical pronunciation audio; Catholic families typically use the ecclesiastical default.

Alternatives to First Form

Three alternatives to Memoria First Form serve Stream D families with different parent capacities and tradition preferences.

Visual Latin (Compass Classroom, instructor Dwane Thomas) is video-led: 30 lessons, ages 10+, Scripture-based readings from the Vulgate Bible in every lesson, \$180 streaming for 18 months per the [Compass Classroom Visual Latin](#) page. Counts as one full high-school foreign-language credit. Frequently chosen by Catholic and Reformed Protestant families who want exposure to the Latin text of the Bible alongside grammar instruction; chosen by parents who do not want to lead Latin grammar themselves. 30 lessons, ~11.5 hours of video (3 videos per lesson). Designed for full Latin credit through Visual Latin 2.

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

verb conjugations, irregular verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs in one year. Teacher Edition \$26.99 sale (regularly \$34.95); DVD/CD Set retails at \$154.95. CAP Latin programs ship audio in both classical and ecclesiastical pronunciation, allowing the family to choose.

Wheelock's Latin (7th edition) is the wrong recommendation for most middle-schoolers, despite its frequent mention in classical-education forums. Wheelock's was first published in 1956 and designed for college beginners; the seventh edition (Frederic M. Wheelock, revised by Richard A. LaFleur, Franklin Professor of Classics Emeritus, University of Georgia) runs 40 chapters and 608 pages. Pricing varies by retailer: \$16.75 (Walmart), \$19.49 (Superior Text), \$24.99 (Joseph-Beth) per the [Walmart product page](#). Memoria Press's own forum guidance per the [Wheelock Latin discussion thread](#) is that "most of the folks doing this are using an online class provider" rather than self-teaching. A typical middle-school-age starter using Wheelock's will work the chapters at half the college pace (one chapter every two weeks instead of weekly), often with an online class provider for accountability. For a Stream D twelve-year-old, Wheelock's with online class support is a defensible path; Wheelock's as a parent-led textbook is not.

Lingua Latina per se Illustrata (Hans Ørberg, published by Hackett) uses the natural method — Latin learned without translation, through extended contextual reading and marginal notes in Latin. Pars I *Familia Romana* contains 35 chapters entirely in Latin describing a 2nd-century AD Roman family; paperback \$34.00, hardcover \$42.00 per [Hackett Publishing](#). A motivated 12–14-year-old can begin *Familia Romana* directly. The natural-method approach contrasts with grammar-first (Memoria) and grammar-translation (Wheelock).

Cambridge Latin Course Unit 1 (5th International Edition, released July 2022, published by Cambridge University Press) is the standard British and American secondary-school Latin text. The story arc begins in Pompeii before Vesuvius (AD 79) and follows the household of Lucius Caecilius Iucundus into Britain, Egypt, and Rome. Pricing varies:

based; widely used in secular independent schools.

The late-starter decision framework

A practical heuristic for families undecided between First Form and Wheelock's: a 12-year-old who reads two grade levels above age and writes a clean five-paragraph essay can start Wheelock's with an online class. A 12-year-old who is at-grade in reading and writing should start First Form. The middle case — slightly above grade in reading but still building writing endurance — is best served by Latin Alive! Book 1 or Henle Year One with parent support. This synthesizes the publisher placement statements; no single primary source asserts this exact rubric.

Catholic Stream D families have three distinctive paths. (a) Memoria Press First Form (ecclesiastical pronunciation, sequenced grammar, parent-led) → through Fourth Form by grade ten; (b) Memoria's Henle Latin Year One starting in grade nine (high-school-paced, originally Catholic; gives four years through Henle Year Four); (c) Visual Latin (Vulgate readings, video instruction, lighter parent load). Henle Latin (Robert J. Henle, S.J., 1945) was originally written for Catholic high schools and uses ecclesiastical pronunciation per [Cathy Duffy](#); Memoria Press now publishes the modern Henle workbook editions under license. The Henle Year One text remains the most common introduction to Catholic-tradition Latin in 2026 American Catholic homeschools.

Reformed and evangelical Stream D families have parallel paths. (a) Memoria Press First Form (classical pronunciation audio sold separately) → Fourth Form; (b) Classical Academic Press Latin Alive! Book 1 → Book 2 → Book 3 (three-year sequence, video-supported); (c) Wheelock's Latin with an online class provider — [Logos Online School](#) (grades 7–12, full-time tuition \$2,668 per year, à la carte \$725 per course); [Wilson Hill Academy](#) (grades 3–12, individual courses \$750–\$1,200, founded 2014, accredited through SACS CASI/Cognia, NCAA-recognized); [Kepler Education](#) (classical Christian

secularized of the texts; story-based; widely used in secular independent schools); (b) Lingua Latina natural method (Hackett); or (c) Memoria Press’s Latin texts with the Christian Studies religion track substituted out — many secular and other-tradition families use Memoria’s Latin and core skills materials with the Christian Studies track substituted, per the publisher’s own catalog separation documented at the [Memoria Press Curriculum article](#).

Middle school math

Pre-algebra options for Stream D fall in the same publisher families as the Stream C math destinations. **Saxon 8/7 with Pre-Algebra** third edition Homeschool Kit runs \$169.13 student text retail per [christianbook.com](#). **Singapore Dimensions Math 6–8** runs approximately \$164 (G6), \$186 (G7), \$186 (G8) for complete grade sets per the [Singapore Math collections page](#); published as a homeschool option per the [homeschool product page](#). **Math-U-See Pre-Algebra** covers negative numbers, integers, exponents, solving for an unknown, the Pythagorean theorem, associative/commutative/distributive properties, polynomials, and irrational numbers per the [Math-U-See Pre-Algebra page](#). **AoPS Prealgebra** (Richard Rusczyk, David Patrick, Ravi Boppana) runs 1,000+ problems with the structure that begins with problems before formal solutions; recommended after completion of Beast Academy 5D per the [AoPS After Beast Academy page](#).

Middle school writing

Writing in Stream D moves from copywork-and-narration toward formal composition. **IEW Structure and Style for Students** replaces SWI per the [IEW SWI page](#). **Brave Writer Building Confidence** (formerly Faltering Ownership) is the middle-school-age stage in Bogart’s framework per the [Brave Writer Middle School Writers page](#). **WriteShop Junior** covers grades 3–6 (so age-appropriate for middle-school newcomers). **Writing With Ease** is intended for grades 1–4, but per Susan Wise Bauer “older students who still struggle” can use the same workbooks. **Lost Tools of Writing**

Middle school science

Apologia Exploring Creation through General Science targets grade 7 per the [Apologia Curriculum Path](#); *Exploring Creation through Physical Science* targets grade 8 per the [Middle School Physical Science](#) page. Berean Builders middle-school sequence runs *Science in the Atomic Age* and *Discovering Design with Earth Science* per the [course sequence page](#); each course runs 90 lessons (12 foundational plus 3 challenge per section, 6 sections), every-other-day schedule. Real Science 4 Kids Level II covers grades 6–8. R.E.A.L. Science Odyssey Level 2 is designed for full-year middle and high school science.

The first ninety days for Stream D

Days 1–14: deschool. Stream D children typically need a shorter deschooling period than Stream C; two weeks is common. Read aloud one chapter book per week. The Stream D conversation with the child runs deeper than in Stream C — the twelve-year-old has opinions about content, format, friendships, and identity that the parents need to hear before ordering anything.

Days 15–21: placement-test in math. Look at the child's prior writing samples honestly. Pick the Latin program that matches parent capacity rather than parent ambition. Pick the science publisher that matches worldview and parent involvement. Order.

Days 22–60: begin curriculum at half pace. Stream D daily rhythm typically runs four to four-and-a-half hours of focused academic work: math (45 minutes), Latin (30 minutes including video), writing or grammar (30 minutes), reading or literature (45 minutes), history (30 minutes alternating days), science (45 minutes alternating days), independent reading or hands-on (30+ minutes). The child still finishes by mid-afternoon in most weeks.

rather than instruction. The child is falling behind and the parent is overwhelmed — drop to Latin Alive! Book 1 with video, or to Visual Latin, and accept the slightly slower trajectory through high school. The decision tree resolves at about week ten in most families; families that delay the decision past Christmas typically pay for it in January frustration.

Stream D's six-month arc

The Stream D family that started in August has a December reassessment that runs deeper than in any other stream. The twelve-year-old is now four months into a curriculum that did not exist for them before, in a household structure that has rewritten the school day. Some Stream D children settle into the new rhythm by November and finish the year exceeding the parent's expectations. Some Stream D children spend the fall fighting the changes — sometimes the curriculum, sometimes the loss of classmates, sometimes the parent's presence as the daily-academic authority figure rather than the after-school parent. The latter case is not a curriculum problem and rarely resolves through a publisher switch. It resolves through patience, through one-on-one conversations that name the loss honestly, through the slow accumulation of household ritual that becomes recognizable as “school” even when it does not look like the prior school.

The Stream D family that wants to add a co-op or hybrid component in the spring of year one has several options. Classical Conversations Essentials (grades 4–6) and Challenge (grades 7–12) programs welcome mid-year families when local communities have capacity; Challenge runs approximately \$1,400–\$2,000 per year per student per program level for grades 7–12. Local university-model schools (NAUMS / UMSI), classical Christian hybrid academies, and community-based co-ops typically open mid-year enrollment in January or February for the spring semester. Stream D families who add hybrid in spring report the social transition smooths significantly; the child who lost classmates in August finds classmates in February. The cost is real (hybrid runs \$1,500–

WHAT SECTION SEVEN ESTABLISHES

Stream D arrives with seven years of one publisher behind it and the high-school transcript clock visible at the end of the runway. The late-start anxiety is real but mostly unfounded; NHERI's longitudinal data and the catch-up-tutoring research both support the "you are not behind" framing. First Form Latin (Memoria Press, with Jessica Watson's streaming videos) is the load-bearing late-starter Latin recommendation across formation traditions; Visual Latin, Latin Alive! Book 1, Cambridge Latin Course, and Lingua Latina are the credible alternatives by parent capacity and worldview. Math, writing, and science decisions match the publisher patterns of Stream C with grade-level adjustments. The child finishes the day's required work by mid-afternoon; the household rhythm matters more than the publisher in year one.

8. Stream E — High school mid-stream

Stream E is the high-school mid-stream family: a student in grades nine through twelve, leaving public, private, or hybrid school, with the transcript and college-admission timeline now the organizing constraint. The Stream E family does almost nothing the same as the previous five streams. The pedagogical questions that dominated Streams A through D — which phonics, which math program, which Latin sequence — recede in importance. Five operational questions take their place, and the order in which the family answers them determines whether the next four years function as a defensible college-preparatory program or as four years of homework that nobody outside the household recognizes. Transcripts. Credits. Standardized testing. Dual enrollment. Common App. Each is procedurally distinct from the next; none of them is optional for the college-bound student.

Transcripts and credits

per day, five days per week, 36 weeks = approximately 180 hours = 1.0 credit (the higher-end interpretation). A typical homeschool high school graduation requirement runs **24 credits** across four years, structured as 4 English, 3–4 Math, 3–4 Science, 3 Social Studies, 2 Foreign Language, 1 PE, 1 Fine Art, and 6+ electives. State public-school graduation requirements provide a useful reference but do not legally bind homeschool families in the no-notice and low-regulation states.

Competency-based credit (where the student demonstrates mastery rather than seat-time) is increasingly accepted in transcripts feeding to colleges that practice holistic admissions; less defensible for state university systems with formula-driven admissions. Stream E families that anchor on competency-based credit while applying to a state flagship that requires Carnegie-unit accounting end up reconstructing the seat-time math after the fact. The clean approach is to track Carnegie units from day one and let competency-based supplements live in the course descriptions.

Transcript template sources. [HSLDA](#) publishes free transcript templates for HSLDA members; the official template is available via the member portal, with a subscription transcript service available via the [HSLDA Store](#). Common App-aligned templates: multiple free Google Docs templates documented at [Fearless Homeschoolers](#) and [Homeschool Boss](#). Lee Binz / The HomeScholar — long-running subject-matter specialist with multiple guided products including the Total Transcript Solution; multiple recordings on the [OCEANetwork channel](#) discuss her approach to scholarship optimization through transcript construction. The [thehomescholar.com](#) domain currently resolves to a Thai gambling site as of May 2026 — a content-injection or domain-hijack incident; readers should be pointed to her YouTube presence and HSLDA-published material instead until the domain recovers.

Standardized tests in 2026

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

digital. Homeschoolers use code **AI 970000** on the registration form per [College Board guidance](#); homeschool fee waivers are available.

ACT runs \$68 base or \$93 with writing per [ACT.org](#); \$40 late fee. English, math, reading, science, with optional writing. Score reports go free to high school plus four colleges if the codes are entered at registration.

CLT (Classical Learning Test) runs \$69 with no separate score-send or international fees per [cltexam.com](#). CLT is the college entrance test for grades 11–12; CLT10 for grades 9–10; CLT3-8 is the diagnostic. Score scale 1–120 (above 70 is above-average; above 100 is excellent). Accepted at 300+ partner colleges; the Florida Board of Governors approved CLT for all state universities; U.S. service academies accept beginning the 2027 admissions cycle per [CLT Higher Ed. Concordance with SAT](#) published by [College Board](#).

PSAT/NMSQT is set by the school administering; approximately \$18 typical. Junior-year qualifier for the National Merit Scholarship. Homeschoolers cannot register directly with College Board; they must register as “**Away student**” at a local school per [College Board PSAT/NMSQT guidance](#). The test must be taken in October of junior year for National Merit eligibility.

AP exams run \$99 in the US per [College Board](#); \$129 outside the US; \$40 late fee for orders November 15 through March 13; a \$37 College Board fee reduction is available for low-income students. Subject-specific 3-hour exams; scores 1–5. Homeschoolers must arrange to test at a local AP-authorized school; search the AP Course Ledger by city. The 2026 registration deadline was November 14, 2025.

CLEP runs \$97 plus a \$20–\$30 test-center fee per [CLEP](#); free vouchers are available via [Modern States](#). 34 exams across humanities, business, sciences, and languages. Homeschoolers register via the My CLEP portal. Photo ID is required (under-21 students can use the CLEP Student ID Form). Accepted by approximately 75% of US colleges;

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Dual enrollment by state

Several states operate dual-enrollment programs that provide college credit to high-school-age homeschoolers, often at little or no cost.

Ohio College Credit Plus (CCP) covers grades 7–12; Ohio resident; ≥ 3.0 GPA or remediation-free per [ODHE standards](#). Homeschool students need an OH ID account, Intent to Participate form, college acceptance letter, and prior-year letter of exemption. Fall 2026 deadline is April 1.

Washington Running Start covers grades 11–12; tuition-free at 34 community/technical colleges plus CWU, EWU, WSU, and Northwest Indian College per [WA OSPI](#). Homeschool families must enroll through a public school district (file declaration of intent to homeschool plus notify intent to participate); families pay college fees plus books plus transportation. The 2026–27 RSEVF must be used; the 2025–26 form is invalid for the next year.

Georgia Move on When Ready (MOWR / Dual Enrollment) per [Ga. Code §20-2-161.3](#); home study programs operated under §20-2-690 are eligible. Limited to 30 credit hours. Parents sign an annual Participation Agreement.

Minnesota Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) covers grades 10–12 per [MN MDE](#). Homeschoolers must register annually with the Commissioner of Education even after age 17. Eleventh- and twelfth-grade students typically need approximately 2.8 GPA (varies by college); 10th grade students have specific eligibility limits.

Most other states offer some form of dual enrollment via individual community college agreements; eligibility for homeschoolers ranges from “must enroll part-time in district” (NC) to “open admissions” (TX, OK).

NCAA and NAIA athletic eligibility

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Required for homeschool athletes per the [NCAA Homeschool Toolkit \(2025-26\)](#): 16 NCAA core courses completed across grades 9–12 (English 1–4, math, natural/physical sciences, social science, world language or non-doctrinal religion/philosophy); the 10/7 rule (10 core courses by start of senior year, 7 of those in English/math/science); Core-Course Worksheets (CCW) for every required subject; Homeschool Cover Sheet; Administrator and Accordance Statement confirming compliance with state homeschool laws; Official Homeschool Transcript with course titles, grades, units of credit, grading scale. Standardized test scores are NOT required by NCAA D1/D2 since January 2023, though individual schools may still require them for admission or scholarships per the [NCAA help center](#). NAIA has its own clearinghouse with parallel but not identical rules; transcript and core-course documentation are similar.

The Common App for homeschoolers

Per [Common App member support](#) and aggregated guidance at [Fearless Homeschoolers](#): Common App opens August 1 annually for the next-year senior class. Parent assumes the Counselor Account role; the student has a separate Student Account. The counselor uploads four documents: transcript, course descriptions, school profile, and counselor letter of recommendation. Most college deadlines fall October 15 through January 15; midyear report is submitted in February; final transcript is submitted in June. The Common App is accepted by approximately 900 institutions.

State scholarship eligibility

State-level scholarship programs increasingly accept CLT alongside SAT and ACT. **Florida Bright Futures** per [FloridaStudentFinancialAidSG.org](#): homeschoolers are exempt from the GPA threshold (Florida does not recognize parent-issued GPAs for Bright Futures); test-score-only eligibility. Florida Academic Scholars (100% tuition): SAT 1330+ OR ACT 29+ plus 100 community service hours. Florida Medallion Scholars (75% tuition): SAT 1200+ OR ACT 21+ plus 75 community service hours. CLT accepted as

Online and accredited academy options for Stream E

Stream E families that want some or all of high school delivered by an external academy have a deep menu in 2026. Pricing current as of May 2026 from publisher pages.

Liberty University Online Academy (LUOA) is Christian, ACSI plus Cognia (SACS-CASI), VCPE accredited. Per the [LUOA Tuition](#) page: Kindergarten \$2,196 (4 courses); Elementary 1–5 and Middle 6–8: \$2,745 (5 courses); High School 9–12: ~\$3,568.50 (6.5 credits average, \$549/full-year course); Tech fee \$75; Dual enrollment \$275–\$900/credit; family/military/pastor 10% discounts each.

Veritas Scholars Academy is classical Christian, MSA-CESS accredited, NCAA-certified, ACCS member. Per-course Live Online; full-time bands available — direct quote required per [VSA](#).

Wilson Hill Academy is classical Christian, accredited; grades 3–12. \$700–\$1,050 per class (live, two 90-minute sessions per week, full school year) per [WHA Tuition FAQs](#).

Logos Online School is classical Reformed, accredited. \$725 per course; full-time \$2,668 per year (with auto-applied 10% discount); 20% non-refundable deposit at registration per [Logos Tuition](#).

Memoria Press Online Academy is classical Christian, accredited. \$535–\$735 per full-year course; \$300–\$340 per semester course; Diploma Program students get 15% off (5-class minimum); approximately 10% early-registration discount typically through the Ides of March per [Memoria Academy FAQs](#).

Acellus Academy is secular and accredited. Basic \$249/month (\$2,000/year); Enhanced \$349/month (\$3,000/year); Premium \$499/month (\$4,500/year); Roger Billings Scholarship covers approximately 70% per [Acellus Academy](#).

operates similarly per connectionsacademy.com; accredited by Cognia. Both use the “learning coach” rather than “parent teacher” framework. Withdrawal from local public school is required to enroll.

The first ninety days for Stream E

Stream E families with a ninth-grader new to homeschool have a cleaner planning task than families with a junior or senior. The ninth-grader has four full years to build the transcript; the senior has months. The first ninety days for the ninth-grader look very different from the first ninety days for the senior.

Ninth-grade Stream E first ninety days: deschool for one to two weeks. Build a draft four-year course plan: four years English, three to four years math (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calc or alternative), three to four years science (typically Biology, Chemistry, Physics, with one science elective), three years social studies, two years foreign language (Latin counts), one PE, one Fine Art, electives. Decide which courses the family delivers and which the family outsources. Order. Begin curriculum at full pace by week three.

Senior Stream E first ninety days: reverse-engineer the transcript. Pull every existing transcript, syllabus, course description, reading list, and project sample from the prior school. Convert seat-time into Carnegie units. Identify gaps against the student’s target colleges’ admission requirements (state flagship versus liberal-arts versus community-college-then-transfer versus trade pathway). Schedule SAT, ACT, or CLT for the next available administration. Open the Common App account by August 1 if not already open. Confirm whether NCAA eligibility certification is required (only for D1/D2 athletes). Begin senior coursework while the transcript and application work runs in parallel.

Both families share one decision: how much of the senior or junior year is delivered by an outside academy. A senior who arrives at homeschool from a private Catholic high

defensible transcript; each produces a different academic experience for the student. The decision typically resolves around parent confidence (high parent confidence in delivering science → in-house with Apologia or Berean Builders or REAL Science Odyssey; low parent confidence → outsource to LUOA, Veritas, Wilson Hill, or local community college dual enrollment).

Hybrid and microschool tracks for high school

Stream E hybrid options expand significantly in 2026. Classical Conversations Challenge is the largest classical hybrid for grades 7–12: six levels A through IV mapping to grades 7–12; college-prep classical seminar program; approximately \$47/week × 30 weeks per level; community day weekly with parent leading four-day at-home instruction.

Founders Classical Academy per foundersclassical.com operates 22 public charter campuses across Texas and Arkansas; tuition-free; open enrollment regardless of zone; online K–11 option also tuition-free for Texas residents. **Great Hearts Academies** per greatheartsamerica.org operates 47 schools across Arizona, Texas, Louisiana (and Florida starting 2024); approximately 30,000 students 2024–25; public charter and tuition-free in those states; classical liberal arts orientation. Texas alone serves approximately 14,000 students in San Antonio, Arlington, Fort Worth, Irving, plus Great Hearts Online Texas. **University-Model® Schools International (UMSI / formerly NAUMS)** per naumsinc.org is a network of distinctly private Christian University-Model schools running a five-day academic program (2–3 days central classroom plus 2–3 days satellite classroom at home). Trademarked since 2003. The network grew from a 1992 Texas parent group.

Stream E families in ESA-eligible states have a fourth option that did not exist at scale prior to 2022: the ESA-funded microschool. Vendor list participation varies by state. Acton Academy operates 250–300+ campuses in 30 countries (network grew from a single Austin TX flagship in 2009); the model uses learner-driven studios (Spark ages 4–7, Elementary 7–11, Middle School 11–14, Launchpad 14–18), session-long “Quests” with

states; independent microschools and community pods participate via ClassWallet, Step Up EMA, and Odyssey marketplaces.

State-funded virtual public schools

The boundary between “homeschool” and “state-funded virtual public school” is increasingly fuzzy and worth naming explicitly. The state-funded virtual public school is *not* homeschool. The student is technically a public-school student receiving instruction at home: state-certified teachers, state-aligned curriculum, state assessments, state-issued diploma. The parent retains the “learning coach” role rather than primary teacher. Free for residents of participating states. Withdrawal from the local public school is required to enroll. K12 Inc. / Stride operates the largest national network with state-specific brands: California Virtual Academies (CAVA); Insight School of Kansas (7–12) and Kansas Virtual Academy; Insight School of Washington and Washington Virtual Academies; Alabama Destinations Career Academy; Idaho Technical Career Academy and Idaho Virtual Academy; plus K12-powered programs in Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Oregon, Ohio, Kentucky, and Louisiana. Connections Academy (Pearson) operates Florida Connections Academy, Arizona Connections Academy, Oklahoma Connections Academy, Massachusetts Connections Academy (rebranded from TEC Connections Academy effective July 1, 2026), and Inspire Connections Academy (Idaho).

A Stream E family weighing whether to homeschool or to enroll in a state-funded virtual public school is making a structural choice about who holds the academic authority for the next four years. The homeschool path keeps the family as the academic authority; the state-funded virtual path transfers that authority to the state and its certified teachers. Both produce a high school diploma. The homeschool diploma is parent-issued (with all the transcript and course-description discipline documented above); the state-funded virtual diploma is state-issued and identical to the local public-school diploma. For some families the state-issued diploma resolves admissions or scholarship complications that a parent-issued diploma does not; for other families the loss of

WHAT SECTION EIGHT ESTABLISHES

Stream E reorganizes around five operational questions: transcripts, credits, standardized tests, dual enrollment, and Common App. The Carnegie unit (120 hours = 1 credit) remains the credit currency. SAT, ACT, CLT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP, and CLEP carry current 2026 fees. Several states run free or low-cost dual-enrollment programs for high-school homeschoolers; Ohio CCP, Washington Running Start, Georgia MOWR, and Minnesota PSEO are the largest. NCAA athletes need the 16-core-course toolkit and the 10/7 rule. Common App opens August 1 with parent-as-counselor and four required uploads. Online academies (LUOA, Veritas, Wilson Hill, Logos, Memoria, Acellus, K12, Connections) offer external delivery for families that want it. The ninth-grade and senior planning tasks differ structurally; both resolve around how much of the year is delivered in-house versus outsourced.

9. Stream F — Multi-grade family launch

Stream F is the multi-grade family launch: two or more children spanning three or more grade bands, all withdrawn at the same time, all beginning home education in the same week. The archetype is the family with four children in grades three, five, seven, and nine leaving public school mid-year. The structural problem this family faces is unique to Stream F. A single-child family can pick the curriculum that fits the child. A multi-grade family that picks four separate curricula at four separate developmental stages with four separate parent-load requirements ends up with twenty hours of daily instruction to deliver and one parent to deliver it. The math does not work. The Stream F solution is not better time management. The Stream F solution is structural: as much of the curriculum as possible runs **family-style**, with the household gathered around one read-aloud, one history spine, one science thread, and the individual subjects (math, phonics, written composition) running per-child.

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

minutes at the beginning of the school day, includes the loop subjects that work for all ages at once, and replaces what would otherwise be redundant per-child delivery of the same content. Pam Barnhill, who systematized Morning Time in *Your Morning Basket* (2017) and *Better Together: Strengthen Your Family, Simplify Your Homeschool, and Savor the Subjects That Matter Most* (2018), is explicit about the historical sourcing: “Charlotte Mason never talked about doing Morning Time, much less even requiring it.” Morning Time as a modern practice was named and popularized by Cindy Rollins, who first wrote about it on her blog [ordo-amoris.com](#) in September 2008, describing a practice she had been doing for 20 years. Sarah Mackenzie’s *Teaching from Rest* (2015) was the bestseller that surfaced Morning Time to a broader audience.

Morning Time is best described as a Charlotte Mason–inspired modern practice that synthesizes Mason’s family-grouped PNEU programmes with the contemporary American homeschool’s need for a multi-age subject hub. It is not a Mason-original practice, and the booklet describes it as such because the false-attribution story circulates widely.

The standard 2026 Morning Time block runs 30 to 60 minutes and includes a rotating set of subjects that work for all ages at once. Bible, hymn, and catechism for Christian families, or memory work and song for secular families. Poetry, with one poet per term rotating. Picture study, with one artist per term — sit with a single quality reproduction of a master painter (Renoir, Cassatt, Van Gogh) for five minutes, then have the children describe what they saw with the picture turned over. Composer study, with one composer per term played during meals or rest time. Read-aloud history or biography. Memorization (Scripture, poems, or speeches). Folksong or hymn. The block runs as a **loop**: the family does “the next thing” on the loop list rather than every item every day. The loop versus block distinction is the most-quoted shift parents report after reading Barnhill — the move from rigid daily schedule to looped rotation per the [Loop Scheduling vs. Block Scheduling](#) page.

[Every *Homeschool*](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

Literature (HBL), and Science — the subjects done family-style, with the household gathered around the parent reading aloud, with all children listening at their developmental level and narrating back at their developmental level. **Table subjects** are Language Arts, Math, Spelling, and Handwriting — the subjects done individually, with each child working at their own pace at the kitchen table or a quiet workspace. Sonlight's recommendation: combine students within a 3-year age range into one History/Bible/Literature level and one Science program; layer skill subjects per child. All-Subjects Packages discount: 20% per publisher.

The four-child Stream F family — children in grades three, five, seven, and nine — has a structural choice. Combine the three younger children (grades three, five, seven) into one Couch program using a 3-year-age-range approach (Sonlight Core for grades 3–6 with the seventh-grader doing extension reading), and treat the ninth-grader as a separate track. Or combine all four into a family-wide Couch using a four-level publisher (Tapestry of Grace, My Father's World) that explicitly serves all four developmental bands at once. The four-level model is the structural fit for the four-child family; the three-plus-one model fits when the older child is far enough along that combining loses pedagogical rigor.

The multi-grade publisher landscape

Three publishers dominate the multi-grade family-style category in 2026.

Tapestry of Grace (Marcia Somerville, Lampstand Press) is a four-year integrated classics-based Christian curriculum. Year 1 covers Creation through the fall of Rome per the [Tapestry of Grace Year 1 page](#). The four-level family-style design — K–3, 4–6, 6–9, and 10–12 — has all children studying the same week of history at their own learning level each week per the [Year 1 Week Plan Titles page](#). Subject coverage: history, writing, literature, fine arts, geography, church history (with missions), Bible. Tapestry does NOT include phonics, English grammar, math, foreign languages, or science. Year 1 Integrated digital edition is \$189.00 (Digital plus Color Printout or Digital only) per the [Tapestry of](#)

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Sonlight is literature-rich, Christian, and serves multi-grade families through the 3-year-age-range combine pattern. Couch Subjects (HBL plus Science) are done family-style; Table Subjects (Language Arts plus Math plus Spelling plus Handwriting) are done individually. Each All-Subjects Package is fully customizable; 4-day or 5-day options. Sonlight Pre-K is described as bridging Preschool picture books and the early academics of Sonlight K. The Sonlight Kindergarten All-Subjects Package serves ages 5–7 and includes History, Bible, Literature plus all skill subjects.

My Father’s World (MFW) runs three programs: Discover (PreK–2), Investigate (grades 2–8 family-style), and Declare (high school) per the [MFW Family Learning Cycle](#). Investigate is a five-year cycle: Exploring Countries and Cultures, Creation to the Greeks, Middle Ages to the Reformation, 1600s–1850, and 1850 to Modern Times. The pedagogical blend is Charlotte Mason plus classical plus unit-studies plus biblical worldview. Grades 2–8 study Bible, Geography, History, Literature, Science, Art, and Music together as a family per the [MFW Charlotte Mason page](#).

Three additional multi-grade publishers serve specific family configurations. **A Gentle Feast** (Julie Ross, evangelical Charlotte Mason) explicitly markets “all your kids from the same literature-based curriculum” with Morning Time as the core. **Heart of Dakota** (Carrie Austin, evangelical Christian) uses unit-study volumes that group multiple subjects around a historical period; designed for multi-child households per [Cathy Duffy](#). **Konos** (Jessica Hulcy and Carole Thaxton, founded 1984) is a multi-grade unit study (K–8) organized around character traits with younger/middle/older work tracks per unit; volumes are roughly 500 pages, each containing approximately 2–3 years of curriculum per [Cathy Duffy](#). Konos In-A-Box is the pre-packaged 18-week semester unit-study form for parents who find the original Konos overwhelming.

Foundational books for the multi-grade family

The literature on multi-grade homeschooling is small but cohesive. Pam Barnhill, *Better Together* (2018) — the canonical modern manual for multi-age Morning Time. Cindy

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Mackenzie, *The Read-Aloud Family: Making Meaningful and Lasting Connections with Your Kids* (ISBN 9780310350323) — includes nearly 400 age-organized recommended read-alouds in the last four chapters per [Caroline Starr Rose's interview](#). Public booklists at [Read-Aloud Revival](#).

Cindy Rollins homeschooled nine children for 30+ years using Charlotte Mason. Her books include *Mere Motherhood: Morning Time, Nursery Rhymes, and My Journey Toward Sanctification* (2016, CiRCE Institute, ISBN 9780986325748), *Hallelujah: Cultivating Advent and Christmas Traditions* (2019), and *Beyond Mere Motherhood*. She co-hosts *The Literary Life Podcast* (with Angelina Stanford and Thomas Banks) and *The New Mason Jar Podcast* (with Dawn Duran).

Podcasts that function as the social infrastructure

The multi-grade family rarely has access to in-person mentorship at the start of year one. Five active 2026 podcasts function as the practitioner education the family would have received from a veteran neighbor.

Your Morning Basket / Homeschool Better Together with Pam Barnhill is the canonical Morning Time podcast per [pambarnhill.com](#). **Read-Aloud Revival** with Sarah Mackenzie has 14 million+ downloads in 167 countries per [readaloudrevival.com](#); Charlotte Mason-influenced, not strictly Charlotte Mason. **The New Mason Jar with Cindy Rollins** continues the original *Mason Jar* podcast per [thenewmasonjar.com](#). **A Delectable Education** with Liz Cottrill, Emily Kiser, and Nicole Williams runs 11 seasons, approximately 340 episodes, around 20 minutes per episode, weekly, Charlotte Mason-rigorous; the Curriculum Cohort consultation service has served 400+ families. **Scholé Sisters** with Brandy Vencel, Mystie Winckler, Pam Barnhill, and Abby Wahl runs 100+ episodes per [Scholé Sisters](#); the “Sistership” community membership area runs alongside.

[Every Homeschool](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[ESA](#)

[Guides](#)

[Directory](#)

[Issues](#)

families take six. During deschooling, the family establishes the household rhythm before any curriculum arrives.

Days 1–28 (deschool and household rhythm): no curriculum. Library three times per week. One family read-aloud per evening (start with a book the family has all wanted to read — a Cynthia Rylant, a Kate DiCamillo, an E.B. White, a Lloyd Alexander, whatever the children gravitate toward). The parents read three books in this period — one method book aligned with their planned approach (Pam Barnhill’s *Better Together* for the family-style direction, Susan Wise Bauer’s *The Well-Trained Mind* for the classical direction, Susan Schaeffer Macaulay’s *For the Children’s Sake* for the Charlotte Mason direction), one diagnostic book (Cathy Duffy’s *102 Top Picks* for the philosophy worksheet), and one practitioner book (Sarah Mackenzie’s *Teaching from Rest* for the multi-age sanity framework). The family does not order curriculum during this period.

Days 29–35 (placement and ordering): placement-test in math for each child. Placement-test in reading for any child whose reading fluency is unclear. Pick the multi-grade structure (three-plus-one or all-four-together). Pick the family-style publisher (Tapestry, Sonlight, MFW, A Gentle Feast, Heart of Dakota, Konos). Pick per-child math, phonics, and writing programs based on placement results. Order.

Days 36–63 (settling): begin Morning Time first, before the per-child subjects. The Morning Time block establishes the daily start, the family rhythm, and the shared household experience that holds the rest of the day together. Add per-child subjects in week three or four — math first, then reading or writing, then content area. Run at half pace for two weeks. Move to full pace by week six or seven.

Days 64–90 (reassessment): the Stream F family is in one of three positions at the end of week thirteen. The household rhythm holds and the per-child subjects are sustainable — continue. The household rhythm holds but one child’s subjects are too heavy — drop one subject for that child or move it to a lower-load publisher (Teaching Textbooks for math, Easy Peasy for an integrated spine, Time4Learning for content delivery). The household

Practical four-child block schedules

The four-child Stream F block schedule that works for most families combines a Morning Time block, individual math and reading, family read-aloud, and afternoon free time or hands-on. The Demme Learning reference at [How to Create a Block Schedule for Your Work-From-Home Homeschool Family](#) provides the master schedule pattern. The SavvyLearning reference at [Homeschool Schedule for Multiple Kids](#) provides a working sample: 9:00–9:20 Morning Basket (read-aloud, calendar, songs); 9:20–9:40 math (one lesson per child, with the parent rotating). The rotation block model — each child cycles through one-on-one, independent work, and enrichment — is the structural pattern that scales beyond two children.

A typical Stream F day for the four-child family with children in grades three, five, seven, and nine might run: 8:45 breakfast and household chores. 9:00 Morning Time (45 minutes, all four children, Bible plus poem plus picture study plus history read-aloud). 9:45 the third- and fifth-graders move to math while the seventh- and ninth-graders do independent reading. 10:15 swap: the older two do math while the younger two do reading or phonics. 10:45 family break and snack. 11:00 the third-grader does writing while the fifth-grader does Latin and the seventh-grader does science and the ninth-grader does literature; the parent rotates between them in fifteen-minute help-blocks. 11:45 family lunch and read-aloud (typically the chapter book everyone is following). 12:30 outdoor time, hands-on project, music practice, or independent reading. 2:00 ninth-grader finishes any remaining individual high-school subjects (Algebra II online class, dual-enrollment composition course); younger children continue free play or Khan Academy or hands-on. 4:00 done.

The schedule above is one example, not a prescription. Households with infants, with a parent working from home part-time, with a child whose neurodevelopmental profile requires more one-on-one parent time, with extracurricular commitments, with

The spring rhythm and the year-two planning question

Stream F families who reach March of the first year with the household rhythm intact face the year-two planning question on a different footing than they faced the year-one decision. The household now knows what works. The Morning Time loop has stabilized — the family knows which subjects they actually rotate through and which they tried and dropped. The per-child math programs have produced enough data to confirm or revise placement. Each child has demonstrated a learning rhythm the parents can now describe with specifics rather than guesses. The year-two curriculum order is faster, lighter, and closer to right because the family is ordering for the child they have rather than for the child they imagined in August.

Year-two changes for Stream F families typically run small. Most families keep the multi-grade family-style spine they picked in year one and rotate to the next year in the publisher's sequence (Tapestry Year 1 to Year 2; Sonlight Core B to Core C; MFW Investigate Year 1 to Year 2). Most families keep the math programs they picked in year one because mid-year math switches are still the most disruptive change a Stream F household can make. Most families add one ambition in year two — a co-op enrollment for the older child, a language program for the family, a science fair commitment, a music lesson plan. Adding one is sustainable; adding three is the year-two failure mode that destabilizes the rhythm year one built.

WHAT SECTION NINE ESTABLISHES

Stream F's structural answer is family-style learning anchored by Morning Time. Couch subjects (History, Bible, Literature, Science) run family-style; Table subjects (Language Arts, Math, Spelling, Handwriting) run per-child. Three publishers — Tapestry of Grace, Sonlight, My Father's World — dominate the family-style Christian market with different multi-grade architectures. The Barnhill / Mackenzie / Rollins trio supplies the modern practitioner literature;

respects that constraint from day one.

10. The ten-method comparison matrix

The contemporary American homeschool market resolves into ten recognizable methods. Some are full curricula, some are frameworks that require parent supplementation, and some are subject specialists that families assemble alongside other publishers. The matrix below treats each in turn with the same six fields: top three publishers, current year-one pricing for one elementary child, the tradition tag the publisher carries under the canonical Every Homeschool taxonomy, daily parent time, scope (complete program or framework or specialist), and the most useful primary-source pricing link as of May 2026.

Two facts shape how this matrix should be read. First, prices move. Every figure below is hand-verified during May 2026 against the publisher's own page or a first-party retailer where the publisher returned a 403 to direct fetch; expect 90-day drift on any number that ends in cents. Second, scope matters more than method label. A "classical Christian" curriculum like Memoria Press is complete in grammar, Latin, literature, and Bible, but does not sell math; a "Charlotte Mason" curriculum like AmblesideOnline is a complete framework in everything except phonics and math; an "online academy" like Logos is a complete fee-paid school for grades 7–12 with no elementary track at all. Method names mislead families into thinking they are buying more than they are.

Classical (Christian)

Top three publishers. Memoria Press, Classical Conversations, Veritas Press. Classical Academic Press is a fourth high-traffic name but operates as a Latin and logic specialist rather than a complete curriculum, so it sits inside this category as a supplement rather than a spine.

publisher's [Memoria Press Curriculum Manuals page](#). Classical Conversations Foundations tuition for the 2025–2026 program year runs roughly \$335 per student plus an \$85 first-child registration, \$50 supply, and \$25 facility fee, per [aggregator data](#) cross-checked against a [Columbus GA community page](#); rates are set per local director and there is no national tuition page. Veritas Press lists Self-Paced Bible at \$199 per course, Self-Paced History at \$249, Self-Paced Omnibus at \$349, and combined primary-plus-secondary Omnibus at \$899 per year, per the publisher's [Self-Paced Courses store page](#).

Worldview, parent time, scope. Memoria Press carries `christian-evangelical` per the canonical taxonomy and is cross-confessional in practice; Veritas Press carries `christian-reformed` (Reformed Presbyterian) per the Detweilers' [statement of faith](#) that subscribes the Westminster Confession; Classical Conversations carries `christian-evangelical`. Parent time runs high in Kindergarten (the parent leads every Memoria Press lesson aloud), moderates by upper grammar, and drops sharply once a Veritas Self-Paced course or a Wilson Hill live-online section takes over the daily teaching load. Memoria Press ships a complete program in grammar, Latin, literature, arithmetic, and Bible across grades; Classical Conversations supplies a community-day spine but not a math, phonics, or writing curriculum; Veritas Press is strongest on history, Bible, and Omnibus and the family supplements the rest.

Classical (secular)

Top three publishers. Build Your Library, Well-Trained Mind Academy, and Memoria Press used in a secular substitution pattern. The secular branch of classical homeschooling is smaller than the Christian branch, but it has its own institutional spine.

Pricing snapshot. Build Your Library Level 1 PDF lesson plans run \$30–\$60 per level on the publisher's [Level 1 purchase page](#); the books listed in those plans run \$300–\$600 if

programs (Latina Christiana, First Form Latin) sit in the \$30–\$60 per workbook range and are usable by secular families through the Latin grammar track without theological substitution; Memoria’s catalog is listed at memoriapress.com and price-confirmed via Christianbook’s Memoria category.

Worldview, parent time, scope. Build Your Library is `secular`; Well-Trained Mind Academy is faith-neutral course-by-course; Memoria Press in secular use carries the same `christian-evangelical` tag but the Latin and core skills materials are doctrinally minimal. Build Your Library is parent-intensive (read-aloud and discussion at every step). Well-Trained Mind Academy is teacher-led and replaces the parent at the lesson hour. Build Your Library is a complete framework across all subjects except formal math; Well-Trained Mind Academy is subject-by-subject for middle and high school; the Memoria substitution path is a Latin-and-skills layer added to a math program of the family’s choice.

Charlotte Mason

Top three publishers. AmblesideOnline, A Gentle Feast, Alveary (the Charlotte Mason Institute’s annual subscription). Wildwood Curriculum is a fourth name that anchors the secular variant; Mater Amabilis is the Catholic free option; Simply Charlotte Mason is the most popular paid open-and-go alternative.

Pricing snapshot. AmblesideOnline is free at amblesideonline.org/curriculum. Mason’s six volumes are likewise free on the same site. The family’s only mandatory cost is physical books, which run \$50–\$300 in year one depending on used-versus-new and library access. A Gentle Feast’s Feast Table Membership runs \$30 per month on the publisher’s [yearly membership page](#); Cycle 1 base materials sit at [a separate bundle page](#). Alveary family membership runs \$299 per year (co-op rate \$249) for the 2026–2027 cycle, registration opening February 1, 2026, per the [Charlotte Mason Institute Alveary site](#). Wildwood Curriculum is free at wildwoodcurriculum.com.

notebook work, and oversees picture and composer study. AmblesideOnline is a complete framework K–12 (Year 1 through Year 12). Wildwood ends at age 14 (Form III). Most CM publishers leave math and phonics to the parent.

Traditional / textbook

Top three publishers. Abeka, BJU Press, Sonlight. Christian Light Education and Rod & Staff carry the Mennonite-Plain branch of the same tradition; Saxon Math is the math spine many traditional families pick alongside any of the three.

Pricing snapshot. Abeka K5 Parent Kits run \$169.40–\$564.95 across four SKUs (Manuscript or Cursive crossed with Essential or Complete) on the publisher's [K5 Parent Kit page](#); the Complete Parent Kit at \$564.95 is the standard recommendation for first-time families, with a Child Kit adding roughly \$200 to the year-one stack. BJU Press Grade 1 Kits run \$1,073.05 against a \$1,431.04 retail price on the [Christianbook BJU Press category](#); Grade 3 lands at \$1,031.65 on the same page (the publisher's own site returns 403 to direct fetch). Sonlight's Pre-Kindergarten All-Subjects Package is \$402.56 per the [Christianbook Sonlight PreK page](#); full Cores at upper levels run \$1,000–\$1,300 each. Christian Light Education Math Grade 4 (the workbook-driven LightUnit format) runs a complete \$102.50 across LightUnits, teacher guides, and answer keys per the [CLE Grade 4 Math page](#). Saxon Math 5/4 Homeschool Kit lists at \$152.33 on sale (retail \$323.13) per [Christianbook's Saxon 5/4 page](#).

Worldview, parent time, scope. Abeka and BJU Press carry `christian-fundamentalist` (separatist Baptist, young-earth creationist); Sonlight carries `christian-evangelical` (cross-confessional Protestant, missions-emphasized, literature-heavy); Christian Light Education and Rod & Staff carry `mennonite-plain` (Anabaptist, with modest dress and non-resistance distinctives that surface in textbook content). Parent time at Abeka K5 runs high; the Distance Learning Online video subscription transfers most of the daily teaching to recorded instructors. CLE's LightUnit format is designed for low-parent-

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Unit study

Top three publishers. Tapestry of Grace, Konos Character Curriculum, Five in a Row. Notgrass History anchors the history-spine variant; Beautiful Feet Books is the literature-led variant.

Pricing snapshot. Tapestry of Grace Year 1 Integrated digital edition lists at \$189 per the publisher's [Year 1 product page](#); the print edition was discontinued from 2020 forward, with a \$50 Loom disc service available for legacy print owners. Konos Volume I, II, or III runs \$110 each per the [Legacy Homeschool Konos product page](#); the In-A-Box prepackaged option is \$225, In-A-Bag \$99, and the Konos Index \$20 from the same source. Five in a Row Volume 1 lists at \$49 on the publisher's [Volume 1 product page](#); Volumes 2 through 4 hold the same price. Notgrass America the Beautiful (5–8) runs \$125 per the [Christianbook Notgrass page](#). Beautiful Feet Early American History K–3 Primary Jumbo Pack runs \$265.95 on sale (retail \$341.23) per the [Beautiful Feet Books page](#).

Worldview, parent time, scope. Tapestry of Grace, Konos, Five in a Row, Notgrass, and Beautiful Feet all carry `christian-evangelical` (cross-confessional Protestant). Tapestry of Grace and Konos run very parent-intensive; both require 1–2 hours of weekly planning even after the family settles into the rhythm. Five in a Row sits at moderate-to-high parent intensity; the parent reads aloud and leads activities. Tapestry of Grace and Konos are complete frameworks with the family supplying math and language arts. Five in a Row is an enrichment framework PreK–3 that requires separate phonics and math. Notgrass and Beautiful Feet are subject specialists in history.

Montessori at home

Top three publishers. NAMC (North American Montessori Center) for the parent-training and curriculum-manual layer; Nienhuis Montessori for the physical materials;

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

[page](#); specific kit prices sit behind the enrollment portal. Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary diploma program fee structures are at the [Lower Elementary fees page](#) and [Upper Elementary fees page](#). Nienhuis-grade physical materials commonly run \$2,000–\$10,000 or more for a primary classroom outfit; that figure does not appear on a single product page because the materials sell individually.

Worldview, parent time, scope. Faith-neutral. Parent time is very high — the Montessori-trained adult prepares the environment, observes the child, presents lessons individually, and rotates materials seasonally. Scope is split: NAMC supplies the manuals; the family supplies the materials separately. Subject-specialist publishers add cards or curriculum at \$20–\$200 per subject.

Unschooling

Top three sources. Unschooling sells no curriculum because the method rejects the premise. The reference points are John Holt’s Growing Without Schooling archive at [johnholtgws.com](#), Sandra Dodd’s site at [sandraddodd.com](#), and Peter Gray’s research-psychology writing on self-directed learning at [Psychology Today’s Freedom to Learn blog](#).

Pricing snapshot. All three are free. Pat Farenga’s edited continuation of Holt’s work is available through the same [johnholtgws.com](#) site. Peter Gray’s *Free to Learn* (Basic Books, 2013) sits in the trade-paperback price band on retailer sites; *Evidence That Self-Directed Education Works* is available through the Alliance for Self-Directed Education at [self-directed.org](#).

Worldview, parent time, scope. Faith-neutral. Parent attention is high; parent scheduling load is very low. There is no “curriculum scope” in the conventional sense. Sandra Dodd’s “radical unschooling” refuses the distinction between educational and non-educational activity altogether; Pat Farenga’s working definition is the more

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

ECIECUC

Top three publishers. There is no single publisher. The eclectic family stitches together a math program, a phonics program, a literature spine, and a science program from named publishers above. The most common 2026 combination for one elementary child runs roughly Singapore Dimensions or Math-U-See for math, All About Reading or Logic of English Foundations for phonics, Memoria First Form Latin or Brave Writer for language arts, Story of the World plus its activity book for history, and REAL Science Odyssey or Apologia Young Explorers for science.

Pricing snapshot. A representative eclectic year for one elementary child lands \$400–\$900 with new books and \$150–\$400 with used. The Cathy Duffy site at cathyduffyreviews.com is the canonical free reference families use to assemble their stack; her *102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum* supplies the philosophy-of-education worksheet that families use to identify their style before buying anything, per the publisher's [102 Top Picks page](#).

Worldview, parent time, scope. Mixed. Parent time is moderate to high, with a planning load that drops sharply after the first six weeks once the routine settles. Scope is by definition complete; the family bought it that way.

Online / virtual academy

Top three providers. K12 Inc. (Stride), Connections Academy, Acellus Academy. Power Homeschool is the same content as Acellus stripped of accreditation. Time4Learning is the most popular subscription supplement that families also use full-time.

Pricing snapshot. K12 Private Academy runs roughly \$3,995 per year for early grades up to \$6,995 per year for high school per the [K12 Private School tuition page](#); part-time courses run roughly \$450 per semester. K12-powered state-funded virtual public schools are tuition-free in participating states per the [school finder](#). Connections Academy public-school options are tuition-free in 30-plus states per the [Connections](#)

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Premium at \$499 per month or \$4,500 per year (up to 10 courses, GoldBook computer included). Power Homeschool charges \$99 per month per student per the [Power Homeschool FAQ](#) — the price has moved from \$32 to \$99 over the prior eighteen months per practitioner reports surfaced in a [Brighterly cost analysis](#). Time4Learning runs \$39.95 per month per student per the [Time4Learning pricing page](#), with annual prepayment shaving 30 percent and family discounts running 10 percent for two students up to 25 percent for six.

Worldview, parent time, scope. Secular across all five providers. Parent time is low; the teacher of record sits at the academy, not the kitchen table. Acellus has surfaced practitioner concerns about specific philosophical content, documented across reviewer videos at [cathyduffyreviews.com](#). Scope is complete K–12 accredited at K12 Private Academy, Connections Academy, and Acellus; not accredited at Power Homeschool (which delivers the same content but issues no diploma); subscription-only at Time4Learning (the family chooses whether to use it as a supplement or as the full year).

Hybrid/co-op

Top three providers. Classical Conversations community days, Wild + Free, the Acton Academy microschool network. Wilson Hill Academy and Logos Online School anchor the live-online classical Christian variant; Founders Classical Academy is the tuition-free Texas-and-Arkansas charter alternative often considered alongside the others.

Pricing snapshot. Classical Conversations Foundations runs \$335 per student for tuition plus the fees noted above, totaling roughly \$495 in year-one base costs for one child plus \$100–\$250 in materials. Wild + Free monthly member benefits include digital bundles, the previous month's bundle, and the print magazine; annual subscribers receive two months free per the [Wild + Free bundles page](#). Acton Academy tuition varies dramatically by location: \$13,150 per year at [Marietta GA](#); \$9,995 at [NW Indianapolis IN](#); roughly \$13,310 at [Northwest Austin TX](#); \$13,200 at [Westlake Austin TX](#) plus a \$1,000

\$2,668 per year per the [Logos tuition page](#), with a 20 percent non-refundable deposit at enrollment.

Worldview, parent time, scope. Classical Conversations and Wild + Free carry `christian-evangelical`. Wilson Hill Academy and Logos Online School carry `christian-reformed` (Reformed Presbyterian / classical Christian). Acton Academy is `secular`. Founders Classical Academy is a public charter and carries no religious classification by law. Parent time is very high at Classical Conversations (the parent attends community day weekly and leads home study six days per week), low at Wilson Hill or Logos Online (live-online instructors carry the teaching), and low at Acton (full-time campus attendance). Scope is complete K-12 at Acton, middle and high school subject-by-subject at Wilson Hill and Logos Online, and a hybrid spine at Classical Conversations that the family supplements with math, phonics, and writing curriculum.

II. The Classical track — Christian and secular variants

The historical inheritance of classical education is documented in the companion booklet *Trivium, Quadrivium, and Charlotte Mason — A Booklet on Classical Education from Augustine to 2026* at </guides/trivium-quadrivium-charlotte-mason-2026>. The present chapter assumes that history and answers the practical question that follows it: what do families actually buy in 2026 to homeschool classically, and how do the Christian and secular variants of the movement differ at the catalog level?

The Christian classical stack

Four publishers anchor the contemporary Christian classical homeschool: Memoria Press, Classical Conversations, Veritas Press, and Classical Academic Press. Memoria Press was founded in 1994 by Cheryl Lowe and her son Brian in Louisville, Kentucky; Highlands Latin School, the brick-and-mortar school where Memoria's curriculum is

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Classical Conversations was founded in 1997 by Leigh Bortins in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, beginning with eleven teenage boys in her home basement. Robert Bortins, her oldest son and the program's first student, took over leadership in 2012. The current network reports more than 50,000 children served from age 4 through high school across four programs — Foundations (ages 4 and up), Scribblers (ages 4–8), Essentials (ages 9 and up), and Challenge (ages 12 and up, levels A through IV) — per the [Programs page](#) and the [Challenge Program Guide](#); an alternative count from [cchomeoffice.com's history page](#) places enrollment over 125,000 student seats across all programs. The model assumes one in-person community day per week plus four home-education days; tuition and fees are set by the local director within ranges the parent organization specifies, which is why no national tuition page exists.

Veritas Press was founded in 1996 by Marlin and Laurie Detweiler in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Detweilers, inspired by Doug Wilson's 1991 *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, attended what became the first Association of Classical Christian Schools conference in Idaho, met the Logos School Moscow faculty, founded their own Geneva School in 1992–1993, and stood up Veritas Press to address the curriculum gaps the early classical-Christian school movement was hitting. Veritas Press identifies as Reformed Presbyterian; the publisher's [statement of faith and philosophy](#) embraces the early ecumenical creeds (Apostles', Nicene, Chalcedonian, Athanasian) plus the Reformation confessions including the Belgic, Heidelberg, Philadelphia, Thirty-Nine Articles, and the Westminster Confession, with Westminster treated as governing where confessions conflict. The Veritas product timeline runs History & Bible Cards (1996), Phonics Museum (2000, with the iOS app released 2017), the Omnibus literature/history series (2005), the first Self-Paced history courses (2008–2009), Self-Paced Omnibus (2013), Self-Paced Bible (2014), Veritas Scholars Academy diploma program (2015, accredited by Middle States Association), and the VeritasBible.com platform (2016) per the publisher's [Our History page](#). Veritas Scholars Academy reports more than 10,000 enrolled students and self-describes as the largest classical Christian school in the world.

up); the logic line covers four texts for grade 7 and up. The catalog price range across the publisher's full inventory runs \$3.95 to \$995 per the [Classical Academic Press home page](#); the Latin-and-logic [Latin collection page](#) carries the full sequence.

Beyond the four anchor publishers, the Christian classical track in 2026 includes Roman Roads Press (formerly Roman Roads Media) for Wesley Callihan's *Old Western Culture* great-books video sequence, Compass Classroom for Dwane Thomas's Visual Latin, Logos Online School (Stephenson, 2012, grades 7–12, \$2,668 full-time per the [Logos tuition page](#)), Wilson Hill Academy (founded 2014, grades 3–12 plus a parent-led K–2 program called Forma, \$750–\$1,200 per course per the [Wilson Hill admissions page](#)), Schole Academy (Classical Academic Press's online school, with separate Houses of Studies for Orthodox, Catholic, and Anglican students inside an ecumenical "Great Hall" per [scholeacademy.com](#)), Kepler Education (an independent-teacher marketplace with 100-plus courses and 1,000-plus families per [kepler.education](#)), and Memoria Academy (grades 3–12, full-year courses \$535–\$735 and semester courses \$300–\$340 per the [Memoria Academy FAQ](#), class size capped at 16).

Latin pricing snapshot, May 2026

Latin sits at the center of the classical curriculum, and Latin pricing tells a family quickly which path the household is signing up for. The Memoria Press First Form Latin Complete Set runs \$126.50 on sale (regularly \$157.60) per the [Rainbow Resource listing](#) and includes the student text, teacher manual, workbook, quizzes and tests, teacher key, pronunciation CD, vocabulary flashcards, and three DVDs covering roughly nine hours of instruction by Highlands Latin teacher Jessica Watson. Memoria's Latina Christiana Complete Set runs \$104.88 on sale (regularly \$121.95) per the publisher's product page. The Henle Latin First Year Text, originally published 1945 by Robert J. Henle, S.J., remains in print through Memoria Press and is used both at Highlands Latin and inside Memoria Academy per the [Henle First Year Text page](#).

Teacher Edition runs \$26.99 on sale (regularly \$34.95) per the publisher's [Latin Alive! Book 1](#) page; the DVD/CD set retails at \$154.95 and the program is designed as a year-long course for grades 7–8 and up. Compass Classroom Visual Latin, taught by Dwane Thomas, runs \$180 for an 18-month streaming license per the [Visual Latin](#) page; the program covers 30 lessons, roughly 11.5 hours of video, and counts as one full high-school foreign-language credit. Cambridge Latin Course Unit 1 ranges \$8.40 used to \$61.79 new with one-year digital access per the [Cambridge University Press](#) page. Wheelock's Latin (7th edition, Frederic Wheelock revised by Richard LaFleur) runs \$16.75 to \$24.99 across retailers; the text remains 608 pages and was first published 1956. *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata Pars I* (Hans Ørberg, Hackett Publishing) lists at \$34 paperback or \$42 hardcover per the [Hackett](#) page; Hackett has held exclusive North American publishing rights since acquiring Focus.

The secular classical variant

The secular classical homeschool sits inside the same trivium framework but draws its philosophy from Susan Wise Bauer's 1999 *The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home* rather than from Doug Wilson's 1991 *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*. *The Well-Trained Mind* was first published in 1999 by W. W. Norton, revised in 2004 and 2009, and the current 5th "Essential Edition" moves resource lists into an online portal subscribed through Well-Trained Mind Press per the publisher's [W. W. Norton](#) page. Bauer's developmental reading of the trivium — grammar 6–10, logic 10–14, rhetoric 14–18 — descends from Dorothy Sayers's 1947 essay "The Lost Tools of Learning" rather than from medieval primary sources, a distinction the trivium booklet documents at length.

Build Your Library, by Emily Cook, is the principal secular literature-based curriculum that operationalizes Bauer's framework with Charlotte Mason method (narration, copywork, dictation, memory work). Levels run 0 through 12 per the publisher's [about](#)

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

middle and high school instruction that operationalizes the same framework with a teacher of record. Tuition, registration, and STEM fees are listed on the [tuition page](#). Memoria Press's Latin and core skills materials are themselves doctrinally minimal; the religious content sits in a separate Christian Studies series, not in the Latin grammar texts, and many secular families adopt the Latin track with the Christian Studies track substituted out. The structural separation is observable from the catalog itself per the publisher's [curriculum article](#).

Foundational philosophy texts (a sidebar)

Five books regularly recur on the “first reads for parents” lists across the classical-Christian and secular-classical homeschool worlds. They are not curriculum and they do not cover the same ground.

Susan Wise Bauer and Jessie Wise, *The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home* (W. W. Norton, 1999; current Essential Edition 5th, Well-Trained Mind Press), is the developmental-trivium classical-secular flagship and has sold more than 200,000 copies across editions per the [author's page](#).

Christopher Perrin, *An Introduction to Classical Education: A Guide for Parents* (Classical Academic Press), is a 48-page booklet that traces the history of classical education and describes its modern renaissance with sections on the trivium, the role of classical languages, and student outcomes. It is the standard short on-ramp for parents new to the movement and is the recommended companion to Perrin's ClassicalU video course of the same title per [the CAP page](#).

James S. Taylor, *Poetic Knowledge: The Recovery of Education* (SUNY Press, 1998), argues that a substantial portion of classical education should be taught in the “poetic mode” — an intuitive, pre-discursive way of knowing — and traces this mode from Homer through Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, and Maritain. The book also documents André Charlier's Maslacq school in mid-1940s France and the Integrated

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

August 6, 2024 with a new introduction by Andrew Kern per the [2024 reissue listing](#)), is a Rhodes-scholar-trained head-of-school treatment of the philosophy of classical education that closes with a third on implementation. Hicks ran independent schools in Mississippi, Texas, New Hampshire, Georgia, and Florida.

Anthony Esolen, *Ten Ways to Destroy the Imagination of Your Child* (ISI Books / Regnery, 2010), is the most-quoted polemical book on contemporary child-rearing and education to come out of the classical-Christian world; Esolen is professor of English and writer in residence at Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts in Warner, NH and the translator of Dante's *Divine Comedy* per the [Regnery page](#).

Stratford Caldecott, *Beauty for Truth's Sake: On the Re-Enchantment of Education* (Brazos Press, 2009), supplies the Catholic philosophical defense of the trivium-quadrivium recovery in a Christian Pythagorean register; influenced by Pope Benedict XVI's *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, the book covers geometry, history, liturgy, music, astronomy, and mythology per the [Amazon listing](#). Andrew Kern, founder of the CiRCE Institute, hosts the apprenticeship program and the Lost Tools of Writing curriculum at [circeinstitute.org](#); CiRCE's stated theological position is "mere Christianity" in the historic creeds of the church.

12. The Charlotte Mason track

The institutional history of Charlotte Mason and her relation to the medieval seven-arts curriculum is documented in the companion booklet *Trivium, Quadrivium, and Charlotte Mason — A Booklet on Classical Education from Augustine to 2026*, Parts IX and X, at [/guides/trivium-quadrivium-charlotte-mason-2026](#). The present chapter addresses the practical question that follows: how does a 2026 family actually start a Charlotte Mason homeschool, and which publisher fits which household?

[Every *Homeschool*](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

text downloads of four of the six (Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 6) are at Project Gutenberg. *Home Education* (1886) is at amblesideonline.org/cm/vol1complete.html. *Parents and Children* (1896) is at vol2complete.html. *School Education* (1904) is at vol3complete.html. *Ourselves* (1904) is at vol4complete.html. *Formation of Character* (1905) is at vol5complete.html. *Towards a Philosophy of Education* (1923) is at vol6complete.html. Karen Glass's *Mind to Mind: An Essay Towards a Philosophy of Education* (CreateSpace, ISBN 9781505692686) is the recommended modern abridgment of Volume 6 for families who find Mason's Edwardian prose forbidding; the abridgment preserves the philosophy in Mason's own words while removing material Glass judges outdated, per karenglass.net.

Mason's 20 Principles open Volume 6 (1923) and remain the most quoted summary of her mature thought. The trivium booklet at Part IX reproduces them in full with the verbatim quotes from amblesideonline.org/cm/vol6. Brandy Vencel's *Start Here: A Journey Through Charlotte Mason's 20 Principles* is the canonical contemporary onboarding study guide; it walks new families through each principle using Mason's volumes, Susan Schaeffer Macaulay's *For the Children's Sake*, and selected *Parents' Review* articles per afterthoughtsblog.net.

The on-ramp text every CM family reads first

Susan Schaeffer Macaulay's *For the Children's Sake: Foundations of Education for Home and School* (originally 1984; current edition Crossway 2009, ISBN 9781433506956) is the conversational introduction to Mason that, more than any other single book, reintroduced Mason to American homeschoolers in the 1980s. Macaulay grew up at L'Abri Fellowship, the Schaeffer family's Swiss study center; the book is available at Amazon, with biographical context at amblesideschools.org.

The 2026 publisher landscape

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

families may use it as published, but the curriculum cannot be republished or used in paid online classes. The home page is amblesideonline.org; the licensing terms are at amblesideonline.org/license; the founding history is at amblesideonline.org/advisory-history. The tradition tag is `christian-evangelical` (no denominational statement; founders identify as Christian).

Simply Charlotte Mason (Sonya and John Shafer with Karen and Doug Smith, founded around 2006) is the most popular paid open-and-go alternative; its six-year history rotation organizes the curriculum by historical period rather than by AO's spiral. Worldview tag: `christian-evangelical`. The home page is at simplycharlottesmason.com.

A Gentle Feast, by Julie Ross, lists a Feast Table Membership at \$29 per month founding-member rate (2025–2026 cycle, per the publisher's [membership announcement](#)). The 2026–2027 cycle opens through August 31, 2026 per the [home page](#); pricing for the new cycle had not yet posted as of mid-May 2026. Worldview tag: `christian-evangelical` (Bible memory work and Scripture explicitly integrated into Morning Time and the history rotation).

Alveary, the Charlotte Mason Institute's annual subscription, is the most research-backed paid CM curriculum on the market. Family membership runs \$299 per year (co-op rate \$249) for 2026–2027; registration opens February 1, 2026 and the subscription expires June 30, 2027 per alveary.org. The Charlotte Mason Institute (formerly ChildLight USA) was founded by Dr. Carroll Smith, former Dean of Education at Gardner-Webb University, and his wife Andra Smith; CMI has organized the Annual Conference since 2005 and has hosted more than 2,000 educators across two decades per cminst.org/about/our-story. Worldview tag: `christian-evangelical`.

Mater Amabilis is the canonical free Catholic Charlotte Mason curriculum, named for the Catholic parish *Mater Amabilis* ("Mother Most Lovable") in Ambleside, England, where Charlotte Mason lived and worked, and from the Litany of Loreto. It was developed by Dr. Kathryn Faulkner (UK) and Michele Quigley (US, mother of ten and a

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

catholic`.

Wildwood Curriculum is the principal secular Charlotte Mason curriculum, free at wildwoodcurriculum.com. Forms run I (ages 6–9), II (ages 9–12), and III (ages 12–14). Book selections are derived from PNEU programmes of the 1920s and 1930s, matched to page count and difficulty level per the [FAQ](#); contributors are non-religious, Pagan, Jewish, and Buddhist with a political range running conservative to liberal per the publisher’s [on being a secular curriculum note](#). Worldview tag: `secular`.

Ani Ve-ami is the principal Jewish Charlotte Mason curriculum, co-founded by Amy Bodkin (Charlotte Mason Plenary special-needs consultant) and Malkie Swidler. The home page is at ani-ve-ami.com; pricing is not posted on the publisher partner page at cmplenary.com/ani-ve-ami as of May 2026. The Jewish Charlotte Mason blog by Bethany Mandel, at jewishcharlottemason.wordpress.com, hosts a substantial Getting-Started guide for Jewish families adapting AO or Alveary. Worldview tag: `jewish`.

Reformed and Presbyterian families typically adapt one of the major CM publishers above — AmblesideOnline, Simply Charlotte Mason, Alveary, A Gentle Feast — and supplement with Westminster Shorter or Heidelberg catechism work. There is no Reformed-specific CM curriculum publisher in the 2026 market; the section on the Reformed track at §15 below covers the Reformed-CM intersection in detail.

The Mason-Franklin collaboration

The historical fact that grounds Mason’s contemporary cross-worldview adoption is the seventy-year working partnership between Mason and Henrietta “Netta” Franklin (1866–1964), CBE, the longest-serving PNEU honorary secretary. Franklin was Anglo-Jewish, specifically Liberal Jewish; she hosted the first meeting of the Jewish Religious Union at her London home in February 1902. Her biographical entry at the [Jewish Women’s Archive](#) documents the breadth of her PNEU involvement; the Charlotte Mason Poetry archive’s [Charlotte Mason and Henrietta Franklinessay](#) traces the working relationship.

Mason's "quiet growing time" before age 6

Mason's doctrine that formal lessons begin around age 6 is documented in the Preface to *Home Education* Volume 1: "In this time of extraordinary pressure, educational and social, perhaps a mother's first duty to her children is to secure for them a quiet growing time, a full six years of passive receptive life, the waking part of it for the most part out in the fresh air." The AmblesideOnline Year 0 framework, at amblesideonline.org/Year0.shtml, restates the doctrine: "the chief function of the child during the first six or seven years of his life is to find out all he can, about whatever comes under his notice, by means of his five senses." AmblesideOnline is explicit that "Year 0 is not a formal AmblesideOnline year" — the focus areas are child-directed exploration, outdoor time, real tasks around the house, and gentle academic exposure through play. This connects directly to the Stream A guidance at §5 of this booklet (Fresh Kindergarten); the Mason family chooses Year 0, not a formal Kindergarten program, for an under-6 child.

The Morning Time tradition

Morning Time as a contemporary American homeschool practice was named and popularized by Cindy Rollins, who first wrote about it on her blog www.ordo-amoris.com in September 2008, describing a practice she had been doing for 20 years across her family of nine. Pam Barnhill systematized it as a method in *Your Morning Basket* (2017) and *Better Together: Strengthen Your Family, Simplify Your Homeschool, and Savor the Subjects That Matter Most* (2018) per homeschoolbettertogether.com. Sarah Mackenzie's 2015 *Teaching from Rest* included Morning Time as a chapter and is widely credited as the moment the practice exploded in popularity beyond Mason-specific households. Pam Barnhill is explicit on her own site that Charlotte Mason "never talked about doing Morning Time, much less even requiring it" per the [why-morning-time page](#); the practice is best described as a CM-influenced modern synthesis of Mason's family-grouped PNEU programmes with the contemporary American

[Every *Homeschool*](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

The 2020 conference and podcast circuit

The Charlotte Mason Institute Annual Conference runs July 23–25, 2026 at Covenant College, Lookout Mountain GA, on the theme “Faithfully Present: A Call to Attentive, Relational Education in the Midst of a Distracted Age” per cminst.org/gatherings. Awaken: A Living Books Conference runs July 17–18, 2026 at Bible Baptist Church in Traverse City MI per livingbooksconference.com, with A Delectable Education hosts among the speakers. ADE at HOME 2026 (A Delectable Education’s annual virtual conference) charged \$60 early-bird with the code GRATEFUL during Black Friday weekend 2025; general registration ran \$75 through February 5, 2026 per adelectableeducation.com and offered 30-plus hours of CM teacher training.

Active podcasts in 2026 include A Delectable Education (hosts Liz Cottrill, Emily Kiser, and Nicole Williams — eleven seasons, roughly 340 episodes), the Simply Charlotte Mason Homeschooling Podcast (Sonya Shafer, 450-plus episodes), The New Mason Jar with Cindy Rollins at thenewmasonjar.com, Scholé Sisters (Brandy Vencel, Mystie Winckler, Pam Barnhill, Abby Wahl), Read-Aloud Revival (Sarah Mackenzie, with 14 million-plus downloads in 167 countries per readaloudrevival.com), Your Morning Basket / Homeschool Better Together (Pam Barnhill), The Children’s Tradition (Amanda Faus), and The Feast Life (Julie Ross). Charlotte Mason Poetry, edited by Art Middlekauff at charlottemasonpoetry.org, is the leading academic-archival CM site and hosts the most rigorous critique of the “Mason-was-classical” reading.

The UKPNEU heritage and the modern legacy

The Parents’ National Educational Union (PNEU) was founded in 1887 at Bradford Grammar School (initially “Parents’ Educational Union”; renamed 1892); the last branch closed in 1984 and the parent organization closed in 1989. World-Wide Education Service, the overseas-families division created in 1978, was transferred to the Bell Educational Trust in Cambridge per [the Wikipedia entry](#). Mason’s House of Education (1892) became Charlotte Mason College after her death; in 1992 it became the tenth

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Digital Collection at Redeemer University in Ontario is at libguides.redeemer.ca/cmdc/timeline.

A practical 30-day plan

Week 1. Read *For the Children's Sake* cover to cover (~150 pages), the AmblesideOnline introduction at amblesideonline.org/cm-intro, and the AO FAQ at amblesideonline.org/getting-started. AO's own warning is direct: "It is not advisable to attempt this curriculum without first reading the FAQ."

Week 2. Choose a publisher. The free + Mason-faithful path is AmblesideOnline (Years 0–12, copyrighted, used as published). The paid + open-and-go paths are Simply Charlotte Mason (six-year history rotation), A Gentle Feast (Feast Table membership), or Alveary (\$299 per year for the most research-backed CM curriculum). The Catholic family chooses Mater Amabilis (free); the Jewish family chooses Ani Ve-ami plus Bethany Mandel's blog; the secular family chooses Wildwood Curriculum (free). The under-6 family chooses Year 0 from any publisher and treats it as a year of habit, outdoor time, and read-alouds rather than as a year of formal lessons.

Week 3. For AO Year 1, the spine books include *Trial and Triumph* (Hannula), *An Island Story* (H. E. Marshall), *Fifty Famous Stories Retold* (Baldwin), *Viking Tales* (Hall, chapters 1–11), the D'Aulaire biographies, *The Aesop for Children*, *Tales from Shakespeare* (Lamb), *The Blue Fairy Book* (Lang), *Just So Stories* (Kipling), *Parables from Nature* (Gatty), *A Child's Garden of Verses* (Stevenson), *When We Were Very Young* plus *Now We Are Six* (Milne), *Paddle to the Sea* (Holling), *The Handbook of Nature Study* (Comstock), and *The Burgess Bird Book for Children* (Burgess). Most are public-domain free; some are reprinted by Living Book Press or Yesterday's Classics. The booklist itself is at amblesideonline.org/ao-y1-bks. Add a math program (AO leaves the choice to the parent), a phonics program for pre-readers (the same), a nature notebook for each child, and watercolor pencils or basic art supplies for picture study.

a family is likely to wrestle with in the first 90 days are the habits of attention, obedience, truthfulness, and finishing — the three educational instruments Mason developed in Volume 1 Part II. The AO FAQ's common-mistakes list is direct and worth reading on day one: do not double up to catch up, do not skip the philosophy, do not substitute easier books permanently, and do not worry about finishing all twelve years.

13. The Traditional / textbook track

The traditional textbook track is the oldest spine in American homeschooling and remains the largest by volume. Six publishers anchor the category in 2026: Abeka, BJU Press, and Sonlight (the cross-confessional Protestant big three), Christian Light Education and Rod & Staff (the Mennonite-Plain branch), and Saxon Math (the math spine many traditional families pick alongside any of the others). The pillar guide at [/guides/abeka-vs-bju-vs-sonlight](#) covers the head-to-head comparison of the three largest evangelical publishers in detail; this section adds Christian Light Education and Rod & Staff as the Mennonite-Plain alternative, the Saxon-spine eclectic-traditional pattern, and the Bob Jones video distance-learning option as the four directions a family ends up taking after they outgrow or step away from the big three.

Abeka

Abeka is the curriculum arm of Pensacola Christian College. The curriculum was founded in 1972; Pensacola Christian College itself opened in 1974. Abeka is the largest single Christian homeschool curriculum publisher in the United States by HSLDA-survey-derived market share. K5 Parent Kits run \$169.40–\$564.95 across four SKUs (Manuscript or Cursive crossed with Essential or Complete) per the publisher's [K5 Parent Kit page](#); the publisher also offers monthly payment plans at \$8.50 per month (10-month) or \$8.33 per month (6-month). The Complete Parent Kit at \$564.95 is the standard recommendation for first-time families. Abeka Academy adds a streaming

Worldview tag: `christian-fundamentalist` (Baptist-influenced, young-earth creationist, complementarian, American-exceptionalist in history). Abeka is approved on most state ESA marketplaces — Arizona ClassWallet, Florida Step Up For Students / MyScholarShop, West Virginia Hope Scholarship, Iowa Student First, Utah Fits All, and Arkansas LEARNS Act among them. Practitioner sentiment, captured across reviewer videos and consistently across the YouTube triangulation set used to assemble this section, frames Abeka as the high-cost-but-complete benchmark; one widely-cited 2025 review described Abeka as “extremely extremely expensive... probably the most expensive curriculum out there. But you get what you pay for. It is thorough. It is solid” per Heavenly Homeschool’s [Abeka VS Christian Light Education comparison](#).

BJU Press

BJU Press was founded in 1973 within Bob Jones University. It is the largest book publisher in South Carolina; over one million pre-college students globally use BJU textbooks, with roughly 2,500 titles in print as of 2006. By 1988 BJU had become the largest textbook supplier to U.S. homeschool families per the [BJU Press Wikipedia entry](#). Beyond the textbook line, BJU operates two imprints: JourneyForth (Christian living and fiction) and JourneyForth Academic. Grade Kit pricing via Christianbook (the publisher’s own page returns 403 to direct fetch) runs Grade 1 Kit \$1,073.05 (retail \$1,431.04), Grade 2 Kit \$1,076.40, Grade 3 Kit \$1,031.65, and Grade 8 Kit \$978.25 per the [Christianbook BJU Press category](#). Single-subject kits run \$65–\$110 and full-grade bundles \$400–\$700 or more. BJU Press also offers a Distance Learning Online Subscription per grade level; pricing for that option is not visible on the Christianbook category page.

Worldview tag: `christian-fundamentalist` (separatist Baptist, young-earth creationist). The Wiser Homeschool YouTube review at [BJU Press Homeschool Review after 12 Years!](#)— a 12.5-year user reviewing the curriculum after graduating her first child —

Sonlight

Sonlight was founded in 1990 by John and Sarita Holzmann. The Pre-Kindergarten All-Subjects Package runs \$402.56 per the [Christianbook Sonlight PreK page](#) and includes the instructor's guide, 26 children's books, an audio CD, four "Developing the Early Learner" workbook volumes, 36 weeks of instruction at 20–90 minutes per day, and is targeted at ages 4–5. All-Subjects Packages by Core / Level (A, B, B+C, D, E, F, G, H) range roughly \$800–\$1,200 per Core. Sonlight refers to its Cores as "Levels" beginning with the 2026–2027 catalog per the publisher's [What's New page](#); pricing for the new catalog publishes April 1.

Worldview tag: `christian-evangelical` (cross-confessional Protestant, missions-emphasized, literature-heavy). Method tag: literature-based (Sonlight replaces traditional textbooks with great-books reading and discussion). Sonlight does not publish math; the family supplies that separately. The standard combine-children-within-a-3-year-age-range model surfaces from the publisher's own [multi-children page](#): history, Bible, literature, and science run as "couch subjects" across the family; language arts, math, spelling, and handwriting run as "table subjects" per child individually. All-Subjects Packages carry a 20 percent discount.

Christian Light Education

Christian Light Publications, Inc. was founded in 1969 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. It is a conservative Mennonite publisher per [christianlight.org/about](#) and the cross-reference at [anabaptists.org/clp](#). Math Grade 4 complete — the workbook-driven LightUnit format — runs \$102.50 across the LightUnit Set (10 units) at \$55.50, the Teacher's Guide Set (2 guides) at \$31.90, and the Answer Key Set (2 keys) at \$15.10 per the [CLE Grade 4 Math page](#).

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

2nd grade. The design assumption is low parent presentation, high student self-direction by upper elementary — a pedagogical inheritance from the Anabaptist tradition of farm-family schooling around the seasonal demands of agricultural work. Practitioner sentiment in the YouTube triangulation set positions CLE specifically as the deliberate Mennonite-priced alternative to Abeka; a family that “can’t afford” Abeka often lands on CLE and reports it as the new favorite.

Rod & Staff

Rod & Staff is the second Mennonite-Plain publisher serving conservative Mennonite and Amish communities, with catalog at rodstaff.com and curriculum information cross-referenced at milestonebooks.com. The publisher covers grades 1–10 across Bible, English, Reading, Spelling, Science, Math, History, Music, and Health. Per-textbook pricing runs roughly \$4–\$18 across Grade 4 subjects; Rod & Staff itself sells primarily via a mailed catalog rather than e-commerce, so a complete-grade SKU is not published. Through independent vendor milestonebooks.com, a complete Grade 4 Rod & Staff year-one purchase typically lands \$80–\$200 new and \$40–\$120 used — the lowest-cost complete print Christian curriculum on the U.S. market.

Worldview tag: `mennonite-plain` (Conservative Mennonite, Anabaptist; explicitly modest dress and gender-distinct, with the non-resistance pacifist tradition surfacing in textbook content). Method: traditional and textbook-based with Mennonite-distinctive content selection. Parent intensity runs high in early grades and moderates by middle elementary. Scope is K–10 only — Rod & Staff does not publish a high-school program, which is a deliberate fit-with-family-trade decision baked into the publisher’s Anabaptist catalog rather than an oversight.

Saxon-spine traditional families

formerly published under the Saxon umbrella), history (e.g., Notgrass), and science (e.g., Apologia or Real Science Odyssey or BJU). Saxon math itself is faith-neutral; the historic Saxon Publishers was acquired by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2004 and is now distributed under HMH per hmhco.com/programs/saxon-math— original Saxon URLs now redirect to HMH. Method: traditional / spiral mastery. Parent intensity is moderate at elementary and low if using the Saxon Teacher Digital Pack (DVD-style instructor).

14. The Catholic homeschool track

The Catholic homeschool market in 2026 segments into five recognizable methods. Catholic classical includes Mother of Divine Grace, Kolbe Academy, and Memoria Press with Catholic supplements. Catholic Charlotte Mason includes Mater Amabilis (the canonical free Catholic CM curriculum) and Elizabeth Foss's Real Learning. Catholic unit study includes RC History's Connecting With History and Catholic Heritage Curricula. Catholic traditional textbook is anchored by Seton Home Study School. Catholic eclectic is the family that mixes the above. The taxonomy runs across publishers documented at [Ora et Schola](#) and through the Cathy Duffy Reviews program directories.

Catholic classical providers

Mother of Divine Grace School (MODG) was founded in 1995 by Laura Berquist in Ojai, California. The school describes its method as Catholic classical and “individualized, following the child’s natural stages of learning” per modg.org. MODG is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The school reports more than 6,300 students enrolled (per its own homepage figure); Cathy Duffy and other published sources cite 4,500-plus. MODG 2025–2026 pricing runs Full Enrollment at roughly \$1,778–\$2,000+ per year (includes grading, transcripts, report cards, college counseling, quarterly assessments, and four educational consultant meetings in the first year), Curriculum Only at roughly \$200–\$400 per year (syllabi and materials access without

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

the great-books Catholic college in Santa Paula, CA where her late husband Marcus R. Berquist was a founder per [the Thomas Aquinas College alumni page](#). Berquist began homeschooling her own six children in the early 1980s before founding MODG in 1995.

Seton Home Study School is located in Front Royal, Virginia and is nationally accredited through MSA-CESS (Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools) per [setonhome.org](#). Seton serves Pre-K through grade 12. Seton 2025–2026 tuition runs roughly \$250 per year for PreK and K, \$600–\$800 per year for elementary grades (1–8) including books, and tops out around \$985 per year for high school per the [Seton Cost page](#). Tuition did not increase for 2025; multi-child discounts apply automatically. Additional fees: \$30 new-family fee, special services supplements \$185–\$260, optional Rosetta Stone \$40 per course, optional Teaching Textbooks \$55 per course, and a 10 percent payment plan service fee. Seton’s curriculum is integrated Catholic — math, reading, history, and grammar all incorporate Catholic content. Reviews describe Seton as the most academically rigorous of the Catholic homeschool providers, with elementary days running 4–5 hours and high school days running 6–7 hours per the [howdoihomeschool review](#).

Kolbe Academy describes itself as offering “authentically Catholic, classical education” with over 40 years of experience (founded in the early 1980s) per [kolbe.org](#). Kolbe is recognized by the Cardinal Newman Society’s Newman Guide and holds accreditation through Cognia, NAPCIS (National Association of Private Catholic and Independent Schools), Newman Guide recognition, and DEAC (Distance Education Accrediting Commission); it is NCAA-recognized. Kolbe Academy structure includes a Preschool Program, K–5 Online, 6–12 Online, and a Traditional Home School (parent-led with Kolbe support). Tuition rates are dated effective February 4, 2026 on the school’s [tuition page](#); specific dollar amounts are displayed as image charts on the live page. Enrollment categories include full-time online, full-time standard and flex, and part-time.

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

through high school. Pricing examples (May 2026): Preschool Core Kit \$108.35; Kindergarten Core Kit \$201.15; First Grade Core Kit \$246.05; Eighth Grade Core Kit \$325.40 per chcweb.com. Core kits range roughly \$108–\$377 depending on grade. CHC does not charge tuition or enrollment fees — the family pays only for materials.

RC History (Connecting With History) was founded in 2000 by Ryan and Sonya Romens. RC stands for Roman Catholic. Connecting With History is a Catholic, chronological, classical world-history curriculum for K–12 in a four-volume cycle (Volumes 1–4). Each volume includes reading lists at four levels: Beginner (1–3), Grammar (4–6), Logic (7–9), and Rhetoric (10–12). The program integrates world and biblical/church history, applying a Catholic philosophy of history per rhistory.com and the Cathy Duffy review at [Cathy Duffy](#). The Romens have seven children and homeschooled for 20 years; Sonya is the principal author.

Aquinas Learning was established in 2009 as a Catholic, classical, scholastic homeschool curriculum for PreK–12. The curriculum is grounded in the Aristotelian-Thomistic tradition and centered on Philippians 4:6–9 (the true, the good, the beautiful) per aquinaslearning.com. Aquinas Learning is available either at-home independently or through licensed centers operating a hybrid one-day-per-week co-op model per the program's [overview page](#). Catholic Schoolhouse, founded in 2007, runs as a chapter-based supplemental co-op with weekly classes on a three-year rotating cycle covering art, science, and history; Student Supply Fees for 2026–2027 are \$99 per Pre-Grammar or Grammar student and \$199 per Upper Level student per the Catholic Schoolhouse Harford County [tuition page](#); tutor fees and chapter dues are set by individual local chapters.

Catholic publishers and history series

TAN Books (the acronym is *Tuum Adoramus Nomen*, “We adore Thy name”) was founded in 1967 and acquired by Saint Benedict Press in 2008. TAN is a family-owned

The Story of Civilization (Phillip Campbell, TAN Books) is a four-volume narrative world-history series for grades 5–8 with separate *Story of America* volumes covering U.S. history. Volumes I–IV correspond roughly to Ancient World, Medieval World, Making of the Modern World, and Modern World. Available as hardcover with full-color illustrations and as ebooks; teacher’s guides, student workbooks, and video lectures by Campbell are sold separately per tanbooks.com/the-story-of-civilization. Phillip Campbell holds a BA in European History from Ave Maria University and a license in secondary education from Madonna University; he teaches history and economics for Homeschool Connections.

Sophia Institute Press (Manchester, NH) publishes the *Spirit of Truth* K–8 Catholic religion curriculum (2017 edition), found in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. *Spirit of Truth* K–5 requires teacher’s guide plus student workbooks; grades 6–8 add a student Bible. Sophia Institute for Teachers also publishes high-school-level Catholic textbooks per sophiainstitute.com. Hillside Education publishes literature study guides written from a distinctly Catholic perspective, plus reprints of historical fiction and language-arts materials (notably Emma Serl’s *Language Lessons*) per hillsideeducation.com. The Catholic Textbook Project, launched in 2000, publishes K–12 history textbooks written from a Catholic worldview — six main hardcover textbooks now in print, covering both world and American history for grades 5–12, narrative-style and full-color illustrated per catholictextbookproject.com.

Memoria Press’s core Latin and humanities materials are widely used by Catholic homeschool families. The pronunciation default (ecclesiastical or medieval) aligns with Catholic liturgical Latin. Memoria’s Christian Studies series presumes a broadly Christian framing that many Catholic families substitute or supplement with their own catechesis per the publisher’s [Latin curriculum page](#). Henle Latin (Robert J. Henle, S.J., originally published 1945) was written for Catholic high schools, uses ecclesiastical pronunciation, and features Catholic-tradition reading selections including patristic and

Catholic Charlotte Mason resources

Mater Amabilis is the canonical free Catholic Charlotte Mason curriculum, covered above in §12; it is at materamabilis.org with a flexible syllabus by age level (PreK through high school) and is fully free. Elizabeth Foss's *Real Learning: Education as a Lifestyle* argues that the family is the primary educational unit and that learning happens “in every aspect of family life” rather than being confined to a separate “school” time; *Real Learning* has been a primary text of the Catholic Charlotte Mason movement since its 2003 publication. The Children's Tradition, by Amanda and Patrick Faus, draws on John Senior's *1000 Good Books* plus Charlotte Mason and is rooted in nature study and poetic learning at thechildrenstradition.com; the founders are Catholic and the curriculum is used as a Catholic CM stack by published Catholic homeschoolers.

Catholic classical thought leaders and supporting institutions

The Cardinal Newman Society has promoted faithful Catholic education since 1993. Its *Newman Guide* identifies K–12 schools, home and school curricula, colleges, and graduate programs that meet the Society's standards for faithful Catholic formation per cardinalnewmansociety.org. As of January 2026, NAPCIS — the National Association of Private Catholic and Independent Schools, which has accredited parent-led Catholic schools for 30 years — became a subsidiary of the Cardinal Newman Society, integrating Newman Guide recognition with NAPCIS accreditation for both independent and parochial Catholic schools per the [January 14, 2026 announcement](#) and the cross-coverage at [Catholic World Report](#). Kolbe Academy is recognized by the Newman Guide and is an existing NAPCIS member school; the partnership consolidates Kolbe's two accreditation lines under the new combined CNS/NAPCIS framework.

The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education was founded in 1999 by Michael Van Hecke (president and co-founder) to renew Catholic schools by recovering and adapting the

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

(Brazos Press, 2009) and *The Radiance of Being* (Angelico Press, 2013), supplies the contemporary theological voice for the Catholic recovery of the trivium and quadrivium. Anthony Esolen, professor of English and writer in residence at Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts in Warner, NH, translated the three volumes of Dante's *Divine Comedy* (Modern Library) and authored *Out of the Ashes: Rebuilding American Culture* (2017). Father James V. Schall, S.J. (1928–2019) was a Jesuit priest and professor of political philosophy at Georgetown University from 1977 until 2012; the Schall Society at the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education honors his legacy per catholicliberaleducation.org/schall-society. Andrew Pudewa, founder and director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing, is a homeschool father of seven who teaches and speaks internationally on writing, thinking, spelling, and music; Pudewa identifies as Catholic but IEW is doctrinally minimal and used cross-tradition.

Liturgical living—the home rhythm that intersects curriculum

Catholic All Year, by Kendra Tierney (a Catholic mother of ten), authored *The Catholic All Year Compendium: Liturgical Living for Real Life* (Ignatius Press, 2018) and *A Little Book About Confession for Children*. The Compendium covers the full liturgical year from Advent and Christmas through Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and beyond, with stories, activities, foods, and decorations tested in her own household per [the Amazon listing](#). Shower of Roses (Jessica), at showerofrosesblog.com, is a long-running Catholic liturgical-living blog; the Feasts and Seasons archive is a primary index of Catholic feast-day food, craft, and devotion ideas keyed to the liturgical calendar. Catholic Icing (Lacy Rabideau), at catholicicing.com, is the preschool-and-elementary-level Catholic activity blog and curriculum publisher; releases include the *Catholic ABC's* preschool curriculum and *Meeting Jesus in the Eucharist* First Communion preparation curriculum.

15. The Reformed and confessional-Protestant track

confessions: the Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), the Three Forms of Unity (Belgic 1561, Heidelberg 1563, Canons of Dort 1618–1619), the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1689), the Book of Concord (1580) for confessional Lutherans, or the Thirty-Nine Articles (1571) and 1662 Book of Common Prayer for confessional Anglicans. The Reformed homeschool family’s curricular choices are shaped by one of these confessional frameworks, and the publishers, schools, and curricula in this section orbit those documents explicitly.

The Westminster Confession was drafted by the Westminster Assembly 1643–1648 at Westminster Abbey, adopted by the Church of Scotland in 1647, and adopted with minor revisions by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. in 1788; the text and adopting bodies are documented at the [Presbyterian Church in America’s page](#). The Three Forms of Unity is the doctrinal standard of continental Reformed bodies (URCNA, RCUS, CRC, PRC) per the [URCNA Three Forms page](#). The 1689 closely follows Westminster but differs on baptism (credobaptism only), the Lord’s Supper, and church polity (congregational rather than presbyterian governance); it was anonymously published in 1677 and formally adopted in September 1689 by representatives from over 100 Baptist congregations meeting in London after the Act of Toleration per the cross-references at the [1689 Confession site](#) and [Reformed Baptist Seminary](#). The Book of Concord (1580) contains Luther’s Small Catechism (1529), Large Catechism (1529), the Augsburg Confession (1530), and other documents; confessional Lutheranism is a distinct tradition from Reformed/Calvinist theology but is often grouped under the umbrella “confessional Protestant.”

Reformed Presbyterian / Continental Reformed

The modern classical-Christian movement traces its founding moment to Logos School in Moscow, Idaho, opened September 1981 by Doug Wilson, Shirley Quist, and Larry Lucas. Wilson was, and remains, pastor of Christ Church (Moscow), a Calvinist congregation in the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC). The school

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Education (Crossway, 256 pages) per [the Crossway page](#).

Canon Press was founded by Wilson in 1988 as the literature ministry of Christ Church and was sold in 2012 to Aaron Rench and N. D. Wilson (Doug Wilson's son), who continue to operate it as a private company per [the Canon Press Wikipedia entry](#). The current catalog at [canonpress.com](#) includes more than 100 books by Wilson and family. Logos Press (a Canon Press division since 2012) publishes the elementary K–6 curriculum used at Logos School Moscow; bundles run roughly \$600–\$800 per grade and cover math, science, English, literature, history, and Bible (Latin begins in grade 3) per [the TeachDiligently curriculum review](#). Sample Canon Press pricing as of May 2026 from the publisher: *Introductory Logic* (textbook, teacher edition, DVD set) at \$167.97; *The Amazing Dr. Ransom's Bestiary* at \$24.99.

Logos Online School is a separate entity from the Moscow brick-and-mortar Logos School; it was founded in 2012 by Dr. Larry Stephenson, who previously served as superintendent of the Moscow campus. It serves grades 7–12 with 60-plus courses and 2,000-plus students across 16 countries; full-time tuition (four courses) runs about \$2,200 per the school's [About page](#). New Saint Andrews College, the Reformed Christian liberal arts institution Wilson founded in the 1990s in Moscow, ID, anchors the higher-education end of the same network; Greyfriars Hall is its ministerial training program.

Veritas Press, the Detweiler-founded Reformed-Westminster classical publisher in Lancaster PA covered above in §11, sits at the center of the Reformed Presbyterian classical homeschool stack alongside Wilson's Moscow institutions. *Tapestry of Grace*, by Marcia Somerville (first published 1998), is the four-year Reformed humanities curriculum — history, literature, geography, government, worldview, church history, writing, and fine arts — that Cathy Duffy describes as “a classical/unit study approach of the humanities written from a Reformed perspective” per [the Cathy Duffy review](#) and the publisher's [Lampstand Press About page](#). Marcia Somerville graduated from Kent School (1976) and Dartmouth College (1979, history); *Tapestry* was designed to

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

\$272 as of May 2026. Trivium Pursuit, operated by Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn of New Boston, IL, anchors the home-curriculum end of the Reformed-classical world; the flagship book *Teaching the Trivium: Christian Homeschooling in a Classical Style* (2001) approaches classical education “from a serious Reformed perspective, relying on Scripture as the ultimate authority” per triviumpursuit.com.

Generations is a Reformed homeschool ministry founded by Kevin Swanson, a homeschool graduate and homeschooling father of five with 45 years in the homeschool movement per generations.org. Generations Curriculum covers K–12 with five subject areas: Bible & Family Discipleship, History (Christ-centered, missions-oriented world and American history), Literature & Reading, Worldview & Science, and Christian Character. Packages include Complete Core Packs, Essentials Packs (Bible/History/Literature only), and individual courses per [the Generations Curriculum site](http://theGenerationsCurriculum.com); the ministry offers a six-month money-back guarantee. Swanson hosts Generations Radio, a daily homeschool/biblical-worldview radio program and podcast. Roman Roads Press publishes *Old Western Culture*, the four-year great-books video survey for high school by Wesley Callihan, from the Moscow ID Reformed-classical orbit at romanroadspress.com.

Reformed Baptist (Particular Baptist)

Reformed Baptists subscribe to the 1689 (described above). Founders Ministries is the Reformed Baptist organization within the Southern Baptist Convention working to return Southern Baptists to Calvinist (Particular Baptist) doctrinal roots; founded as the Southern Baptist Founders Conference in 1982 (first conference 1983) and renamed Founders Ministries in 1998 per founders.org/about. Tom Ascol has served as president and as pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, FL since 1986. Founders publishes the 1689 Confession in modern English at founders.org/library-book/1689-confession, a key resource for confessional Baptist homeschool families wanting to teach the Confession alongside their curriculum.

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

per cba1689.com. Voddie Baucham is a Reformed Baptist pastor, theologian, and homeschool advocate; his 2007 book *Family Driven Faith: Doing What It Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk with God* (Crossway) argues that fathers should disciple children through family worship and family-integrated churches per the [Christianbook listing](#). The Bauchams homeschool their nine children. Baucham served as Dean of Theology at African Christian University in Lusaka, Zambia from 2015 to 2024 and continues as Senior Lecturer in the School of Divinity. He holds a B.A. (Houston Baptist), M.Div. (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary), and D.Min. (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary). Free Grace Press, owned and operated by Jeff Johnson (founding pastor of Grace Bible Church), publishes Reformed Baptist (1689-subscribing) literature at freegracepress.com. The Reformed Baptist Network maintains a directory of 1689-subscribing churches and resources at reformedbaptistnetwork.com; the family-integrated church movement (children worship with parents in the main service) is a homeschool-adjacent ecclesiology common among Reformed Baptist homeschool families and articulated in Baucham's *Family Driven Faith*.

Confessional Lutheran (LCMS, WELS, ELS)

Confessional Lutheran homeschooling is a distinct theological tradition from Reformed/Calvinist Christianity but is often grouped under the “confessional Protestant” umbrella. The doctrinal standards are the Book of Concord (1580), including Luther's Small Catechism (1529), Large Catechism (1529), the Augsburg Confession (1530), and other documents.

Concordia Publishing House is the official publishing arm of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), founded September 11, 1869 in St. Louis, Missouri at 3558 S. Jefferson Ave. CPH is the oldest publishing company west of the Mississippi River and the world's largest distinctly Lutheran publishing house, with 10,000-plus products and services per about.cph.org/who-we-are. CPH publishes *The Lutheran Witness* (LCMS official magazine), the LCMS hymnals (*The Lutheran Hymnal* 1941, *Lutheran Worship*

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

(student book and accompanying curriculum) is at cph.org/luthers-small-catechism-for-kids-student-book; the publisher's [blog post](#) on homeschool use makes the catechism the daily memory-work spine for confessional Lutheran families. The CPH homeschool resources category is at cph.org/c-776-homeschool.aspx.

Northwestern Publishing House is the publishing arm of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Milwaukee. Publications include *Forward in Christ* and *Meditations* periodicals, the Christ-Light Sunday-school/elementary curriculum, Bible studies, and worship materials per wels.net/northwestern-publishing-house-2.

The Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education (CCLE) was incorporated in Indiana on June 28, 2002 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with mission “to promote, establish, and equip individuals and schools committed to confessional Lutheran doctrine and a classical approach to education” per ccle.org/history. Founders: Rev. Joel Brondos, Dr. Gene E. Veith, Dr. Steven Hein, Rev. Bill Heine, Rev. Robert Schaibley, and Mr. Steve Kieser. CCLE recommends Memoria Press materials and partners with Memoria as the publisher of Cheryl Swope’s *Simply Classical: A Beautiful Education for Any Child* (2nd ed., Memoria Press, 2019) and the full *Simply Classical Curriculum* for special-needs learners ages 2–21 per the [Memoria Press Simply Classical page](#). Cheryl Swope holds a master’s degree in education with lifetime K–12 teaching certifications in learning disabilities and behavior disorders; she and her husband adopted boy/girl twins (both with autism, learning disabilities, and schizophrenia) and homeschooled them through high school — the experience that produced *Simply Classical*. Solus Christus is a free, complete LCMS Bible curriculum written by Jennifer Whalen of The Faithful Homeschool, including Scripture and catechism memory, hymn singing, catechism lessons, and Old/New Testament lessons designed for whole-family use per lutheranhomeschool.com. *Issues, Etc.* is a 10-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS pastor Rev. Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL at issuesetc.org — a key continuing-education resource for confessional Lutheran homeschool parents. Lutheran

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

sacramental theology (paedobaptist like Presbyterians but with Lutheran sacramental realism in the Lord's Supper).

Confessional Anglican

Confessional Anglican homeschoolers in North America are typically affiliated with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) or the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC, now part of ACNA), subscribing to the Thirty-Nine Articles (1571) and using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer or the 2019 ACNA BCP. *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism* (Approved Edition, Crossway, 2020) is the official catechism of ACNA, prepared by J. I. Packer (1926–2020) and a team of Anglican leaders, edited by Joel Scandrett. It contains over 360 questions and answers with Scripture references covering the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, and other doctrinal summaries, and includes an introductory section on the gospel and salvation per crossway.org; the ACNA PDF is at anglicanchurch.net. J. I. Packer referred to his commitment to catechesis as “Packer’s Last Crusade” and described himself as “first and foremost, a catechist.”

The New City Catechism is a modern catechism of 52 questions and answers drawn from the Reformation-era catechisms (Calvin's Geneva Catechism, the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms, and the Heidelberg Catechism), adapted by Tim Keller and Sam Shammas as a project of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, published by Crossway with both adult and kid-friendly versions and a New City Catechism Curriculum at newcitycatechism.com. The New City Catechism is a Presbyterian-Reformed-Reformed Baptist crossover resource, used widely in Reformed Baptist (1689) and Presbyterian (Westminster) homeschool families, and in some confessional Anglican households as a complement to *To Be a Christian*.

Reformed publishers serving the broader homeschool family

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Seminary in Philadelphia in 1929 in response to Princeton Seminary's modernist reorganization. P&R relocated to Phillipsburg, NJ in 1978 and abbreviated its name to "P&R Publishing" in 1992. P&R publishes books that promote biblical concepts and Christian lifestyle according to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms per prpbooks.com/about-us.

Crossway was founded in 1938 as Good News Publishers (now operating as Crossway). 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Publisher of the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible (released 2001), the ESV Study Bible, the New City Catechism product line, the ACNA *To Be a Christian* catechism, and many key works in the Reformed-evangelical homeschool library (Wilson's *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning* and *The Case for Classical Christian Education*; Voddie Baucham's *Family Driven Faith*) per crossway.org/about.

Banner of Truth Trust was founded 22 July 1957 in London as a charitable trust by Iain Murray, Sidney Norton, and Jack Cullum. Murray had served as assistant to D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones at Westminster Chapel from 1956 to 1959. The trust's mission per the founding deed: "to promote... the better knowledge and understanding of the doctrines of the Christian faith as taught by the Protestant Reformers and English Puritans." Banner has played a central role in resurrecting Puritan theology and the works of Jonathan Edwards in the modern Reformed world. Offices in Edinburgh, Scotland and Carlisle, Pennsylvania per banneroftruth.org/us/about/the-story-of-banner.

Reformation Heritage Books, founded 1994 by Joel R. Beeke (who served as president and editorial director until 2022, then transitioned to board chairman), is located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. RHB is associated with Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (founded 1995 under the oversight of the Heritage Reformed Congregations, with Beeke as founding president and now chancellor since 2023). RHB family worship resources include *Family Worship* by Beeke, the *Family Worship Bible Guide* (devotional thoughts on all 1,189 chapters of Scripture), and the *Family Worship in [Genesis / Exodus / etc.]* series by Beeke and Nick Thompson per heritagebooks.org.

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

2017), publishes Reformed teaching resources and operates Ligonier Connect courses; its “Three Forms of Unity” learning collection at learn.ligonier.org is the digital reference set for continental Reformed homeschool families. R.C. Sproul Jr. (son of R. C. Sproul) authored *When You Rise Up: A Covenantal Approach to Homeschooling* (P&R Publishing, 2004), a covenant-theology argument for homeschooling that draws on Deuteronomy 6 as the framing text per [the Amazon listing](#). Israel Wayne, a homeschool graduate and father of 11, has spoken at homeschool conferences nationwide since 1995; he directs Family Renewal at familyrenewal.org, hosts the *Family Renewal* podcast with his wife Brook, and authored *Homeschooling from a Biblical Worldview, Education: Does God Have an Opinion?*, *Full-Time Parenting*, and *Answers for Homeschooling: Top 25 Questions Critics Ask*.

The Reformed-Charlotte Mason intersection

The Reformed presence in the modern Charlotte Mason homeschool community is substantial. House of Humane Letters at houseofhumaneletters.com offers online classes and resources at the intersection of classical literature, Charlotte Mason method, and Reformed Christian formation. Karen Glass authored *Consider This: Charlotte Mason and the Classical Tradition* (2014), *Mind to Mind* (an abridgment of Mason’s sixth volume), and *Know and Tell: The Art of Narration*; Glass is part of the AmblesideOnline Advisory and homeschooled four children using Charlotte Mason’s methods K–12 per karenglass.net. Brandy Vencel runs *Afterthoughts* and the periodic *Charlotte Mason Boot Camp*; Vencel co-hosts the Scholé Sisters podcast and homeschooled four children with narration-based Mason methods per afterthoughtsblog.net.

Scholé Sisters began in 2014 as a joint blog created by Sarah Mackenzie with friends Brandy Vencel, Pam Barnhill, and Mystie Winckler following the self-publication of Mackenzie’s *Teaching from Rest*; the Scholé Sisters podcast launched 2016 and Abby Wahl joined in 2019 per scholesisters.com/about. The Scholé Sisters work treats Reformed theology and classical/Mason method as integrated — a practical center of

explains the disproportionate Reformed presence in modern American CM communities.

ACCS, SCL, and the classical-school network

The Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS) was founded by Doug Wilson (sources vary between 1993 and 1994 as the founding year) and is headquartered in Moscow, Idaho. Member-school count is approximately 475 member schools (2023) with the network now describing itself as “over 500 member and accredited schools.” ACCS describes itself as “the largest advocacy organization for K-12 classical Christian education in the US” per classicalchristian.org/our-history. While ACCS is doctrinally classical-Christian rather than denominationally Reformed by charter, the founding ethos is Reformed paedobaptist (Wilson’s CREC affiliation), and a substantial majority of ACCS member schools are pastored or governed by Reformed Christians (Presbyterian, CREC, Reformed Baptist, or independent Reformed evangelical).

The Society for Classical Learning (SCL) has existed since the mid-1990s “to facilitate and encourage thinking and discussion among professionals associated with Christ-centered education in the liberal arts tradition,” grounded “in the historic Christian faith as expressed in the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds” — a broader doctrinal frame than ACCS, drawing schools across Reformed, evangelical, Anglican, and Catholic-classical orientations. SCL launched its inaugural accreditation program (PATH) in 2024 per societyforclassicallearning.org/about. Hillsdale College’s Barney Charter School Initiative (now Hillsdale K-12) supports the founding and curriculum of classical charter schools nationwide; theologically broader than ACCS but Reformed-friendly classical. The Classical Latin School Association, founded by Highlands Latin School (Memoria Press, Cheryl Lowe), is the network of classical Latin-centered schools (some Catholic, some confessional Lutheran via CCLE relationships, some broadly classical-Christian) at classicallatin.org.

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

methodology is the Key Word Outline (KWO), in which students extract three keywords per sentence from a model passage and rebuild the passage in their own words. IEW is not a Reformed product per se, but its near-universal adoption in Reformed-classical schools (and Veritas Press's strategic partnership with Pudewa via the *Veritas Vox* podcast) makes it a Reformed-classical staple.

Three commitments that shape Reformed curriculum choice

The Reformed homeschool family is shaped by three theological commitments that distinguish it from the broader evangelical homeschool world. First, **confessionalism** — Reformed families subscribe to a defined historic confession (Westminster, the Three Forms of Unity, the 1689, or the Book of Concord for Lutherans). Curriculum is evaluated against the confession, not against personal preference. Second, **covenantalism** — in Reformed Presbyterian, Continental Reformed, and Lutheran traditions, children of believing parents are treated as members of God's covenant from infancy; education is the covenant family's discipleship of children already inside the covenant rather than evangelism toward children outside it. R. C. Sproul Jr.'s *When You Rise Up* (P&R, 2004) is the seminal homeschool articulation; Reformed Baptist (1689) families share the formation logic but with credobaptism as the entry point. Third, **the doctrine that “all of life is theology.”** Drawing on Abraham Kuyper's sphere sovereignty (“there is not one square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”) and Cornelius Van Til's presuppositional apologetics (the antithesis between Christian and non-Christian thought), Reformed families generally reject the notion of a “neutral” curriculum and choose curricula with explicit worldview integration.

The structural consequence is that Reformed families disproportionately choose classical curricula (Wilson, Veritas, Logos, Memoria's classical-Lutheran subset, Tapestry of Grace) or Charlotte Mason curricula (AmblesideOnline, House of Humane Letters, Scholé Sisters), both of which integrate worldview formation with academic

other families read the same booklet and will choose differently with equal seriousness. The Reformed family chooses Westminster, Three Forms, 1689, or the Book of Concord because those documents structure how the family understands God, salvation, and the child — and the curriculum is downstream of that choice.

16. The Secular homeschool track

The secular homeschool track in 2026 is deeper than parents new to the world commonly assume. Free, complete secular curricula are real and used by thousands of families; paid secular publishers offer literature-based, nature-based, and unit-study options at every price point; and a research-psychology tradition descending from Peter Gray supplies the philosophical anchor that connects unschooling and self-directed learning to the broader secular catalog. The conversation about secular curriculum increasingly includes diversity-and-inclusion content, with reviewer-community consensus surfacing in 2025 that families choose Torchlight for its explicit inclusivity (including LGBTQ+ representation in literature) while choosing Build Your Library for stronger Charlotte Mason rigor and a lower price point. Both choices are honest; this section describes each option neutrally and lets the reader decide.

Build Your Library

Build Your Library, by Emily Cook, is a secular literature-based curriculum applying Charlotte Mason principles to grades K–12 (labeled Level 0 through Level 12), in operation since at least 2012 per the publisher's [About page](#). The program uses narration, copywork, dictation, and memory work. Levels run 0 through 12; Level 1 (grade 1, ages 6–8) covers Ancient World plus Nature Study, Level 2 (grade 2, ages 7–9) covers Middle Ages plus Earth/Geography/Space, Level 3 (grade 3, ages 8–10) covers Early Modern plus Chemistry. Lesson plans price at \$30–\$60 per level per the publisher's [FAQ](#); books are purchased separately or borrowed from the library. The 36-

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

BLOSSOM & ROOT

Blossom & Root is a secular, nature-based curriculum for Pre-K through grade 8 at blossomandroot.com. The product list runs Early Years Vol. 1 plus Levels 1–6 organized by grade. All curriculum is delivered as PDF download; no print or bound editions are sold by the publisher. Per-level subjects include nature-based science, language arts (with integrated geography), art (with integrated math concepts), and optional study of world religions per the third-party catalog entries at [Modulo](#). Level 3 is designed for ages 8–11 (third grade). Blossom & Root is meaningfully less expensive than boxed competitors and is the budget-conscious secular option that families consistently surface alongside Build Your Library.

Torchlight Curriculum

Torchlight is a literature-based, secular curriculum for ages 4–13 at torchlightcurriculum.com. Levels run Pre-K (Curiosity & Character, ages 4–5), Level K (Worldly Wisdom, ages 5–7), Level 1 (Myth & Magic, ages 6–8), Level 2 (Logic & Legend, ages 7–9), Level 3 (Innovation & Inquiry, ages 8–12), and Level 4 (Ideas & Identity, ages 9–13) per the [Cathy Duffy review](#). The curriculum includes all subjects K–5 except math and reading: Literature, Poetry, Vocabulary, History, Mythology, Science, Art, Music, and Writing. Torchlight self-describes as “secular with Humanist underpinnings” and emphasizes the Golden Rule, kindness, exploration, and scientific thinking. Delivery is digital PDF; 36-week daily lesson plans.

Oak Meadow

Oak Meadow was founded in 1975 by Lawrence and Bonnie Williams; it is secular K–12 at oakmeadow.com/about-us. It is Waldorf-inspired (Lawrence Williams trained as a Waldorf teacher); the publisher offers an independent curriculum plus accredited distance-learning options per the [Oak Meadow & Waldorf page](#). The distance-learning option provides teacher support, evaluations, and record keeping.

[Every *Homeschool*](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

which is useful for asynchronous learners. Pricing runs \$475 (ages 4–5) to roughly \$1,100 per year for upper levels per the catalog entry at [Modulo](#). Subject coverage includes science, social studies, language arts, and math; literature-rich with hands-on activities per the publisher's [secular homeschool curriculum page](#).

Wildwood Curriculum

Wildwood Curriculum is the free, secular, inclusive Charlotte-Mason curriculum at [wildwoodcurriculum.com](#), covered above at §12. Forms run I (ages 6–9), II (ages 9–12), and III (ages 12–14) per the [FAQ](#). Book selections are derived from PNEU programmes of the 1920s–1930s, matched to page count and difficulty level. Contributors are non-religious, Pagan, Jewish, and Buddhist; political range conservative to liberal per the publisher's [on being a secular curriculum statement](#).

Mosdos Press

Mosdos Press, based in Cleveland, Ohio, publishes a Jewish secular-academic literature anthology series for grades 3–8 at [mosdospress.com](#). Grades are named after gems: Opal (3), Ruby (4), Coral (5), Pearl (6), Jade (7), Gold (8). Anthology contents include classic and contemporary fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, novellas, and novel selections per the [Cathy Duffy review](#). Each course includes a two-volume spiral-bound teacher's edition and a companion student workbook. Worldview tag per the Every Homeschool taxonomy: `jewish` (not `secular`) — the publisher is Jewish and the academic content is secular-grade-appropriate. Mosdos Press is listed here alongside the secular publishers for catalog purposes; its worldview classification is a separate fact from its inclusion in the practical secular conversation.

BookShark

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

cost runs \$900–\$1,000 per child with a \$99–\$179 monthly payment plan available. BookShark has recently shifted its self-description from “secular” to “neutral” per a 2018 blog discussion at [Just a Secular Homeschooler](#); verify directly on [bookshark.com](#) before relying on the “neutral” framing.

Peter Gray and the philosophical anchor

Peter Gray is a research professor of psychology at Boston College per [the Wikipedia entry](#). *Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life* (Basic Books, 2013) is the principal book-length argument that self-directed learning produces better outcomes than instruction-based schooling for many children; the book is at [Hachette Book Group](#). Gray’s *Evidence That Self-Directed Education Works* supplies the research-summary follow-up at [Amazon](#). Booklets are available via the Alliance for Self-Directed Education at [self-directed.org](#). Gray’s evidence base draws on hunter-gatherer education research, alternative-school case studies (Sudbury Valley School in particular), unschooling families, and biological-psychological research on play. Gray’s blog at [Psychology Today’s Freedom to Learn](#) is the most-read contemporary popular outlet for the self-directed-learning tradition.

The Secular Homeschool community

Secular families coordinate online through several long-running community hubs. The Secular Homeschool community at [secularhomeschool.com](#) is the principal forum-and-community hub; secular Facebook groups organized by region carry the day-to-day question-and-answer traffic. The Wildwood Curriculum community provides a worked example of a secular CM-method community. Khan Academy Kids, at [khanacademy.org/kids](#), is the free, no-ads, no-subscription early-learning app for ages 2–8; it is aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Common Core and was developed in collaboration with Stanford learning experts per the

Black, Hispanic, and white; parents with PhDs through GEDs.” The secular family is one part of a much broader market — not a niche, and not an exception.

17. The Online academy and hybrid track

The boundary between “homeschool” and “school” is increasingly blurred. Three structures live inside this chapter and the family should know which one it is signing up for before signing anything. The online state-funded virtual public school enrolls the student as a public-school student receiving instruction at home; state-certified teachers, state-aligned curriculum, state assessments, no tuition, limited parent curricular control. The online private accredited academy is a bona fide private school delivered online; parent retains homeschool legal status in some states, the academy enrollment satisfies compulsory attendance directly in others, and tuition runs \$2,000–\$7,000 typical. The hybrid co-op or microschool meets in person one to three days per week and at home the other two to four days; tuition runs \$1,500–\$14,000 depending on geography and model.

State-funded virtual public schools

State-funded virtual schools are tuition-free public schools. The student takes state-aligned curriculum, has a state-certified teacher, takes state assessments, and receives a state-issued diploma. The parent’s role is “learning coach” rather than primary teacher. Withdrawal from local public school is required to enroll.

K12 Inc. (now Stride), at [k12.com](https://www.k12.com), operates state-funded virtual public schools in most states. Brand examples per the [Stride newsroom](#) include California Virtual Academies (CAVA), iQ Academy Los Angeles, and Insight Schools of California (California); Insight School of Kansas (7–12) and Kansas Virtual Academy (Kansas); Insight School of Washington and Washington Virtual Academies (Washington); Alabama Destinations

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Connections Academy (Pearson), at connectionsacademy.com, is accredited by Cognia. State-funded options include Florida Connections Academy (Florida), Arizona Connections Academy (Arizona), Oklahoma Connections Academy (Oklahoma), Massachusetts Connections Academy (rebranded from TEC Connections Academy effective July 1, 2026), and Inspire Connections Academy (Idaho). Pearson Connexus and Edgenuity / Imagine Edgenuity are the white-label engines used by many state virtual schools beyond the K12 and Connections Academy networks.

Online private accredited academies

The online private accredited academy is the second cluster, distinguished from the state-funded virtual school by the fact that the family pays tuition and the academy operates as a private school. Pricing below is from publisher pages, current as of May 2026.

Liberty University Online Academy (LUOA), at liberty.edu/online-academy/tuition-and-fees, is Christian and accredited through ACSI plus Cognia (SACS-CASI) plus VCPE. Kindergarten tuition runs \$2,196 (4 courses); Elementary 1–5 and Middle 6–8 run \$2,745 (5 courses); High School 9–12 runs roughly \$3,568.50 (6.5 credits average at \$549 per full-year course). The technology fee is \$75; dual enrollment runs \$275–\$900 per credit; family, military, and pastor discounts run 10 percent each.

Veritas Scholars Academy, the Veritas Press online school at diploma.veritaspress.com, is classical Christian (Reformed) and accredited by MSA-CESS, NCAA-certified, and an ACCS member. Self-Paced courses run Bible \$199, History \$249, Omnibus \$349; combined primary-plus-secondary Omnibus is \$899; the live academy enrollment fees run \$449 (Classic) or \$599 (Premium) for grammar school. A full-time live academy load lands \$4,000–\$5,000 per year for one child.

Wilson Hill Academy, at wilsonhillacademy.com, is classical Christian (Reformed/Presbyterian) and accredited. Classes run \$700–\$1,050 per class with classes

Every Homeschool

Curriculum ESA Guides Directory Issues

Logos Online School, at logosonlineschool.com/pages/tuition, is classical Reformed and accredited. Per-class tuition runs \$725 per class for 1–3 classes (a la carte); full-time tuition for 4-plus classes is \$2,668 per year (a 10 percent discount automatically applied). A 20 percent non-refundable deposit is required at enrollment; the remainder is paid via 12 monthly installments beginning June. The school is nationally accredited through the National Association of Private Schools.

Memoria Press Online Academy, at memoriaacademy.com, runs \$535–\$735 per full-year course and \$300–\$340 per semester course; class cap is 16; Diploma Program students receive 15 percent off (5-class minimum). Scholé Academy (Classical Academic Press's online school) at scholeacademy.com uses per-course pricing on each course page.

Kepler Education at kepler.education is a classical Christian teacher marketplace with 100-plus courses, 30-plus teachers, and 1,000-plus families; pricing varies by individual instructor.

Acellus Academy at acellusacademy.com/enrollment-pathways is secular and accredited. Basic runs \$249 per month or \$2,000 per year (up to 6 courses); Enhanced is \$349 per month or \$3,000 per year (up to 8 courses + Career Academic Advising); Premium is \$499 per month or \$4,500 per year (up to 10 courses + GoldBook computer + priority support). The Roger Billings Scholarship reduces Basic to \$79 per month and Enhanced to \$174 per month, requiring extra weekly live lectures. Graduation application fee is \$100. Power Homeschool at powerhomeschool.org delivers identical Acellus content but is not accredited and provides no diploma; tuition runs \$99 per month per student (or \$79 per month with the Roger Billings Scholarship).

Time4Learning at time4learning.com runs \$39.95 per month per student for PreK–5 and 6–12; an annual prepayment shaves 30 percent off; family discounts run 10 percent for two students up to 25 percent for six. Time4Learning is not accredited and is used both as a supplement and as a full-time program at family discretion. Calvert Education at calverteducation.com (parent: Edmentum) is the secular curriculum many state-funded virtual schools use as their engine.

[Every Homeschool](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

instruction. Per-program annual costs (varying by community) run roughly: Foundations (K–6) tutor fee \$400–\$600 per year plus materials and supplies; Essentials (4–6) roughly \$395 per child per year plus \$145 application plus \$106 enrollment plus \$30 supply at a representative community; Challenge (7–12) roughly \$1,400–\$2,000 per year per student per program level. Challenge is a college-prep classical seminar program with six levels (A through IV) mapping to grades 7–12. A typical community day starts roughly 9 AM at a host church with prayer, worship, devotional, pledges to America and to the Bible, and a family presentation, then breaks to grade-level classes for memory-work review (each subject’s grammar piece repeated 7-plus times in varied modalities: chant, song, hop-and-recite).

Wild + Free at bewildandfree.org, founded by Ainsley Arment (the project began as an Instagram account and grew to 177,000-plus members), supplies a national membership plus digital content-bundle subscriptions plus thousands of local groups. Monthly member benefits include a digital bundle each month, the previous month’s bundle, and the print magazine; annual subscribers receive two months free per the [bundles page](#). Ainsley Arment’s book *The Call of the Wild and Free: Reclaiming the Wonder in Your Child’s Education, A New Way to Homeschool* is the manifesto. Wild + Free is self-described as “not a method”; the network spans Charlotte Mason, Waldorf, and Montessori-aligned families.

Acton Academy, at actonacademy.org, is the 250-to-300-plus-campus global network of microschoools. The network grew from a single Austin TX flagship in 2009; new campuses join through an affiliate model (\$20,000 affiliate fee plus 4 percent royalty on annual revenue). The model uses learner-driven studios (Spark ages 4–7, Elementary 7–11, Middle School 11–14, Launchpad 14–18), session-long “Quests” with public exhibitions, and no traditional teachers (only “Guides”). Tuition varies materially by location: \$13,150 per year at [Marietta GA](#); \$9,995 at [NW Indianapolis IN](#); roughly \$13,310 at [Northwest Austin TX](#); \$13,200 at [Westlake Austin TX](#) plus a \$1,000 nonrefundable enrollment fee; \$7,425 at [Twin Falls ID](#); \$10,000 at [Port St. Lucie FL](#); and a 2026–2027 sliding scale at [Santa Cruz CA](#). The 78 percent premium between the Twin Falls and

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Texas, Louisiana, and (starting 2024) Florida, serving roughly 30,000 students in 2024–2025. Great Hearts is public charter and tuition-free in those states. Classical liberal arts orientation. Texas alone serves about 14,000 students in San Antonio, Arlington, Fort Worth, Irving, and through Great Hearts Online Texas. Founders Classical Academy at foundersclassical.com runs 22 campuses across Texas and Arkansas, tuition-free, public charter, no religious affiliation, open enrollment regardless of zone. Online K–11 option is also tuition-free for Texas residents.

University-Model® Schools International (UMSI; formerly NAUMS), at naumsinc.org, is the network of distinctly private Christian University-Model schools. Five-day academic program; 2–3 days in the central classroom plus 2–3 days “satellite classroom” (home). The model has been trademarked since 2003; the network grew from a 1992 Texas parent group.

ESA-funded microschools are a new category emerging in Arizona, Florida, Utah, New Hampshire, Arkansas, and West Virginia that did not exist at scale prior to 2022. ESA marketplace vendors include Prenda (the guided microschool platform), Acton-affiliated microschools in ESA-eligible states, and independent microschools and community pods participating via ClassWallet, Step Up EMA, or Odyssey. For families in ESA states, the microschool category effectively converts a private-tuition cost into a publicly-funded option; the eligibility-and-vendor-list research is the family’s critical first step before enrollment. The Every Homeschool ESA-by-State 2026 guide at </guides/esa-by-state-2026> covers the state-by-state ESA mechanics in detail.

Choosing between the three structures

The three structures — state-funded virtual public school, private accredited academy, and hybrid microschool — address three different family situations. The state-funded virtual public school suits the family that wants a real teacher of record, a real state diploma, no tuition, and limited parent curricular control; this is the option a family considers when both parents work and the child is academically self-directed enough to

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Academy each carry a recognizable doctrinal identity and a recognizable college-placement record. The hybrid microschool suits the family that wants in-person social and academic structure, can pay \$7,000–\$14,000 per year (or \$0 in an ESA state with an approved Acton or Prenda partner), and values an entrepreneurial or Socratic model over a teacher-led classroom. Classical Conversations sits at the lower end of this band for families that want a one-day-per-week community model with strong worldview formation and a willingness to carry the four other days at home.

In every case, families considering an online or hybrid path should verify three facts before enrollment. First, accreditation: a state-issued diploma from a virtual public school is universally recognized; a private academy's accreditation matters for transcript portability and NCAA eligibility. Second, course load: a four-course load at Logos Online is a four-class commitment to one school, but a la carte course shopping at Kepler or Scholé Academy lets a family mix providers. Third, tuition stability: Power Homeschool moved from \$32 to \$99 per month over the prior eighteen months per practitioner reports; budget for the possibility that today's price is not next year's.

18. International — Canada

Canada has no federal homeschool law. Under [Section 93 of the Constitution Act, 1867](#), education sits exclusively with the provinces and territories. There is no federal department of education; the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada coordinates but does not regulate. The practical consequence for a Canadian family is thirteen distinct legal regimes — ten provinces plus three territories — each with its own statute, its own notification calendar, its own funding posture, and its own definition of an acceptable home education program.

The national homeschool population for the 2023-2024 school year was approximately 63,150 registered students, per the [Fraser Institute's analysis of provincial enrolment](#)

imperfect. The umbrella national advocacy organization is the Canadian Centre for Home Education (CCHE), formerly the [HSLDA Canada legal team](#); HSLDA Canada now operates as a parallel membership-and-legal-defense organization.

Alberta

Alberta runs the most developed funding regime in Canada. Home education is authorized under the [Alberta Education Act](#) and governed by Home Education Regulation 89/2019. The province operates a dual-track model: parent-supervised programs receive funding; non-supervised programs require notification only and receive none. Parents elect the track at registration.

Funded track. A parent on the funded track submits the Home Education Notification Form — Supervised by School Authority annually and must be accepted by an associate board (public or private school authority) before September 30 each year. The associate board must conduct at least two formal evaluations annually by certificated teachers, review portfolios, and provide written recommendations. The 2025-26 funding amount is CA\$901.00 per funded student in Grades 1-12, CA\$450.50 for Kindergarten, unchanged from 2023-24 and 2024-25. The grant is split between the supervising school authority and the parent, with parents typically receiving 50% of the per-student grant as reimbursement for instructional materials and resources. [Alberta Regulation 145/2006](#) restricts use of the grant to costs incurred by the parent for programs of study, instructional materials, or other resources related to the home education program.

Non-funded track. Families who prefer no supervision file the Home Education Notification Form — Not Supervised by School Authority through the PASI/myPass system. No funding flows; no associate board reviews the program. This track is the closest Alberta comes to the no-notification posture of Texas or Idaho.

Over 24,000 students were registered as home-educated in Alberta in 2023-24 — the largest provincial total in Canada. The dominant associations are the [Home Education](#)

British Columbia

BC operates a two-stream system with very different oversight intensities, per the [BC Ministry of Education's Distributed Learning Standards](#). Registered homeschoolers register with their local catchment school or any BC-funded school. The family retains full curriculum freedom; government oversight of curriculum content is nil; no progress reporting is required. Distributed Learning (DL) enrollees take a different path entirely: a child enrolled in a DL school is officially a student of that school, taught remotely with teacher oversight, following the BC curriculum and meeting provincial learning outcomes. The family receives funding-equivalent resources through the DL school.

Per the [BC State of the Nation E-Learning report](#), registered homeschoolers receive a small per-student stipend; DL students are fully funded as enrolled school students. The principal association is BC Home Educators Association; LearnNowBC operates as the directory for DL programs.

Ontario

Ontario is the most permissive regulated jurisdiction in Canada. Home education is authorized under [Section 21\(2\)\(a\) of the Education Act](#), which excuses children from compulsory attendance because they are receiving satisfactory instruction at home. A parent sends a written Letter of Intent to the local school board annually, and the board, per Policy/Program Memorandum 131, must accept the written notification as evidence that the parents are providing satisfactory instruction at home. No portfolio is required, no test, no curriculum submission. Boards must reply with an acknowledgement letter using the sample template in PPM 131 Appendix C; this is administrative, not approval.

Homeschooled students may opt into [Education Quality and Accountability Office \(EQAO\)](#) assessments for Grades 3, 6, and 9 plus the Grade 10 OSSLT by contacting the

Ontario Federation of Teaching Parents (OFTP) and the Ontario Christian Home Educators' Connection (OCHEC).

Quebec

Quebec runs the most supervised regime in Canada. Home education is authorized under Article 15 of the Quebec Education Act as modified by [Bill 144 \(2017\)](#) and the subsequent Homeschooling Regulation. Parents must submit written notice to both the Direction de l'enseignement à la maison (DEM) at the Ministère de l'Éducation and their school service centre no later than July 1, or within 10 days of the child's last day of school attendance.

A formal learning project must be submitted and implemented by September 30 each year. The Quebec Ministry process page requires the project to include educational approach, programs of study, expected competencies, learning activities, educational resources, time allocation plan, contributing organizations, evaluation methods, and the child's prior educational level. Required subjects include literacy, numeracy, problem-solving skills, and either French or English as the language of instruction. The DEM conducts document review through a secure online portal, monitoring meetings (in-person or video), and assigns a resource person. Two progress reports are required annually (mid-term and completion). Parents must select at least one evaluation method from a defined menu: school board evaluation, private institution evaluation, licensed teacher evaluation, ministerial examination, or portfolio submission to the Minister. Children must complete mandatory provincial ministerial examinations equivalent to those for school-attending students. No funding is provided. The principal support organization is the [Association québécoise pour l'éducation à domicile \(AQED\)](#), which provides templates, guidance, and legal resources.

The Prairie provinces and the Atlantic

standardized tests required, no funding provided. Each notifying family is connected with a Liaison Officer. The principal association is the [Manitoba Association of Christian Home Schools](#).

Saskatchewan. Authorized under [The Education Act, 1995](#). Notice must be filed with the resident school board by August 15 each year. Parents submit a written Home Education Plan that follows the Goals of Education for Saskatchewan, is age-appropriate, and accounts for the student's ability level. The registering authority reviews within 30 days. The principal association is [Saskatchewan Home Based Educators](#).

Nova Scotia. Authorized under the [Nova Scotia Education Act](#). All children ages 5-16 starting homeschooling must be registered with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by September 20. Per Department guidance, registration is not a permission slip and a family is not approved or denied — it is a notice of intent. A follow-up progress report is due in June each year. The principal association is the [Home Education Movement of Nova Scotia](#).

New Brunswick. Home education is not separately recognized in [New Brunswick's Education Act](#). Compulsory attendance (Section 15) admits exception (Section 16) where the Minister is satisfied a child is under effective instruction elsewhere. Parents submit an annual Home Schooling Application Form to the school district office by September 16, including an indemnity accepting full responsibility for the child's effective instruction.

Newfoundland & Labrador. Authorized under the Schools Act, 1997. The province uses the term home instruction rather than home education. Parents apply to the Superintendent of Schools or the regional Home Schooling Coordinator within their NLESD region. Per [NLESD Policy PROG-312](#), the maximum length of approval for a home school program is one academic year, renewable each year.

The territories

Yukon. Authorized under [Section 31 of the Yukon Education Act](#). Parents submit a three-year education plan including teaching methods and resources for literacy and numeracy. Aurora Virtual School coordinates and monitors home education across the Yukon.

Northwest Territories. Authorized under the NWT Education Act, which uses the term home schooling program. Parents register their child with the local school; the child is classified as a student of the school but exempt from attendance.

Nunavut. Authorized under the [Nunavut Education Act](#) continued from the original NWT Act. Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada with an explicit Indigenous-knowledge-system curriculum requirement: home educators must integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) principles into their Education Program Plans, which must demonstrate comparable scope and quality to the territorial curriculum.

Canadian publishers and curriculum supply

Canadian families draw heavily on US Christian curricula imported through Canadian retailers. [Donna Ward / Northwood Press](#) is the principal Canadian-content publisher, producing *Courage and Conquest: Discovering Canadian History* (high-school Canadian History) and *Canada, My Country* (Grades 1-4 social studies). Saxon Math and Singapore Math are widely used as US/Singapore imports; both are mainstays in Christian Canadian homeschools per the [Canadian Homeschooler curriculum directory](#). Apologia, Master Books, and Sonlight are heavily adopted by Christian Canadian families. Wisdom Home Schooling is the Alberta-based Catholic associate board program providing curriculum and teacher supervision for funded Alberta home educators. For university-bound high-schoolers, Cambridge IGCSE, Pearson Edexcel International GCSE, and

19. International — United Kingdom and Ireland

England

Home education in England rests on a one-sentence statutory foundation that has shaped the regime for three decades. [Section 7 of the Education Act 1996](#) requires the parent of every child of compulsory school age to cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. The "or otherwise" clause is the load-bearing language. The doctrinal shorthand favored by English home educators is that education is compulsory; school attendance is not. The [Department for Education's Elective Home Education guidance for parents, updated August 2024](#), codifies this reading.

No notification or registration is required for parents who have never enrolled their child in a state-funded school. Parents withdrawing a child from a state school send a deregistration letter to the school's headteacher; the school must accept the deregistration and remove the child from the roll. Children attending a special school named in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) require the local authority's consent before deregistration.

Local authorities hold a duty under [Section 437 of the Education Act 1996](#) to act if it appears a child is not receiving suitable education. LAs may make informal enquiries, but parents are not legally obliged to respond — though a non-response may trigger a School Attendance Order under Section 437. The judicial standard for "efficient" and "suitable" was settled long ago: education is efficient if it achieves what it sets out to achieve, and suitable if it prepares the child for life in a modern civilised society and enables the child to achieve his full potential. There is no National Curriculum requirement, no Key Stage assessment requirement, no GCSE requirement.

153,300. Home-educated children skew toward older year groups: 3% in Year 1 versus 19% in Year 11, with over a third in Years 10 or 11. Heavy adoption clusters around GCSE-stage transitions.

Pending legislation will reshape this picture. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill progressing through Parliament in 2026 would introduce a mandatory "children not in school" register administered by local authorities. The bill is the most significant proposed change to English home-education policy since Section 7 was written. Royal Assent timing remains uncertain as of May 2026.

Wales

Wales is devolved from England. The Section 7 Education Act 1996 framework applies historically, supplemented by Welsh statutory guidance. The [Welsh statutory guidance for local authorities and home-educator handbook](#) was published in 2023 and updated to web-page format in March 2025. On 17 March 2026 the Senedd agreed legislative consent for "children not in school" register clauses under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, per the [Welsh Government written statement](#). Royal Assent is expected May 2026; the Welsh Government will undertake a full public consultation on Welsh provisions in the new Senedd term. A January 2026 independent evaluation report was published assessing the impact of the 2023 statutory guidance.

Scotland

Authorized under [Section 30\(1\) of the Education \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#), which requires parents to provide efficient, suitable education by school attendance or other means. The Scottish particularity sits in [Section 35](#): local authority consent is required before withdrawing a child who has been attending a public school. The authority shall not unreasonably withhold consent. No consent is required to home educate a child who has

this is the trigger for intervention rather than continuous monitoring. Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, Section 14, empowers Scottish Ministers to issue home education guidance to which authorities shall have regard. Per the Scottish Government guidance, parents do not have to give a reason for choosing home education; any reason given should not affect the consent decision. Dispute resolution runs through Scottish Mediation; advice and support comes from Enquire and REACH.

Northern Ireland

Permitted under Northern Ireland education law as a form of education otherwise than at school. The principal guidance sources are the [Department of Education \(NI\) home education guidance](#) and the [Education Authority Northern Ireland](#). The single Education Authority replaced the former five Education and Library Boards in 2015. Per [Department Circular 2014/24](#), the formal acronym EOTAS in Northern Ireland usage refers to placements for children with social, behavioural, or emotional needs who cannot sustain mainstream school access — a category distinct from elective home education by parents.

Republic of Ireland

Ireland operates a registration regime built on constitutional foundation. The Irish Constitution requires that children receive moral, intellectual and social education. [Section 14 of the Education \(Welfare\) Act 2000](#) mandates that TUSLA, the Child and Family Agency, maintain a register of all children educated outside a recognised school. The [Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service \(AEARS\)](#) within TUSLA conducts assessments and maintains the Section 14 register.

The assessment standard is certain minimum education, evaluated against the [Guidelines on the Assessment of Education in Places other than a Recognised School \(2003\)](#) issued by the Minister of Education. The two-stage process begins with a

begin on application. Registration is finalized after assessment. The principal advocacy body is the [Home Education Network \(HEN\)](#).

UK and Ireland publishers

The British homeschool publisher market is mature and deep. [Galore Park](#) leads the 11+, 13+, and Common Entrance preparation market; over 100 of its books are approved by the Independent Schools Examinations Board, and Galore Park is the exclusive distributor of ISEB Common Entrance papers. [CGP Books](#) is the most widely used UK educational publisher, with materials in nine of ten UK schools across KS1, KS2, SATs, 11+, KS3, GCSE, and A-Level. [Schofield & Sims](#) specializes in primary maths and English, with its Mental Maths and Handwriting series the daily-practice spine for many UK home educators. Letts Educational (Collins) covers revision and practice books across primary and secondary stages. [Twinkl](#) is the UK-based teaching-resources marketplace; Ultimate membership runs roughly £50 per year. Conquer Maths covers UK-aligned online maths from primary through GCSE at £10-£15 per month. Letterland is the dominant phonics and early literacy program for UK home education.

International qualifications dominate the high-school exit pathway. Cambridge IGCSE is accepted in 160+ countries; it is the gold-standard international qualification and a frequent choice for UK home educators because it can be completed entirely by written exam without practical lab work. Pearson Edexcel International GCSE and A-Level provide the second major international route. OxfordAQA offers a third UK exam board option for International GCSEs.

The UK has long-established homeschool colleges. [Wolsey Hall Oxford](#), founded 1894, is one of the oldest in the world, serving families in over 130 countries with primary, secondary, IGCSE, and A-Level. Cambridge-approved for Lower Secondary, GCSE, and A-Level, and a Pearson Virtual Centre. King's InterHigh covers primary through A-Level. Oxford Home Schooling delivers IGCSE/A-Level by post and online. CambriLearn is

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

[Parents' National Educational Union \(PNEU\)](#) in Bradford, Yorkshire in 1887. PNEU published *The Parents' Review* monthly from 1890 under Mason's editorship. The first PNEU school opened in London in 1892. Mason's Ambleside-based House of Education was renamed Charlotte Mason College in 1938 and eventually merged into what is now the [University of Cumbria](#). The last PNEU branch in Birmingham closed in 1984; the organization itself closed in 1989. The methodology now lives through independent groups in the UK and a substantial Charlotte Mason publishing community in the US.

UK associations span from [Education Otherwise](#), a registered charity founded 1977 in Swindon whose name derives from Section 36 of the Education Act 1944, to Home Education UK and Christian Education Europe. Education Otherwise grew from approximately 250 members in 1977 to over 4,000 member families by 2007; its early campaign secured the first official Department for Education acknowledgement of the lawful right to home educate in the Parent's Charter. The Home Education Network is the principal Irish home-education advocacy body.

20. International — Continental Europe

Germany

Germany prohibits homeschooling. The country enforces *Schulpflicht* (compulsory school attendance), a doctrine distinct from the *Unterrichtspflicht* (compulsory education) framework most other Western countries operate under. The Federal Constitutional Court, in a 2003 decision rejecting the Konrad family's appeal, held that Germany's homeschooling ban was a proportionate interference with the parents' rights given the state interest in preventing the emergence of parallel societies based on separate philosophical convictions. The European Court of Human Rights upheld the ban in [Konrad v. Germany \(Application no. 35504/03\)](#) in 2006, ruling the state's policy a valid exercise of authority to set educational standards.

more than 30 police officers and seven social-services personnel removed the Wunderlich children from the home and placed them in foster care. The Wunderlichs sought Grand Chamber review in April 2019; the Grand Chamber unanimously declined to hear the appeal.

The most American-resonant German case is the Romeike family. They fled Baden-Württemberg in 2008 after fines exceeding the family's income and threatened removal of children. US Immigration Judge Lawrence O. Burman granted asylum in January 2010. The US Board of Immigration Appeals overturned the grant in May 2012. The US government granted indefinite deferred action status in March 2014. Status was revoked in September 2023 and subsequently restored after public attention.

Each *Bundesland* (state) *Schulamt* enforces compulsory attendance through truancy fines, custody-rights restrictions, and in extreme cases physical removal of children to school under police escort. Limited statutory exceptions exist for severe illness, diplomatic families, and traveling artists or performers, all narrowly construed. The legal alternatives to state schools are *Ergänzungsschulen* (supplementary schools) and *Ersatzschulen* (substitute schools) — recognized private schools. Informal networks of *Schulzwang-Aussteiger* (school-compulsion exiters) operate within Germany; many German homeschooling families relocate to neighboring countries (Czech Republic, Austria, France) to home educate legally.

France

France shifted from one of Europe's more permissive regimes to one of the most restrictive within the space of a single statute. Home education (*Instruction En Famille / IEF*) is now permitted by exception, subject to prior authorization from the Director of Departmental Educational Services (DASEN). The foundational principle remains constitutional: Article L131-2 of the Code de l'éducation establishes *instruction*

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

[principes de la République, Article 49](#), which replaced the historic declaration regime with a prior-authorization regime beginning at the start of the 2022 school year. The reform admits only four authorized motifs: the child's state of health or disability; practice of intensive sporting or artistic activity; family itinerance or geographic distance from any school; or a situation specific to the child motivating the educational project. Authorization requests must be submitted to the DASEN between March 1 and May 31 preceding the school year for which authorization is sought. Authorization is granted for a single school year; parents must reapply annually.

Annual inspection by the *Académie* verifies the child's progress against the educational project. Refusals may be contested within 15 days through a mandatory prior administrative appeal before a commission chaired by the academic rector with multidisciplinary composition; subsequent litigation routes to the administrative court. The Constitutional Council and the Conseil d'État issued three rulings on 13 December 2022 confirming the constitutionality of the 2021 prior-authorization regime.

The state distance-education establishment, CNED (Centre national d'enseignement à distance), operates two tracks. *CNED réglementé* provides school-equivalent enrollment and delivers certificates, subject to DASEN approval. Per [Service-Public.gouv.fr](https://www.service-public.gouv.fr), it is free of charge for ages 6-16 with favorable DASEN opinion, and justified for medical reasons or geographic distance from a school. Enrollment deadline is October 31. *CNED libre* covers paid private courses without enrollment-equivalency status.

French support organizations include [Les Enfants d'Abord \(LED'A\)](#), the long-standing IEF advocacy body, and [Association UNIE](#), which formed in response to the 2021 reform. French private online providers include Cours Pi, Cours Hattemer, Cours Sainte-Anne, and Cours Legendre — long-established correspondence schools operating in parallel with CNED. Math-focused providers include ChouetteMath and Maths Rattrapage. *Devenir Une Famille* and other French-language Charlotte Mason adaptations are growing in the francophone homeschool community.

[Every Homeschool](#) [Curriculum](#) [ESA](#) [Guides](#) [Directory](#) [Issues](#)

Leerplichtwet 1969, which requires school enrollment. The only practical route to home educate is the Article 5 sub b *richtingsbezwaar* exemption — exemption from school enrollment based on objections to the philosophical or religious direction of available schools within reasonable distance.

Parents invoking Article 5b must notify the *burgemeester en wethouders* of the municipality where the child is registered. The critical limitation sits in Article 8(2) Leerplichtwet: once a child has been enrolled in any school, the Article 5b exemption is no longer available except in changed circumstances of a pressing nature. Successive Dutch Supreme Court rulings (Hoge Raad, 2015 and 2018) have narrowed the *richtingsbezwaar* exemption substantially, requiring parents to demonstrate genuine philosophical or religious objection that no available school can satisfy. The effective scale is small: approximately 600 children are home educated under the Article 5b exemption — a strikingly small population for a country of 17 million. *Particulier onderwijs* (private-school exemption) operates as a parallel route via recognized non-subsidized schools. Active legislative pressure to restrict or close the *richtingsbezwaar* exemption further continues as of 2026.

Italy

Italy's constitutional protection runs from Article 30 of the Italian Constitution: it is the duty and right of parents to maintain, instruct and educate their children, even if born outside marriage. Home education (*istruzione parentale*) is authorized as a legal alternative to school attendance for the 10-year compulsory-education obligation under Article 33 of the Constitution and Article 111 of Legislative Decree 297/1994.

Each school year, parents submit a *comunicazione preventiva* to the principal of the reference grade-level school in the family's residence territory — the monitoring school — per Italian Ministry guidance. Students must take an annual *esame di idoneità* (aptitude examination) at a state or accredited private school to advance to the next class. Requests for first-cycle exams must be submitted by April 30 each year. The

(LAIF).

Spain

Spain occupies a legal gray zone — neither expressly prohibited nor expressly authorized by national law. Spanish Constitution Article 27.1 recognizes the right of everyone to education and freedom of teaching. In December 2010, the Constitutional Tribunal held that the educational law making school attendance compulsory between ages 6 and 16 is constitutional, and further stated that homeschooling is not constitutionally protected, though the legislature may regulate it; legal alternatives could be created without violating the Constitution. The practical status is tolerance, with most families operating informally and significant regional autonomous-community variation in enforcement. Catalonia is widely reported as the most lenient region; some autonomous communities pursue prosecutions of non-attending families more actively than others. The principal support organization is Asociación para la Libre Educación (ALE), which pursues the normalization of homeschooling as one more educational option. The Spanish-language homeschool publisher market is limited; many families use translated US Christian materials, Spanish CNED-equivalent providers, and Catalan-language materials.

Poland

Poland operates a permissive registration model that has produced one of the fastest-growing homeschool populations in Europe. Home education (*edukacja domowa*) is legally permitted following 2015 reforms. A child is enrolled in a recognized school (state or private) but taught at home; the child's home school of record administers the annual examinations, per HSLDA Poland. In December 2015, Poland's Minister of Education cut the per-pupil subsidy that schools receive for home-educated students by 40%; the cut sparked nationwide protest and elevated home education into mainstream public discourse for the first time since 1991 re-legalization.

homeschooling. The historical context matters: home education returned to Polish practice in the early 1990s as part of post-socialist educational liberalization, when the state's monopoly on education ended with the political system change. The principal organization is Stowarzyszenie Edukacji w Rodzinie. Polish families use state curriculum publishers for school-of-record alignment, Khan Academy in Polish, and dedicated home-school online cooperatives like Centrum Nauczania Domowego.

Belgium, Switzerland, Austria

Belgium. Permitted under [Article 24 of the Belgian Constitution](#), which grants parents free choice in education. Compulsory education exists; school attendance is not mandated. Education is administered by Belgium's three language communities — Flemish, French, and German-speaking — each with its own ministry. The federal right was granted in 1989. Each community sets its own homeschool requirements. Parents who choose home education must register and sign a document committing to respect the rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Homeschool curricula must meet the standards of the relevant linguistic community. Inspection of educational provision and external examinations apply per community-specific rules. Private schools and collective initiatives may submit a collective declaration of home education for all their pupils.

Switzerland. Education is cantonal in Switzerland; each of the 26 cantons has its own rules. Home education is permitted in 16 of 26 cantons, per [The Local Switzerland](#). Vaud was historically the most liberal canton — parents simply notified authorities — and is currently amending its regulations to require an acknowledged Swiss teaching qualification. Bern is the bilingual canton with the most homeschooling families (1,263 in 2022/23), does not require a Swiss teaching diploma, but has tightened other measures recently. Vaud reported 843 homeschooled children (2022/23). Zurich (613 students) permits up to one year of home education without teacher credential, then requires an acceptable teacher certification. Aargau (246 students) requires authorization. Per

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Austria. *Häuslicher Unterricht* is legal with notification, per the [Bildungsdirektion Oberösterreich](#). Notification to the responsible Bildungsdirektion must be filed by one week after the end of the previous school year. For the 2026/27 school year, the deadline is Friday, 17 July 2026 at 12:00 PM. Home education must be at least equivalent to the education provided at a public school. Children fulfilling compulsory education through home education must take an annual *Externistenprüfung* between June 1 and the end of the school year to demonstrate adequate success of the home education program. An annual reflection discussion (*Reflexionsgespräch*) with parents is required. Each *Bundesland* has its own additional regulations.

21. International — Nordic countries

Sweden

Sweden effectively banned homeschooling in 2010. The framework sits in [Chapter 24, Section 23 of the Education Act 2010 \(Skollagen 2010:800\)](#), which permits alternative education only in "extraordinary circumstances." Permission may be granted only when the alternative is considered an adequate substitute for the otherwise-offered education; transparency requirements can be met; and extraordinary circumstances are present. Approval is for one year at a time. The restriction took effect [1 July 2011](#) under the Education Act passed in 2010, replacing the previous more-permissive regime. Parents apply to the municipal board of education; refusals may be appealed to the Administrative Court.

The practical effect has been emigration. Jonas Himmelstrand, founding president of Riksföreningen för Hemundervisning (ROHUS), was fined approximately \$26,000 (~\$13,000 per parent) and [emigrated to Åland \(Finnish autonomous region\)](#) in 2012. Per ROHUS, at least a quarter of all Swedish homeschooling families have emigrated to Åland, Finland, Canada, New Zealand, and other Nordic countries to home educate

regulatory framework.

Norway

Home education (*hjemmeundervisning*) is permitted by law. The historic provision was Section 2-13 of *Opplæringsloven*; from 1 August 2024 a new education law replaced "private home education" with "private primary school education" under §22-5. Parents notify the local *kommune*; the municipality assesses the program and supervises ongoing education. Education provided at home must be equivalent to that provided in school. The *kommune* appoints a supervising teacher to assess progress; specific arrangements are decided locally per [Norsk hjemmeundervisningsforbund](#). The principal association is [Norsk hjemmeundervisningsforbund \(NHUF\)](#), an independent membership organization providing legal information and support. Home education in Norway is regulated by *Lov om barn og foreldre*, *Lov om grunnskolen og den vidaregåande opplæringa*, and applicable UN conventions.

Denmark

Denmark draws an explicit doctrinal distinction. [Folkeskoleloven § 33](#) sets *undervisningspligt* (instruction obligation) — distinct from *skolepligt* (school attendance obligation). The Danish framework requires children to receive instruction comparable to that provided in the *folkeskole* (public school), not to attend the *folkeskole* itself. This is the explicit basis for home education legality.

Parents who plan to provide home instruction must notify the *kommunalbestyrelsen* in writing before instruction begins. The municipal council supervises home-provided instruction. Each year the council may conduct examinations in Danish, arithmetic/mathematics, English, history/civics, and natural sciences to verify the instruction meets *Folkeskole* standards. If instruction is found inadequate, the council notifies parents that a re-examination will occur after 3 months; if instruction remains

(Free Schools and Private Primary Schools Act) framework, which provides parallel legal grounding for parent-provided education.

Finland

Finland permits home education because the country operates an *oppivelvollisuus* (compulsory education) regime, not a school-attendance compulsion. [Section 26 of Perusopetuslaki 628/1998](#) establishes that compulsory education can be fulfilled either by participating in basic education at school or by acquiring knowledge equivalent to the basic education curriculum in another way, per [Opetushallitus guidance](#).

Parents notify the local municipality of the intention to home educate. The Finnish national core curriculum (POPS 2014) framework applies; education must achieve equivalent learning outcomes. The municipality must supervise the progress of a compulsory-education-age child who does not participate in school education. The municipality typically appoints a supervising teacher to assess progress. The legislation contains no national requirements for the practical arrangements of supervision; each municipality decides locally. Compulsory education extends until the basic-education curriculum is completed or, at most, until the end of the school year in the calendar year the student turns 17. An estimated 100-300 home-educated children annually represents a small population reflecting Finland's overall student population of approximately 5.5 million and high satisfaction with the public school system. The principal association is [Suomen Kotikouluyhdistys ry](#).

Iceland

Iceland holds the Nordic region's most restrictive teacher-qualification requirement. Home education (*heimakennsla*) is permitted under [Article 23 of the Compulsory School Act, Act No. 91/2008](#). Parents must apply to their municipality for permission, demonstrating ability and resources to provide proper education. This is a formal

the person providing the education must have permission from the Minister of Education to use the title of *grunnskólakennari* (primary-school teacher), which requires completion of a Master's degree in an approved subject field. The home-education population is correspondingly suppressed to single or low-double digits nationally.

22. International — East Asia

East Asia operates five regulatory regimes that share almost nothing in common beyond a Confucian-era inheritance of state credentialing through high-stakes examination. Japan tolerates non-attendance through a school-refusal framework that has produced one of the world's largest online correspondence high schools. South Korea has no formal homeschool law but maintains an equivalency-exam route that absorbs the small unregistered community. Taiwan is the regional outlier: a 2014 statute explicitly authorizes non-school-based experimental education and the registered cohort has grown roughly 50% in five years. Hong Kong requires case-by-case Education Bureau exemption and most approvals are time-limited. Mainland China prohibits the practice outright under the Compulsory Education Law and a 2017 Ministry of Education notice; underground Christian and Confucian-revival communities operate at material legal risk. The five jurisdictions cover almost the full spectrum of how a modern state can answer the question of whether parents may educate their own children.

Japan

Japan's School Education Law (学校教育法), Article 17 establishes nine years of compulsory education at state-recognized schools. Home-based instruction has no explicit statutory recognition and sits in a legal gray zone. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has not built a homeschool authorization regime. It has instead expanded tolerance of non-attendance through the

conventional classroom instruction typically uses one of three mechanisms: recognized non-attendance (*futoukou*) status, under which the child remains enrolled at the local public school but does not attend; enrollment in an online accredited school such as N High School; or attendance at a private *furiisukuru* (free school) recognized by MEXT under the [March 2023 COCOLO Plan](#) for school-refusal alternatives. None of these is “homeschooling” in the American statutory sense, but together they cover the practical ground.

Online accredited schooling at scale. [N High School and its sister schools \(S High School, R High School\)](#), operated by the [Kadokawa Dwango Educational Institute](#), exceed 30,000 students as of September 2024 — the largest high school by enrollment in Japan. Curriculum is online correspondence with optional in-person campuses; students earn the same Article 1 high school diploma issued by conventional schools. The model has been imitated by smaller online providers but Kadokawa Dwango remains dominant. Per a [2015 MEXT survey of alternative education providers](#), 474 free school organizations were operating nationwide.

Assessment. Schools where children are nominally enrolled track attendance and academic standing. Students taking the High School Equivalency Examination (高等学校卒業程度認定試験) can earn university entry without conventional secondary attendance, governed by [MEXT’s University Entrance Qualification framework](#).

The futoukou population is the operative proxy. Direct homeschool population is not measured. Per [MEXT’s FY2023 data](#), summarized in published reporting and [comparative analysis](#), 346,482 elementary-through-high-school students missed 30 days or more in the 2023–24 academic year — 2.30% of elementary and 6.79% of junior high students per the most recent MEXT release. Kindergarten-through-grade-9 truancy alone runs near 244,000 children. N High School plus sister schools account for an additional 30,000+ enrolled students in formal online correspondence. The aggregate non-attending or non-conventional cohort is structurally large and growing.

Japanese All-Party Parliamentary Group on Free Schools, which proposed integrating free schools into the compulsory education system in 2017. MEXT's public-facing posture has shifted from treating futoukou as deviance toward accommodating it as a recognized condition requiring alternative provision.

South Korea

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (초·중등교육법) makes nine years of education (ages 7–15) compulsory in South Korea. Homeschooling is not explicitly authorized and not explicitly prohibited, mirroring Japan's gray-zone posture. Per Article 14 of the Act, guardians may apply for an exemption from the compulsory school-attendance obligation.

No formal homeschool registration exists. Guardians who do not enroll a child within the designated period receive notices from the head of the eup, myeon, or dong office, the superintendent of education, or the district office of education; non-compliance after notice is punishable by a fine of up to KRW 1 million per the Act's enforcement provisions. The fine is rarely imposed in practice; the more common outcome is movement into the equivalency-exam track.

The 검정고시 credential pathway. Korean homeschoolers typically pursue the Qualification Exam for Elementary, Middle, and High School (검정고시) administered by provincial offices of education for credentialing. The Korean Ministry of Education administers these equivalency exams nationally. A 검정고시 high school certificate is fully accepted for university admission, including the elite SKY institutions, putting unregistered home learners on the same credentialing footing as graduates of conventional high schools.

Curriculum supply is predominantly imported. Korean homeschoolers — predominantly evangelical Protestant — frequently import U.S. Christian curricula such as Sonlight, Abeka, and IEW. Per the HSLDA South Korea profile, Christian families form

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Christian homeschool networks at the local-church level; there is no centralized statutory body comparable to NHERI in the United States. No official population count exists; HSLDA estimates the community in the low thousands of families with post-pandemic growth. The gray-zone framework has not been converted into authorized status by any post-2020 statute, and the 검정고시 exam pathway remains the primary credentialing route for unregistered home learners.

Taiwan

Taiwan is the East Asian regulatory outlier. Homeschooling has been explicitly legal since the November 19, 2014 Enforcement Act for Non-school-based Experimental Education at Senior High School Level or Below (高級中等以下教育階段非學校型態實驗教育實施條例), governed by the Fundamental Act of Education. The 2014 reform was a regional milestone — the first explicit statutory recognition of home-based experimental education in East Asia.

Three recognized categories. Parents apply to the local education bureau of the household-registration jurisdiction or place of residence. Applications are due no later than April 30 or October 30 before the semester begins per the Ministry of Education framework. Three categories are recognized: individual (single-family), group (small learning groups), and institutional (community-based learning centers). The categorical structure gives families with different operational preferences a defined administrative home.

Annual review by the county or municipal education bureau, with portfolio submission and progress evaluation, governs ongoing compliance per the Enforcement Act. Curriculum method is permissive: Christian homeschoolers use Sonlight, Abeka, and Charlotte Mason materials imported from the United States; Buddhist and Confucian-leaning families use locally produced curricula; secular families use Mandarin-language adaptations of Common Core or IB-aligned materials per the Schoolhouseteachers Taiwan summary.

over five years. Taiwan Homeschool Advocates (台灣在家教育聯盟) is the leading national network; smaller Buddhist and Christian associations operate regionally per the [HSLDA Taiwan profile](#). The Ministry of Education has expanded the experimental-education infrastructure substantially since 2014; the 2024 cohort growth signals sustained public confidence in the regime.

Hong Kong

Sections 74 and 78 of the [Education Ordinance Cap. 279](#) place a legal duty on parents to ensure children aged 6–15 attend a registered school. Homeschooling is not authorized as a default; it is permitted only by case-by-case exemption granted by the Education Bureau (EDB).

Families approach the EDB directly. The EDB reviews each application individually per the [October 15, 2014 LCQ11 written reply by the Secretary for Education to the Legislative Council](#). Approvals are time-limited (typically three to six months) and require renewal. The EDB conducts reviews at each renewal interval and requires evidence of “balanced education” being provided per the [Education Bureau’s formal position](#). The approval threshold is high; refusal is common.

Curriculum and association coverage is thin. Most “homeschool” households in Hong Kong are international-school enrollees or relocate to Shenzhen for less restrictive schooling. Explicit homeschool curricula in use include U.S. Christian materials (Sonlight, BJU Press, Abeka), Cambridge International, and Charlotte Mason approaches. The [Homeschool Association of Hong Kong \(HSA\)](#) and [homeschool.hk](#) provide informal coordination and legal-status documentation. There is no statutory homeschool body.

A specialist researcher cited by the [South China Morning Post in 2019](#) estimated approximately 120 families practicing homeschooling. Other estimates range from 50 to 100 families. No formal records are compiled because there is no registration regime.

China (mainland)

Homeschooling is illegal under the Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China, which mandates that all school-age children attend a state-licensed school. The General Office of the Ministry of Education issued an explicit condemnation in 2017 (sometimes dated 2019) stating that “[students] should not be allowed to study at home to replace the national unified implementation of compulsory education” per HSLDA's China dossier. Article 14 of the law and the subsequent MOE notice together form the operative prohibition.

No legal registration exists. Province-level approval may be granted in narrowly defined circumstances such as medical incapacity; these are not routine homeschool authorizations. Homeschool children are not permitted to take the National College Entrance Examination (高考, gaokao), removing the principal pathway to Chinese university admission per HSLDA's coverage. Families seeking university entry typically credential through international examinations (Cambridge IGCSE, A-Levels) and apply to overseas universities.

Three underground patterns predominate. First, Christian house-church families using imported U.S. evangelical curricula (Sonlight, Abeka, BJU Press), often discussed by ChinaSource. Second, Confucian-revival *sishu* (私塾) academies — a tradition formally abolished in 1905 but re-emerging since 2005 with the founding of the Meng Mu Tang sishu in suburban Shanghai. Third, wealthy families relocating to homeschool-permitting jurisdictions (United States, Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Singapore) per WORLD News reporting.

No legal association exists. Underground networks operate within house-church communities and Confucian-revival circles; visible documentation appears only in academic and journalistic coverage such as the International Center for Home Education Research. Earlier reporting cited approximately 6,000 families homeschooling in 2017 with annual growth around 33% in some regions. Underground status precludes accurate

2025.

23. International—Southeast Asia

Six Southeast Asian regimes cover roughly the same span as East Asia. Singapore admits a tiny exemption-based community measured in the hundreds; Malaysia uses a special-circumstances exemption that has been read more permissively in practice than the strict statutory criteria suggest; the Philippines runs the region's most developed provider-track system under a 2019 Department of Education order; Indonesia recognizes home education explicitly through three categorical forms with national equivalency-exam credentialing; Thailand has the region's longest-running explicit recognition (1999) and operates through provincial education offices; Vietnam has no recognition pathway and the practice operates de facto only among a small expat cohort.

Singapore

The [Compulsory Education Act 2000 \(operational from 2003\)](#) requires Singaporean citizens of primary-school age to attend a national primary school. Homeschooling is permitted by exemption from the Ministry of Education (MOE).

The application window is narrow. Application is made to the Compulsory Education Unit (CEU) within MOE between July and October of the year prior to the child's Primary 1 enrollment. Required materials include a curriculum vitae, an academic learning plan covering English, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, and Science, and supporting documents. An MOE officer conducts a home visit for assessment per [the New Age Parents step-by-step guide](#) and the [official MOE exemption page](#).

PSLE benchmark is the hard ongoing condition. Approved homeschooled students must take the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) and meet the benchmark

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

locally, homeschoolers more commonly draw on Sonlight, Abeka, IEW, and Cambridge International materials. Christian and Muslim families form the largest identified cohorts. [Singapore Homeschooling Group](#) and informal Christian homeschool fellowships are the most visible coordination structures; there is no statutory association.

Approximately 300 children received exemptions over the nine-year period 2008–2017 by the time the first cohort sat PSLE. Annual exemption applications run in the low double digits — 31 in 2003, 26 sitting PSLE six years later. The community remains small (likely 100 to 200 active families). The MOE conducted a February 2025 review of homeschooling requirements, confirming the exemption framework but reaffirming PSLE benchmark requirements.

Malaysia

The [Education Act 1996 \(Act 550\)](#) makes primary education compulsory in Malaysia. Homeschooling is permitted by exemption from the Ministry of Education (Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia, KPM), with the criteria framework formally approved by the Minister of Education on June 28, 2003 per [Espact's National Education System summary](#).

Applications are submitted to any state education department on the prescribed form and forwarded to the School Division of the Ministry of Education. Eligibility is restricted on the face of the regulation to children who are medically unfit, have an exceptional IQ, or whose families travel constantly. The Surat Akuan Pendidikan Khas (special education declaration letter) is the official approval document. Officials from the Ministry, state education department, or district education office may visit the home unannounced during a school day. Conditions imposed by the Ministry permit home visits at any time during a school day; violation triggers immediate revocation and registration of the child at a normal school per the [Education Act 1996](#). KSSR

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Negara and other Islamic homeschool curricula such as [Buruji Academy](#) and [Allamah Education](#). Christian families use Sonlight, Abeka, and Accelerated Christian Education materials. Secular families use Cambridge International. [Sekolah Anak Malaysia](#) is a domestic alternative-education provider serving homeschool-adjacent families.

The [Malaysian Homeschooling Network \(MHsN\)](#) provides peer support and networking, with Islamic homeschool networks operating in parallel. [HSLDA's Malaysia profile](#) describes the community as in “vibrant explosion” without a hard count; informal estimates place active families in the thousands, growing rapidly. The 2003 criteria-for-exemption framework has remained the operative regime, and Ministry posture has been more permissive in practice than the strict eligibility text suggests as Christian and Muslim communities have grown.

Philippines

Homeschooling in the Philippines is officially recognized by the Department of Education under [DepEd Order No. 21, s. 2019 \(Policy Guidelines on the K to 12 Basic Education Program\)](#), which establishes the Home Education Program framework. The 2019 order codified what had been growing provider-led practice through the prior decade.

Two registration pathways. Families either enroll with a DepEd-accredited homeschool provider (the dominant choice) or enroll in DepEd's Alternative Learning System (ALS) with the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT) used for grade-level certification per [The Filipino Homeschooler's overview](#). Accredited providers administer their own assessments and submit grades and credentials to DepEd. The ALS pathway uses PEPT and ALS Accreditation and Equivalency tests.

Provider landscape is wide and faith-stratified. [Homeschool Global \(formerly The Master's Academy / TMA Homeschool\)](#) is the pioneer provider, Christian, in partnership with Walkersville Christian Family Schools; it merged with VCIS Home Study under

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Sts. Paul & Mark School are additional DepEd-accredited Christian providers per [DepEd PH's accredited list](#) and [The Filipino Homeschooler's directory](#). Many Filipino diaspora families also use U.S. Christian curricula (Abeka, BJU Press, Sonlight, IEW) directly.

Provider-led coordination dominates. Homeschool Global and CFA function as both curriculum providers and de facto association hubs; independent homeschool associations operate as informal networks. Approximately 12,000 families were homeschooling as of 2019, against the 26.6 million students enrolled in regular basic education for SY 2023–2024 per DepEd. Post-pandemic growth has been substantial; some industry estimates place active homeschooled students at 25,000+ as of 2024. DepEd Order No. 21, s. 2019 institutionalized the provider framework and remains the operative regulation, with provider accreditation continuing to expand.

Indonesia

Indonesian homeschooling is legal, governed by the [2003 National Education System Law \(UU No. 20/2003\)](#) and [Ministry of Education and Culture Regulation No. 129 of 2014](#), which specifies three recognized forms: Tunggal (single family), Majemuk (multiple families), and Komunitas (community-based with shared learning center).

Families register with the Ministry or with a Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Masyarakat (PKBM, Community Learning Activity Center). Per the same regulation, learning tools include curriculum, progress reports, diplomas, national exams, and equivalency programs. Outcomes are recognized as equivalent to formal and non-formal education once the learner passes the equivalency examinations: Paket A (primary equivalency), Paket B (junior secondary equivalency), and Paket C (senior secondary equivalency). The Paket structure is the operational backbone for credentialing.

Muslim families use Sahlah, Allamah Education, and Indonesian Islamic curricula; Christian families use Sonlight, Abeka, and Accelerated Christian Education; secular

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

[Pendidikan Alternatif Indonesia \(ASAH PENA Indonesia\)](#) was formally declared May 4, 2006, with Dr. Seto Mulyadi as General Chairman. ASAH PENA holds a formal cooperation agreement with Indonesia's Directorate General of Non-Formal Education (PLS) signed January 2007. Research reviewed by ASAH PENA and Indonesian academic journals cites approximately 500 single-family homeschoolers identified through interviews, with the broader community across all three forms substantially larger but uncounted. Regulation 129/2014 remains the operative framework; practitioners criticize the regulation for conflating home-based education with PKBM as institutions, leaving implementation gaps that ASAH PENA has been working to close per [Indonesian academic analysis](#).

Thailand

Thai homeschooling has been explicitly recognized since the [National Education Act of B.E. 2542 \(1999\)](#), which recognizes formal, non-formal, and informal education as three constitutional forms; home education falls under informal education. [Ministerial Regulation No. 3 \(2004\)](#) governs implementation.

Families register with the Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC) for public-school-track families or with the Office of the Private Education Commission (OPEC) or relevant Provincial Education Office. The application includes a learning plan and family qualifications. Annual portfolio review and assessment by the district educational office govern ongoing compliance per the [Schoolhouseteachers Thailand summary](#).

Approximately 24 homeschool centers plus family-by-family approval models operate.

Christian families use Abeka, Sonlight, and BJU Press. Buddhist families integrate Thai cultural and dharma curricula with national-curriculum elements. International families use Cambridge International or IB-adjacent materials. The Thai Homeschool Network is the dominant peer-support venue; the Thai Homeschool Association coordinates advocacy. [Bridgeway Academy's Thailand summary](#) describes "fast" recent growth, with the post-pandemic cohort substantially larger than the 24 initial centers suggest. The

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Vietnam

Homeschooling is not officially recognized under [Vietnam's Education Law 43/2019/QH14](#), which mandates compulsory schooling at registered institutions. The Vietnamese constitution recognizes parental responsibility for education but does not explicitly authorize home-based instruction.

No homeschool registration mechanism exists. Families seeking alternatives operate through private and international schools (which have surged 40%+ since 2019 per [Vietnam Teaching Jobs reporting](#)) or through informal home-based instruction without legal protection. Families seeking credentialing typically enroll through international examination boards (Cambridge IGCSE, A-Levels).

Among the small expat and elite urban Vietnamese cohort: Cambridge International, Sonlight, Abeka, and IB-aligned international curricula. [Kingdom of Light International Schools](#) is one Christian-affiliated alternative serving urban Christian families. No formal national association exists; coordination occurs through expat networks and house-church communities. The registered population is negligible; the informal community is small and concentrated in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. [Open Doors UK reporting](#) documents heightened scrutiny on Christian Hmong and Montagnard families, which constrains visible homeschool growth. The 2019 Education Law tightened formal-system requirements while simultaneously expanding the legal status of non-profit private schools — alternatives to homeschooling, not paths into it.

24. International — South Asia

South Asia's four major regimes share the inheritance of British examination-board credentialing and a post-independence emphasis on compulsory education. India is the regional anchor with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) absorbing millions of non-traditional learners and an explicit policy turn toward open schooling under the

homeschool pathway.

India

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) establishes the right of children aged 6–14 to free and compulsory education. The Delhi High Court in 2010 confirmed the Act does not prohibit homeschooling, and subsequent homeschool-favorable rulings (including the broader judicial reading that the RTE Act creates a right rather than a school-attendance mandate) have left homeschooling legally permitted but unregulated per Cambrilearn’s India summary. No national homeschool registration exists. Swashikshan, the Indian Association of Homeschoolers, affirms that homeschoolers do not have to be registered with any government agencies.

Three credentialing pathways. Families credential children through one of three routes. First, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) — autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, established November 1989, the world’s largest open-schooling system with 4 million-plus learners. NIOS secondary (Class 10) and senior secondary (Class 12) certificates are recognized as equivalent to CBSE by the Association of Indian Universities. Second, Cambridge International (IGCSE, A-Levels) — used by families seeking international university recognition. Third, Pearson Edexcel and the International Baccalaureate as secondary alternative international pathways.

Curriculum supply spans the full religious and methodological spectrum. Christian homeschoolers (approximately 5,000+ families per HSLDA India) use Sonlight, Abeka, BJU Press, Accelerated Christian Education, and Charlotte Mason curricula. Hindu and Vedic gurukul-revival families operate at scale: Vediconcepts identifies 4,500+ gurukuls in India as of April 2022, though most follow CBSE-pattern curricula with gurukul cultural elements rather than pure Vedic instruction. Agastya Gurukulam launched online India homeschool programs in 2020–21. Muslim families use madrasa-adjacent programs combined with national-curriculum credentialing. Secular and unschooling

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

operating as a no-formal-membership association open to all homeschoolers of Indian origin or residing in India. The [Alliance for Self-Directed Education](#) lists Swashikshan as the principal Indian homeschool association. Estimates vary widely — HSLDA’s India profile and Indian press range from approximately 3,000 to 50,000 families, with metropolitan concentrations in Bangalore, Pune, and Mumbai. Christian homeschool sub-population is approximately 5,000+ families; Hindu gurukul-style population is harder to count given the hybrid nature.

NEP 2020 strengthens the open-schooling pathway. [The National Education Policy 2020 \(NEP 2020\)](#) recommends strengthening NIOS as a national priority, emphasizes “flexible, multidisciplinary, and learner-paced education,” and supports multiple pathways to learning. The NEP does not explicitly authorize homeschooling but creates a more permissive policy environment. [The Centre’s push for NIOS-based open schooling to achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio by 2030](#) is the most consequential recent development for homeschool families.

Pakistan

Pakistan has no statute regulating, restricting, or prohibiting homeschooling per [Cambrilearn’s Pakistan summary](#). [Article 25-A of the Constitution](#), inserted by the [18th Amendment in 2010](#), obligates the state — not parents — to provide free and compulsory education to children aged 5–16. Provincial education acts (Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad Capital Territory) implement Article 25-A; none specifically address or restrict homeschooling.

No registration process exists, no mandated curriculum, and no government inspections. Families credential through the Cambridge International network — Pakistan hosts [one of the world’s largest Cambridge exam-center networks](#). Cambridge O-Levels and A-Levels (and IGCSE) are widely used as Secondary School Certificate alternatives.

coordination occurs through urban Christian and Muslim networks and through online communities.

No national count is available. The community is estimated in the low thousands of urban families. The post-2010 devolution to provinces under the 18th Amendment created provincial autonomy that has neither expanded nor restricted homeschooling. Recent Cambridge IGCSE adoption in public schools signals broader acceptance of the credentialing pathway used by homeschoolers.

Sri Lanka

The Education Ordinance No. 31 of 1939, still the core education statute, requires school attendance. Homeschooling is tolerated rather than authorized, with the New Education Act for General Education proposed by the National Education Commission under consideration to update the framework. No formal registration mechanism exists; families operate de facto.

Most homeschooling families credential through Cambridge International examinations; Wycherley School and similar institutions document the prevalence of the Cambridge pathway. Cambridge IGCSE, O-Level, and A-Level curriculum predominates; smaller cohorts use Sonlight or Abeka (Christian families) and Buddhist or Hindu home-instruction adapted from public-curriculum textbooks. No major formal association exists; coordination is informal and clustered in Colombo and Kandy urban Christian and Buddhist communities.

The Sri Lankan religious composition — approximately 70% Buddhist, 13% Hindu, 10% Muslim, 7% Christian per the Expat Exchange country profile — shapes the small mostly-Christian and expat homeschool cohort. Post-pandemic interest expanded the pool but the 1939 ordinance framework has not been reformed. The proposed New Education Act remains in National Education Commission deliberations.

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

makes primary education through Class 5 compulsory; the [National Education Policy 2010](#) recommended extending compulsory education through Class 8, since adopted per [Dhaka Tribune reporting](#). Homeschooling is not addressed in statute and operates de facto rather than de jure.

No homeschool registration framework exists and no homeschool-specific assessment regime. Families seeking credentialing use Cambridge International or Bangladesh national board examinations through equivalency pathways. Cambridge International and Edexcel are the credentialed pathway; imported Christian and Islamic curricula supply content. Coverage is limited to expat and urban Christian and Muslim minority families. No association of significant scale operates. The population is very small. Compulsory schooling has expanded (Class 5 to Class 8), narrowing the practical space for unregistered home-based instruction; no homeschool-specific legal reform has occurred.

25. International—Oceania

Oceania's two large jurisdictions take opposite structural paths. Australia is a confederation: the federal Constitution does not enumerate education as a Commonwealth power, so all eight jurisdictions (six states plus the ACT and the Northern Territory) have their own homeschool registration regimes. Homeschooling is legal in all eight, registration is required in all eight, and specifics differ by jurisdiction. New Zealand operates a single national framework under the Education and Training Act 2020 with an unusual feature: a per-child supervisory allowance paid to registered families.

Australia

Education in Australia is a state-and-territory matter. The federal Constitution does not enumerate education as a Commonwealth power, leaving the eight jurisdictions to set

New South Wales. Registration runs through the [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\) Home Schooling Unit](#). Applications go through the [Home Schooling Online portal](#); recommended three months in advance; processing typically seven weeks (maximum 12). Initial approval for 3, 6, 12, or 24 months; annual review by home visit or portfolio. NSW had 12,359 registered students in January 2023 (a 37% rise on 2022) per [SBS News reporting](#).

Victoria. The [Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority \(VRQA\)](#) registers children aged 6–17. Registration is free and one-time. Average nine-day approval, maximum 28 days. Submit a learning plan covering eight learning areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Arts, Languages, Physical Education, Information Technology and Design). Application by email to home.schooling@education.vic.gov.au. Victoria registered 11,912 homeschooled students as of December 2022 (36% rise since 2021) per [the VRQA trends and statistics page](#).

Queensland. The [Queensland Home Education \(QHE\) unit](#), formerly the [Home Education Unit \(HEU\)](#), registers children aged 5½ to the end of the year they turn 18. Provisional 60-day registration upon application; full registration follows review. Annual reporting required. Queensland reported approximately 11,300 registered homeschoolers in 2024 — a 163% rise since 2020 per [Queensland Department of Education data](#). The Queensland tripling since 2019 is the most dramatic state-level expansion in the country.

Western Australia. The [Western Australia Department of Education Home Education](#) registers children in the compulsory education period (age 5½ to 17½ or 18). Notify within 14 days of removing child from school. Initial three-month registration, then evaluation; subsequent annual evaluations within 12 months of registration date. Contact via [Regional Education office Home Education Moderator](#).

Tasmania. The [Office of the Education Registrar](#) registers children at least 5 years old on 1 January. Application includes Home Education Application Form and Home Education Summary and Program (HESP). Periodic reviews. Tasmania has the highest per-capita homeschool rate in Australia — over 1% of students.

Australian Capital Territory. The ACT Education Directorate Liaison Unit grants six-month automatic provisional registration; an Authorised Person conducts a home visit at five months, with the parent-prepared Home Visit Parent Report submitted at least one week prior. Generally lighter-touch than NSW or WA.

Northern Territory. The [Northern Territory Department of Education](#) grants one-year approval; reapply annually. Programs must align with [Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority \(ACARA\)](#) requirements.

Curriculum supply is dominated by Christian providers and Australia-aligned online programs. [Australian Christian Home Schooling \(ACHS\)](#) has operated since 2004 under [Christian Education Ministries \(CEM\)](#), founded 2003; the oldest and largest Christian homeschool support provider in Australia. Core curriculum is the [Accelerated Christian Education \(ACE\)](#) program covering English, Maths, Science, Social Studies, Spelling, Grammar, and Creative Writing. [Accelerate Christian Home Schooling](#) is a ministry of [Southern Cross Educational Enterprises \(SCEE\)](#), the A.C.E. partner across Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific. [Sonlight Australia](#) (literature-based Christian), [Charlotte Mason Australia](#), [Euka](#) (Australia-curriculum-aligned secular online), [My Homeschool](#) (broad-spectrum support), and [Cambridge International](#) (alternative international pathway) round out the supply side.

National associations. [Home Education Association Australia \(HEA\)](#) operates as the national umbrella with state chapters. [Home Education Network \(Victoria\)](#) is the Victorian peak body; [Home Education QLD](#) is the Queensland peak body. ACHS, CEM, and SCEE function as both providers and de facto Christian-homeschool associations.

New Zealand

Home education in New Zealand is legal under [Section 38 of the Education and Training Act 2020](#). Compulsory school attendance applies to children aged 6–16; parents who wish to home-educate must apply to the Ministry of Education for a long-term exemption from enrollment.

Applications go to the [Ministry of Education](#) demonstrating the child “is to be taught at least as regularly and well as in a registered school” — the statutory test. Application support and templates are provided by [NCHENZ](#). No mandatory assessment regime applies. Periodic reviews by the Education Review Office (ERO) sample home-educating families. University Entrance is achieved through [NCEA, Cambridge International, or other recognized qualifications](#).

Curriculum supply mixes British, Australian, and U.S. Christian. [Cambridge International \(IGCSE and A-Levels\)](#) is widely used. Christian homeschool families use Sonlight, Abeka, Accelerated Christian Education, BJU Press, and Charlotte Mason resources. Accelerate Christian Home Schooling (SCEE) operates trans-Tasman, including New Zealand. Secular families use Cambridge or Te Kura distance-learning materials. [National Council of Home Educators NZ \(NCHENZ\)](#) is the nationwide umbrella body; HomeSchoolingNZ and regional associations provide additional support.

10,757 children in homeschooling in mid-2024. Per [Ministry of Education’s Education Counts platform](#), 10,757 children were enrolled in homeschooling in mid-2024, across 6,518 families, representing 1.3% of total school enrollments. The [enrolment level](#) remains stable after the 2020–2022 rapid rise.

The supervisory allowance is a distinctive New Zealand feature. Per [NCHENZ’s documentation](#), the Ministry of Education pays an annual supervisory allowance to families holding a Certificate of Exemption: NZ\$796 first child, NZ\$632 second child, NZ\$521 third child, NZ\$372 each subsequent child. Paid in two instalments (May/June

framework. The [NZ Herald reported in 2024](#) that supervisory allowance levels have remained essentially unchanged for decades despite the doubling of registered numbers — a public-policy tension currently active in NZ education policy debate.

26. International — Latin America

Latin America’s eight major homeschool regimes share a common civil-law inheritance and a Catholic-evangelical religious split that shapes the curriculum supply. The dominant variable across the region is the country’s adult-education or competency-validation infrastructure: where states maintain robust exam-based credentialing routes that accept non-enrolled candidates (Mexico’s CENEVAL, Colombia’s ICFES SABER 11, Chile’s exámenes libres, Brazil’s ENEM), homeschool outcomes can be normalized into the formal credential system; where they do not (Uruguay), homeschool families must operate through private umbrella schools or accept legal exposure. Brazil’s September 2018 Supreme Federal Court ruling and the September 2025 Cichelero case define the regional legal debate. Argentina’s Milei administration has signaled openness to a “libertad educativa” reform that would be the region’s first explicit legalization since the COVID-era growth surge.

Brazil

Compulsory school enrollment for ages 4–17 is governed by [Lei de Diretrizes e Bases da Educação Nacional, Law n. 9394/96, Article 4](#). The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court (Supremo Tribunal Federal, STF) ruled on September 12, 2018 in [Recurso Extraordinário 888.815 \(Rio Grande do Sul\)](#) that “não existe direito público subjetivo do aluno ou de sua família ao ensino domiciliar, inexistente na legislação brasileira” — there is no public subjective right of the student or family to homeschooling, which does not exist in Brazilian legislation (Theme 822). The court held that homeschooling is not unconstitutional but that absent a federal statute it cannot be practiced as a matter of

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

schemes, but none currently produces a state-recognized diploma. No federal diploma pathway exists. Families enroll children at the end of basic education in the Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio (ENEM) administered by the Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas Educacionais (INEP) for university entry. Families also use the Encceja (Exame Nacional para Certificação de Competências de Jovens e Adultos) for adult certification.

Curriculum supply runs heavily through Portuguese-translated U.S. Christian publishers. Abeka Portuguese editions, BJU Press translated material, and Accelerated Christian Education PACEs in Portuguese supply most Protestant homeschool households. Brazilian Christian publishers active include [Cultura Cristã](#) and [Sociedade Bíblica do Brasil \(SBB\)](#) for Bible-integrated content. Catholic families use [Editora Cléofas](#) and translated TAN Books material. A growing classical-Christian community uses translated Charlotte Mason resources.

ANED is the principal advocacy and legal-defense organization. [Associação Nacional de Educação Domiciliar \(ANED\)](#), founded 2010, works with the Education Commission of the Câmara dos Deputados, the STF, and the Ministry of Education. It maintains [aned.org.br](#) and [aned.digital](#). The [ANED YouTube channel](#) hosts public-education content. Affiliated regional groups include [Educação Domiciliar Brasil](#).

Population estimates run from 15,000 to 150,000 students. ANED reported approximately 7,500 families and 15,000 students aged 4–17 as of 2019, with 2,000% growth between 2011 and 2018. Updated ANED communications cite approximately 75,000 families and 150,000 students. Precise federal statistics remain unavailable due to non-recognition. ANED reports that 38% of homeschool families have income up to four minimum wages and only 6.8% have income above 20 minimum wages, indicating the practice is not elite-bound.

Recent legislative and judicial activity. [PL 3179/2012](#) was the first federal bill to recognize home education; it has not been put to a vote. [PL 2401/2019](#) was sent to Congress by President Jair Bolsonaro in April 2019; it became one of the most-followed

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

(ECA), [Law n. 8.069/1990](#), which requires parents and guardians to enroll children in the regular educational network and authorizes the Conselho Tutelar (Council of Guardianship) and Public Prosecutor's Office to act on truancy reports.

The September 2025 Santa Catarina ruling. A state court ruling against [Regiane Cichelero](#) — a lawyer-parent who began homeschooling during COVID-19 closures and continued post-reopening — upheld a fine of R\$100,000 (approximately US\$18,000) plus a R\$1,000 daily fine for non-enrollment. Cichelero has signaled appeals to the STF and Inter-American Court of Human Rights. [ADF International](#) and [Brazilian Catholic outlets](#) have covered the case as the leading post-2018 test of the constitutional question. [The Brazil-business overview](#) and [HSLDA's "Homeschoolers Face Crackdown in Brazil"](#) document the ongoing prosecution exposure.

Mexico

[Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos](#), Article 3 establishes the right to education; Article 31 obligates parents to ensure children attend public or private schools through the level of compulsory education. Article 24 protects freedom of conscience and religion. There is no federal statute that explicitly prohibits or explicitly authorizes homeschooling — the practice operates in a legal gap. There are no federal criminal penalties for non-enrollment provided certification milestones are met through alternate pathways.

No federal homeschool registration exists. Most families enroll children with private umbrella schools or accredited online programs that handle Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP) reporting on the family's behalf.

Two principal certification routes. [INEA \(Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos\) Programa 10-14](#) provides primary and secondary credentials for ages 10–14. [CENEVAL \(Centro Nacional de Evaluación para la Educación Superior\)](#) under [Acuerdo 286](#) provides the bachillerato (high school) certification through a single comprehensive

U.S. Christian curricula translated to Spanish dominate Protestant supply — Abeka Spanish editions, BJU Press translated, ACE PACEs Spanish. Catholic families use [Editorial Vida](#), [Editorial CLIE](#), and translated Seton Home Study material. Secular families use translated Singapore Math, IXL Spanish-language platforms, and Khan Academy en Español. A growing Catholic classical community uses translated Memoria Press resources. [Educación en Casa México](#), [Mati Homeschool Mexico](#) ([matihomeschool.com](#)), and the network at [homeschool.com.mx](#) function as the primary informational hubs and umbrella supports. [La Escuela en Casa](#) ([laescuelaencasa.net](#)) is a long-running resource portal.

Mexican homeschool community organizations estimate 5,000 to 10,000 families nationally as of 2024–2025, concentrated in Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey, and the Bajío (Querétaro, San Miguel de Allende). Expat families add several thousand more. No active federal bill seeks to formalize or restrict homeschooling. The 2019 reform to Article 3 and the 2020 Ley General de Educación strengthened state-led education but preserved the practical INEA/CENEVAL certification routes that homeschoolers rely on. Local SEP offices have become more accustomed to homeschool-style certification candidates since the COVID-19 closures of 2020–2021.

Argentina

[Ley de Educación Nacional 26.206 \(2006\)](#) establishes compulsory education from age 4 (initial level) through completion of secondary level. Domiciliary and hospital education are recognized as a modality of the educational system “in an exceptional manner” — limited to students prevented from attending school for 30+ consecutive days due to health or legal reasons. Homeschooling as a primary educational choice operates outside the law’s contemplation. No national registration is available for elective homeschooling. Domiciliary education for medical exemptions requires school-of-origin

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

private accredited correspondence schools (educación a distancia) registered with provincial ministries to obtain official certificates. U.S. Christian curricula translated to Spanish are widely used; Argentina-published Catholic catechetical materials, Charlotte Mason Spanish-language adaptations, and Khan Academy, Singapore Math (Spanish), and IXL round out secular supply. Educar en Casa Argentina, Crecer en Familia, and Educo en Casa are informal networks rather than centralized advocacy bodies. The population runs several hundred to low thousands; precise statistics are unavailable.

The Milei administration has signaled openness to a libertad educativa reform. A September 2024 ruling cited in La Nueva reaffirmed that homeschooling can serve only as a complement to formal education, not as a replacement. President Javier Milei's La Libertad Avanza administration has signaled openness to a "libertad educativa" (educational freedom) reform; a project under discussion in 2025 would create a regulatory pathway for elective home education, though legal commentators have flagged constitutional and child-rights tensions. Province-level variation persists: Mendoza and Córdoba ministries are more permissive in practice than Buenos Aires province. As of May 2026, no federal homeschool legalization bill has passed Congreso.

Colombia

Constitución Política Article 67 recognizes education as a right and a public service; Ley 115 de 1994 (Ley General de Educación) makes education obligatory but does not explicitly mandate institutional schooling. Colombian commentary describes the practice as legally permitted-by-omission: education is obligatory, but not schooling ("la ley dice que la educación es obligatoria, pero no la escolarización").

Families enroll children in the SIMAT (Sistema Integrado de Matrícula) for the purpose of taking national assessments. Many homeschool families work through a private accredited school as an umbrella that performs SIMAT enrollment and progress reporting. ICFES (Instituto Colombiano para la Evaluación de la Educación) administers the SABER tests in grades 3, 5, 9, and 11. The SABER 11 examination is the standard

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

U.S. Christian curricula translated to Spanish dominate; the [Rhema Homeschool network](#) and [Schoolhouse Teachers Colombia portal](#) are widely used. Catholic families use translated TAN, Memoria Press, and Sophia Institute resources. [Red Enfamilia Colombia](#) is the principal association supporting Colombian homeschool families; [Homeschooling Colombia](#) and [Homeschooling Medellín](#) function as regional support hubs. Colombian homeschool community organizations estimate 2,000 to 5,000 families as of 2024–2025, concentrated in Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, and Bucaramanga. No active bill exists to formalize or restrict the practice. The [Ministerio de Educación Nacional](#) maintains a non-prohibition posture; in practice the SABER examination route legitimizes homeschool outcomes in the eyes of universities and employers.

Chile

[Ley General de Educación 20.370 \(2009\)](#) makes education compulsory; the law does not explicitly authorize homeschooling but the [exámenes libres regime](#) administered by the [Ministerio de Educación \(Mineduc\)](#) creates a pathway for non-enrolled minors to validate basic and secondary studies. Families operating outside formal schools are required to register their children through the Mineduc portal.

Minors of school age must be registered through the Mineduc website on established annual dates and cannot be registered through private homeschool aggregators; registration must be direct with Mineduc. Exámenes Libres are annual examinations administered through state liceos that allow children outside formal institutions to validate any grade level of basic or secondary education. Certification is fully valid for entry to government-recognized institutions including universities. Adult candidates over 18 use the [exámenes libres para mayores de 18 años](#) pathway.

U.S. Christian curricula translated; Spanish-language Charlotte Mason resources; [Wited](#) and [Colegio Online LAT Chile](#) are leading online umbrella programs aligned to Mineduc curricular content. Catholic and evangelical publishers are active. Educación Entretenida ([educacionentretenida.cl](#)), Game Learn Hormy ([gamelearnhormy.cl](#)), and

education needs.

Peru

[Ley General de Educación 28044, Article 13](#) defines education as the integral development of the human person and recognizes parental rights in choosing educational institutions. Article 5 of the same law affirms the parental duty to educate children and right to participate in the educational process. School attendance is treated as compulsory in practice but the law does not explicitly criminalize home education. Homeschool families typically operate under the protection of these articles in combination with constitutional parental-rights provisions.

No federal homeschool registration framework exists. Families typically enroll children with private accredited “alternative schools” — [Centros de Educación Básica Alternativa \(CEBA\)](#), evening or weekend programs, or correspondence schools that provide official transcripts. No nationally standardized homeschool examination exists; outcome certification typically routes through CEBA or accredited online programs. University admissions use the institution-specific examen de admisión. [DEZA Homeschool](#) is a Peruvian Christian online umbrella; U.S. Christian curricula translated to Spanish are widely used, alongside Catholic catechetical materials and a growing classical-Christian community using translated Memoria Press.

[Mi Mejor Clase](#), [Educa con Valores](#), and [Hs Perú](#) are informational and support networks. Several hundred families practice; the community is small but growing post-pandemic. No active federal legislation exists; community advocates have emphasized the constitutional parental-rights foundation in absence of dedicated homeschool law.

Costa Rica

of their intent and to obtain MEP approval through submission of an educational plan.

Submit an educational plan to MEP outlining curriculum and educational objectives, and comply with periodic evaluations. Families generally follow the national curriculum; MEP's [Aula Abierta program](#) offers a state-recognized distance-learning pathway.

Degrees from non-MEP-accredited online or correspondence schools are not recognized as equivalent to a Costa Rican high school diploma without revalidation. U.S. Christian curricula translated; bilingual programs especially common given the country's strong English-as-second-language emphasis; Catholic and evangelical resources widely used. [Homeschooling Costa Rica](#) and [CRIE](#) are the primary informational hubs. Several hundred families nationally; concentrated in San José metro and expat hubs (Atenas, Heredia). A [2024 legislative project](#) would explicitly legalize home education under parental tutoring; legislative status pending. Regulations vary by region; local MEP offices apply notification requirements with significant discretion.

Uruguay

[Article 7 of Ley General de Educación 18.437 \(2008\)](#) requires fathers, mothers, or legal guardians to enroll children in school and ensure attendance. [Constitution Article 68](#) affirms parental choice in selecting teachers or schools. The interplay of these provisions has historically permitted only narrow circumstances for home education, and in practice the [Administración Nacional de Educación Pública \(ANEP\)](#) treats homeschooling as outside the legal frame for most families.

No homeschool registration pathway exists. ANEP requires school enrollment. No homeschool-friendly examination route exists; certification requires enrollment in an ANEP-recognized institution. U.S. Christian curricula translated; Mennonite communities in the country use German-language and Spanish ACE PACEs; expat families use online international programs. No formal national homeschool association exists; informal Mennonite and expat networks operate. The population is likely under

regime in practice.

27. International—Africa

African homeschool covers five major regimes plus a regional infrastructure dominated by British online schools and Cambridge International credentialing. South Africa anchors the continental conversation: the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act 32 of 2024 tightened registration but preserved legality, and the Pestalozzi Trust's constitutional challenge frames the legal debate across Anglophone Africa. Nigeria, Kenya, and Ghana operate in legal gray zones with growing urban Christian and Muslim communities. Egypt is effectively restrictive for nationals and tolerates the practice only for expat families using foreign curricula.

South Africa

South African Schools Act 84 of 1996, Section 51 makes home education legal subject to provincial registration. Section 3 makes attendance compulsory ages 7–15 (Grade 1 through Grade 9). The Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act 32 of 2024 signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa on September 13, 2024 amended Sections 3 and 51, lowering compulsory schooling start to Grade R (ages 5–6) and revising the home education framework. Per the BELA Act guidelines, the Act maintained the legality of home education but tightened registration, curriculum-conformance, and assessment requirements.

Registration mechanics. Per Section 51, a parent applies to the Head of Department of the Provincial Education Department for registration. Registration is granted if the Head of Department is satisfied that registration is in the interests of the learner, the home education will meet the minimum requirements of the public-school curriculum (CAPS — Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement), standards will not be inferior to

Every *Homeschool*

Curriculum ESA Guides Directory Issues

Executive Council.

Multiple recognized assessment routes. National Senior Certificate (NSC) — administered through registered private exam centers; the South African secondary credential. SACAI (South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute) — independent NSC examiner widely used by homeschool families. Cambridge Assessment International Education IGCSE and AS/A Levels — popular for university entry, especially for international universities. GED — used by some families. American High School Diploma— through accredited U.S. online umbrellas.

Domestic curriculum publishing is mature. Footprints is a literature-based unit-study curriculum founded 2002 by Wendy Young and Shirley Erwee; widely used by Christian and Charlotte Mason families. Brombacher Maths is a South African math program developed by Aarnout Brombacher, widely used as a math spine. Donnette E. Davis / St Aiden's Homeschool publishes picture-book and early-literacy material. Impaq Education provides CAPS-aligned curriculum plus assessment. Think Digital Academy is an online program. CambriLearnis a Cambridge-curriculum online school. U.S. Christian imports include Abeka, BJU Press, Accelerated Christian Education, Sonlight, and My Father's World.

The Pestalozzi Trust is the continental legal-defense anchor. Pestalozzi Trust was formed 1998 by a group of Christians, registered as Public Benefit Organisation IT6377/98; the country's principal home-education legal-defense fund, structured as a paid-membership advocacy organization. Association for Homeschooling has operated since 1992, the country's longest-running homeschool advocacy body. SA Homeschoolers (sahomeschoolers.org) is an informational portal and community. SANHSA — South African National Home Schooling Association coordinates additional advocacy. The Christian Homeschool Association of South Africa (CHASA) is referenced in some sources but with limited public web presence; the Pestalozzi Trust is the

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Africa profile, home education grew from a handful of families in 1996 to an estimated 100,000 home learners in 2017; community advocates report continued growth post-COVID, placing current estimates at 100,000 to 140,000 learners. HSLDA notes approximately 95% of homeschoolers remain unregistered given the historical complexity and provincial inconsistency of the registration process.

BELA Act litigation. [The Pestalozzi Trust filed a constitutional court application](#) arguing that the legislative process was rushed and procedurally flawed — that Parliament failed its constitutional duty to facilitate meaningful public participation. As of 2025, the home education community is split between two postures: registration-positive families who view BELA's clarified guidelines as a de-risking event, and Pestalozzi-aligned families maintaining unregistered status pending the constitutional challenge. [The BELA Act faces additional legal challenge on procedural grounds.](#) [The August 2024 SA Homeschoolers analysis](#) catalogs the divide. Afrikaans and English are the dominant homeschool instructional languages, with growing Zulu, Xhosa, and Setswana resources for families using indigenous-language paths.

Nigeria

[Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act 2004](#) makes nine years of basic education (six primary plus three junior secondary) compulsory in Nigeria.

Homeschooling is not explicitly addressed in federal law and operates in a legal gray zone — neither prohibited nor regulated. [In a 2020 academic analysis](#), some scholars argue the practice is technically illegal under the Universal Basic Education Act; community advocates respond that no law specifically prohibits parent-led delivery as long as children are presented for [WAEC, NECO, or international examinations](#).

No federal registration exists. Most homeschool families enroll children with a Nigerian or international online school for examination registration purposes. [West African Examinations Council \(WAEC\)](#) is the regional secondary credential, with private-candidate registration available; [National Examinations Council \(NECO\)](#) is the Nigerian

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

approximately 80 homeschool families and three homeschool academies using ACE materials per WNG. Other U.S. Christian curricula present include Abeka, BJU Press, and Sonlight. Cambridge IGCSE materials (Cambridge International, CGP, Hodder Education) are widely used. [Bridgeway Academy](#) and U.S. online umbrellas serve the upper-middle-class Lagos and Abuja market. [Nigerian Private Schools' homeschool resources](#) document community size; informal Lagos and Abuja Facebook groups serve as primary networks. The community lacks a dominant national association. Estimated 5,000 to 10,000 families nationally; concentrated in Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt; mostly upper-middle-class urban Christian and Muslim families. Lagos has at least 45 documented homeschool families connected through one network alone per WNG, with the actual community much larger. International expat enrollment in [Wolsey Hall Oxford](#) and similar British-curriculum providers has expanded.

Kenya

[Basic Education Act of 2013](#) and the 2017 amendments make schooling compulsory but do not explicitly prohibit homeschooling. Per [CambriLearn's analysis](#), homeschooling is legal in Kenya, though not formally regulated. The [Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development \(KICD\)](#) requires registration for families following the national CBC (Competency-Based Curriculum); families following Cambridge or other international curricula register directly with the relevant examining body. Cambridge IGCSE candidates do not require KICD approval but must register through Cambridge-approved exam centers.

KCPE (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) is sat as a private candidate through an approved school or the Sub-County Director of Education. KCSE (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education) uses the same private-candidate route through KNEC (Kenya National Examinations Council). Cambridge IGCSE and A Level are widely used for international university entry. Edexcel International GCSE is an alternative international credential. U.S. Christian curricula (Abeka, BJU, ACE), Cambridge international

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

East Africa Christian Home-educators (EACH) is the regional Christian umbrella; the Kenya Homeschoolers Association is informal; [HomeschoolAfrica](#) is a pan-African support and curriculum portal. Several thousand families practice; concentrated in Nairobi and Mombasa with a growing Coastal Region Muslim community. EACH is in preliminary discussions on homeschool legislation. The KICD has shown openness to recognizing competency-based homeschool delivery under the 2017 CBC reform framework.

Ghana

[Education Act 2008 \(Act 778\)](#) — under the Free, Compulsory, and Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) provisions, basic education is free and compulsory. The Act makes failure to provide basic education an offense. Homeschooling is not explicitly addressed and operates in a legal gray area; some Christian and expat families practice it through international online umbrellas. Per the [parliamentary library copy of the Act](#), parents who deny their children education can be referred to social welfare committees of District Assemblies.

No registration exists. WAEC (West African Examinations Council) is the primary regional credential, available to private candidates; Cambridge IGCSE is used by international and expat families. U.S. Christian curricula (ACE, Abeka, BJU), Cambridge international resources, growing use of [Bridgeway](#) and online U.S. Christian umbrellas dominate supply. No dominant national association exists; informal Christian church-based networks operate in Accra, Kumasi, and Takoradi. Several hundred to low thousands; small but growing. No specific legislative activity has been recorded.

Egypt

[Article 19 of the 2014 Constitution \(revised 2019\)](#) guarantees a right to education and makes education compulsory through high school or equivalent. Compulsory education

expatriate families using their home-country curriculum.

No homeschool registration exists. Expat families typically enroll children in international schools registered with the Egyptian Ministry of Education. For expat homeschoolers: Cambridge IGCSE, American Diploma (AERO), International Baccalaureate. For Egyptian national families, no homeschool-friendly credentialing route exists. Expat families use Wolsey Hall, King's InterHigh, and other British-curriculum online schools. Coptic Christian families informally supplement official schooling with church-based catechetical instruction in historically informal patterns. No national associations exist; expat networks center around Cairo international community. Population is low — primarily diplomatic and expat families; precise figures are unavailable. No active liberalization. The Tahrir Institute has documented broader curriculum-reform activity over the past decade per its [2023 analysis](#), but homeschool policy has not been part of this reform conversation.

28. International — Middle East

Middle East homeschool covers six regulatory regimes plus a regional infrastructure built around British online schools (Wolsey Hall Oxford, King's InterHigh, CambriLearn) and Cambridge International credentialing. Israel operates the most developed multi-stream framework, accommodating secular Mamlachti, religious Mamlachti Dati, Haredi exemption-institution, and Anglo expat streams under a single legal regime. The UAE permits expat homeschooling with light KHDA touch and has expanded Emirati hybrid options through the Rahhal program. Saudi Arabia restricts the practice to expat families. Jordan tolerates the practice for both nationals and expats under Ministry of Education conditions. Lebanon's legal status is ambiguous; instability since 2019 has produced de facto growth. Turkey effectively prohibits homeschooling and channels alternative learners through the Açık Öğretim open-education pathway.

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

Law authorizes the Minister of Education to grant exemptions for “special reasons” — the legal foundation for state-sanctioned home education, generally referenced as *הינוך ביתי* (*chinuch beiti*). The Director General has historically stated that “requests for home education will be approved only in most exceptional cases,” but in practice the Ministry approves the substantial majority of submitted requests (HSLDA reports 155 approvals versus 8 denials in 2006/2007).

Annual approval is required for each school year. Families submit a written application demonstrating that the home education plan meets state educational system standards, that the decision reflects a considered family choice, and that periodic reporting and assessment will be performed. Families are typically assigned a Ministry inspector who reviews progress. Bagrut (Israeli matriculation certificate) examinations are the standard credential — homeschool families typically register through a partner school for Bagrut sittings. International alternatives (SAT, IB, Cambridge International) are used by Anglophone families with U.S., U.K., or international university trajectories.

A four-stream landscape parallels Israel’s broader school system. *Mamlachti* (state-secular) stream homeschoolers use Israeli secular curriculum from Center for Educational Technology (CET) and Ministry-published material. *Mamlachti Dati* (state-religious) stream homeschoolers use national-religious educational publishers (Sifriyat Poalim, Yedioth Books). Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) — the state-recognized Chinuch Atzmai (Independent Education) network and Maayan HaChinuch HaTorani (Sephardic Haredi) function as state-funded alternatives within which many “homeschool-style” arrangements operate; these are not typically registered as formal homeschoolers but represent significant volume of out-of-mainstream Jewish education. Anglo expat — substantial Anglophone immigrant community uses U.S. Christian, Jewish, or secular curricula in English plus Hebrew supplementation; Israel Homeschool (israelhomeschool.org) hosts resources for this stream.

Israel Home Education Association is the informal national network. The Madan article on Israeli homeschool growth documents the trend.

children currently enrolled per recent Education Ministry estimates; community advocates suggest the actual figure (including unregistered families) exceeds 3,000. The 550-children figure cited by the Ministry for 2015 likely undercounts. Numbers exclude the much larger Haredi “exemption institutions” (*mosdot ptor*) population, which by some counts represents tens of thousands of children educated outside the standard Mamlachti school system. [Jewish People Policy Institute analysis](#) of state education tensions documents the persistent friction between Haredi educational autonomy and state oversight; the homeschool-adjacent debate is part of this larger conversation. Post-COVID growth has continued and the Ministry has streamlined the application process, though the formal “exceptional cases” doctrinal framing remains unchanged.

United Arab Emirates

[UAE Federal Law No. 11 of 1972 \(compulsory education\) and 2016 amendments](#) make schooling compulsory through age 18. Per CambriLearn’s UAE analysis, homeschooling is legal in the UAE for both Emirati and expatriate families, and expat families can homeschool without [Knowledge and Human Development Authority \(KHDA\)](#) or Ministry of Education approval. KHDA regulates physical private schools that operate within Dubai but does not regulate accredited international online providers based outside the UAE. The KHDA’s Rahhal program (introduced 2019) provides a flexible-learning pathway that has been increasingly adopted by hybrid-learning families.

No formal homeschool registration applies for expat families using accredited international online providers. Emirati national families historically operate within the formal school system; KHDA Rahhal provides a hybrid pathway. Cambridge IGCSE and A Level are the dominant credentials, followed by American Diploma (AERO), International Baccalaureate, and British curriculum (Edexcel).

British online schools dominate expat supply. [Wolsey Hall Oxford](#) is the most-cited online homeschool provider for UAE expat families, with [dedicated Abu Dhabi pages](#).

online providers. No formal national homeschool association exists; KHDA, [Property Finder homeschool guide](#), and [Bayut Dubai homeschooling guide](#) catalog community resources. Informal expat parent networks center around Dubai and Abu Dhabi British, American, and Indian community hubs.

Several thousand families (predominantly expat); growing rapidly post-COVID per Property Finder as international school places become harder to secure and fees continue to rise. KHDA Rahhal expansion has been the dominant policy development — more flexible-learning hybrid pathways are now formally recognized. [Chesham's Accountants 2025 analysis](#) catalogs current regulatory state. Per Wolsey Hall and CambriLearn enrollment growth, the UAE is one of the fastest-growing English-medium homeschool markets globally.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Basic Education Law makes schooling compulsory ages 6–16 per the [OECD review of Saudi education](#). HSLDA's [Saudi Arabia profile](#) describes homeschooling as “mainly limited to foreigners, such as American expatriates” — the practice is allowed but not formally recognized through dedicated regulation, and the Ministry of Education's posture is restrictive in relation to Saudi national families. International schools may deliver foreign curricula only with prior Ministry approval and must incorporate mandatory Arabic language, Islamic studies, and Saudi history/geography in Arabic per [Loins International School compliance guidance](#).

No registration exists. Expat homeschool typically operates under embassy or international-school umbrella arrangements. Cambridge IGCSE and A Level, American Diploma, and International Baccalaureate are the standard expat credentials. [Wolsey Hall Oxford](#) for Saudi-based expat families is widely used; [Jeddah Mom's Saudi homeschool guide](#) catalogs Muslim-aligned curricula increasingly being adopted by Muslim expat families seeking Islamic-character home education. American

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

No formal national homeschool association exists; informal expat Christian and Muslim parent networks operate via WhatsApp groups and embassy community boards. Population is likely several hundred to low thousands; primarily expat. [Saudi Vision 2030 reform agenda](#) may expand options as part of education-reform priorities. Vision 2030 education reforms have generally focused on opening Saudi Arabia to more international schools — the Royal Commission for Riyadh City’s School Attraction Program is bringing more world-recognized international schools to Riyadh — rather than on homeschool legalization specifically. [Al Tamimi & Company’s legal update on Vision 2030 education transformation](#) catalogs the regulatory trajectory.

Jordan

Jordan’s 1994 Education Law makes schooling compulsory. Per [Expats Exchange Jordan homeschool guide](#), homeschooling is legal for Jordanians and expat residents alike, subject to Ministry of Education conditions including following an approved curriculum, regular assessments, and progress recordkeeping. Notification to the Ministry of Education with curriculum plan and assessment commitment is required.

Tawjihi (General Secondary Education Certificate) is the Jordanian national credential; Cambridge IGCSE and A Level serve international university entry; SAT serves U.S. universities. Ministry-approved Jordanian curriculum is used for nationals; British and American curricula for expat families; growing Christian and Muslim home-education options. No prominent national association exists; informal expat and Christian networks center around Amman. Several hundred families nationally; growing among expat and Christian Jordanian families. The community is gradually growing post-COVID per [Expats Exchange](#). [Children of Jordan policy library](#) documents broader child-rights and education policy work.

Lebanon

growth in informal homeschool-style arrangements as families withdraw from disrupted formal schooling.

No registration exists. Lebanese Baccalauréat (state credential) is administered through enrolled schools; French Baccalauréat is used by Francophone families; Cambridge IGCSE and A Level for English-medium families. French curriculum providers (CNED) are widely used given the country's Francophone education tradition; British and American international online schools are used by Anglophone families; Maronite Catholic and other Christian church-based informal supplementation operates in parallel. No formal associations have been established. The population is difficult to determine; the community is small but has grown through the 2019 financial crisis and subsequent national instability. No dedicated legislative activity exists; the broader Lebanese education system has been under significant strain since 2019, and homeschool-adjacent informal-education arrangements have grown organically. [Middle East Eye coverage of regional homeschool growth](#) documents the broader trend.

Turkey

[Constitution Article 42 and National Education Basic Law No. 1739 \(1973\)](#) make 12 years of education compulsory in Turkey. Homeschooling is effectively prohibited — children aged 6–18 must be enrolled in a formal educational institution per [Karanfiloğlu Law Firm's analysis of Turkish education law](#). Per [Wikipedia's homeschool international status survey](#), Turkey is among the more restrictive regimes globally. No homeschool pathway exists.

[Açık Öğretim Lisesi \(Open Education High School\)](#) — administered by the Ministry of National Education (MEB) — provides a distance-education credential pathway used by working adults, students who have left school, and students with health-related absence. Açık Öğretim is not formally a “homeschool” pathway but it is the closest available distance-credential route. Per [the Turkish national education statistics referenced in](#)

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

to Northern Cyprus or Greece for legal reasons. Within Turkey, families operating outside the formal system rely on Açık Öğretim plus international online tutoring. No nationally established associations exist. The formal homeschool community within Turkey is very small; a larger expat population uses international online schools without formal Turkish recognition. No active legalization legislation exists; Açık Öğretim's continued growth represents the principal flexibility valve. [Ensari Yiğitcan Çakmak Law Office's 2025 schooling guide](#) documents ongoing compulsory enforcement for foreign children resident in Turkey.

29. The honest first-year budget — five worked examples

The number a new family wants from this chapter is the one nobody publishes in a single place. What does a homeschool year actually cost. The honest answer is that the floor is zero, the ceiling is north of forty thousand dollars for a multi-child family in a brick-and-mortar microschool, and the median sits well under what most families fear. [NHERI's Research Facts on Homeschooling](#) puts the average direct educational spending at roughly six hundred dollars per student per year, against an average sixteen thousand four hundred forty-six dollars per public-school student in taxpayer cost. The six-hundred-dollar figure is the median. The actual distribution stretches across two orders of magnitude, and the five tiers below trace where families actually land.

Five worked baskets follow, each itemized with publisher links and May 2026 retrieval prices. The pattern is deliberate: each tier represents a real shopping list a real family assembles, not a marketing-line average. A family in the zero-dollar tier is not buying nothing — it is buying nothing, and assembling everything from free curricula plus the library plus public-domain books. A family in the ten-thousand-plus tier is not buying boxes — it is paying microschool tuition. The middle three tiers cover the territory where most curriculum-purchasing families actually live. After the five baskets, a sub-section

[Every Homeschool](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

TIER 1: SO FIRST YEAR

The all-free stack is not a thought experiment. Tens of thousands of families assemble it every year. The trade-off is not money. It is parent-research time, plus dependence on the local library, plus acceptance that no professionally printed worksheet or branded teacher manual will arrive in a box.

The free spine. [AmblesideOnline](#) publishes a complete Charlotte Mason curriculum, organized Year 1 through Year 12, with daily schedules, book lists, and parent guidance. All six of Charlotte Mason's *Home Education Series* volumes are free to read on the same site at amblesideonline.org/art-free-reading.php, and four of the six are free to download via [Project Gutenberg](#). [Wildwood Curriculum](#) offers a parallel free secular Charlotte Mason curriculum organized by Form, spanning ages six through fourteen. [Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool](#), built by Lee Giles since 2011, provides a complete free Christian K-12 curriculum delivered through her website with daily linked lessons. For early years, [Khan Academy Kids](#) is free, ad-free, and aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework for ages two through eight.

The free reference layer. Beyond the curriculum itself, the family that wants to assemble its own materials from primary sources has unprecedented access in 2026. [Hillsdale K-12 At Home](#) publishes a free American history and civics curriculum that has been downloaded by more than one hundred thousand educators and parents. [OpenStax](#) publishes peer-reviewed open-license textbooks across math, science, social science, and humanities, free in digital and at-cost in print. [Project Gutenberg](#) provides more than seventy thousand public-domain texts, including most of the Ambleside literature spine. The local library is the fifth pillar — most Ambleside reading-list titles are available via interlibrary loan, and a single library card unlocks the inventory that the all-free stack treats as its assumed default.

What the zero tier cannot do. The all-free stack presumes a parent who has the time to read AmblesideOnline's FAQ cover-to-cover, who will assemble book stacks rather than open a pre-printed teacher manual, and who is comfortable lacking a branded customer-

as friction. Families who experience it as friction migrate up one tier within the first ninety days.

Tier 2: \$300 first year

Three hundred dollars is the realistic floor for a curriculum-purchasing family that wants printed materials and a professional math program. Below that line the family is back to the all-free stack or relying near-totally on used books and the library. At the three-hundred line the family buys one professional math program, one phonics program, one literature spine, and one science topic, and supplies everything else from the library or a Bible the family already owns.

A sample basket. Math Mammoth Light Blue Grade 4 digital download lists at \$42.50 per the publisher page as of May 2026, with a 26% sale running through June 1 via code MAMMOTH26 per the publisher home page. A complete year of phonics through All About Reading Level 1 lists at \$159.95 new, often \$80 on the used market. Story of the World Volume 1 plus its Activity Book runs roughly \$60 for the matched pair. Five in a Row Volume 1 sells at \$49 per the publisher page, supplying a complete literature-based unit-study spine for nineteen picture books. A single Apologia Young Explorer science topic runs roughly \$35 on the used market via apologia.com or its retailer ecosystem. Bible if applicable is family-supplied. The basket totals approximately \$271, well inside the three-hundred line, with margin for nature-study notebook supplies.

What the \$300 tier buys. One child, one elementary year, four core spines (math, phonics, history-literature, science), no online subscription, no co-op tuition, no enrichment classes. The family reads aloud, completes one Math Mammoth chapter per day, works through one Story of the World chapter per week, and rows one Five in a Row title across five days. Used-book hunting compresses the basket below the line; a fully new-purchased basket pushes it just above. A second child in the same year, if the family

HER 3: \$1,000 first year

Fifteen hundred dollars is the range where full mid-range branded curricula become accessible for one elementary child. Three real options sit inside the band, each landing between \$1,200 and \$1,700, each representing a different worldview and method.

Option A — full Sonlight Core. A complete Sonlight All-Subjects Package supplies History, Bible, Literature, plus the skill subjects, organized around a literature-spine model. The Pre-Kindergarten All-Subjects Package lists at \$402.56 per [christianbook.com](#) as of May 2026. Higher-grade Cores typically run \$1,000 to \$1,300 each. Per the publisher's 2026-27 catalog refresh, Sonlight is renaming Cores to Levels effective April 1, 2026, per the [Sonlight What's New page](#); older Cathy Duffy reviews referencing "Cores" remain current pedagogically and shift only in the catalog label. All-Subjects Packages discount at 20% per publisher.

Option B — full Memoria Press Kindergarten Package. The Memoria Press Kindergarten Package lists at \$569.95 on sale (retail \$716.22) per [Rainbow Resource](#) as of May 2026. To round it into a complete year, the family adds a Latin program (Prima Latina or Latina Christiana, \$30 to \$60) and a separate math program (Singapore Dimensions or Math-U-See, \$120 to \$220). The full kindergarten basket lands at roughly \$770 to \$900 — well under the \$1,500 line, leaving room for field-trip dues, a used microscope, and a year of music lessons.

Option C — full Abeka or BJU print kit. The Abeka K5 Complete Parent Kit lists at \$564.95 with the Child Kit at roughly \$200 added, bringing the all-in K5 basket to approximately \$765 per [abeka.com](#) as of May 2026. The BJU Press Grade 3 Kit lists at \$1,031.65 per [christianbook.com](#), with grades 1, 2, and 8 all landing inside \$20 of one another at the Christianbook discount. A BJU full-grade kit at \$1,000 includes Bible, math, English, reading, spelling, science, history, and the teacher editions. Both Abeka and BJU classify as Christian fundamentalist publishers in tradition tag; both are spiral in math and traditional in language arts.

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

phone number.

Tier 4: \$5,000 first year

Five thousand dollars is the band where a family stops buying boxes and starts buying instruction. The model shifts from parent-as-teacher to parent-as-coach, with paid live-online classes or in-person community days carrying load the family previously absorbed personally. Four real baskets sit inside the band.

Option A — Classical Conversations community plus curriculum. A single-child Foundations enrollment combines \$335 tuition, \$85 first-child registration, \$50 supply fee, and \$25 facility donation for a \$495 base, per the third-party aggregation at thethriftycouple.com cross-referenced with cccolumbusga.com as of May 2026. Classical Conversations publishes no national tuition page; every dollar of tuition, registration, supply, and facility fee is set by the local director, so the figures above are practitioner averages, not publisher quotes. The Foundations curriculum guide and materials add \$100 to \$250. Family-supplied math, phonics, and writing curriculum add roughly \$400 to \$600. An optional Wilson Hill or Veritas Scholars Academy enrichment class adds \$725 to \$975. The all-in CC year with one enrichment class lands roughly \$1,700 to \$2,500 for one child, reaching the \$5,000 line only when the family adds music lessons, sports leagues, and field trips.

Option B — Veritas Scholars Academy full-time enrollment. [VSA](#) charges Classic Level enrollment of \$449 or Premium \$599 at the grammar school. Self-paced courses run \$199 for Bible, \$249 for History, \$349 for Omnibus. A four-course full-time year mixing Omnibus, live math, history, and Bible totals roughly \$1,500 to \$2,500 in self-paced fees plus \$2,500 to \$4,000 in live-class fees — a full-time VSA grammar-school year clears \$4,000 to \$5,000 for one child, with the parent supplying nothing beyond a computer and a reading chair.

worldview and classical in method, with small live classes meeting twice weekly for ninety minutes throughout the school year.

Option D — Logos Online School full-time. [Logos Online School](#) lists full-time tuition at \$2,668 per year for four or more classes, with a 10% discount auto-applied to the tuition balance. A 20% non-refundable deposit is due at enrollment; the remainder pays in 12 monthly installments beginning June. The academy is Reformed Presbyterian via the Doug Wilson / Moscow Idaho lineage, classical in method, and nationally accredited through the National Association of Private Schools. Adding a live math course at \$725 brings a five-class load to roughly \$3,400 plus textbooks — the cheapest accredited full-time classical Christian online option in the band.

Tier 5: \$10,000-plus first year

Above ten thousand dollars, the family is buying a school, not a curriculum. The model is microschool tuition, university-model school tuition, or multi-child enrollment at a full-service online private academy. Single-child Acton Academy in a metro market clears the line easily; multi-child Acton in the same market clears thirty thousand.

Acton Academy network. Acton is a microschool franchise; each campus is independent and sets its own tuition. The range is wide. [Acton Academy Marietta, GA](#) lists \$13,150 per year for 2025-26. [Acton Academy Northwest Austin, TX](#) runs roughly \$13,310. [Acton Academy Westlake Austin](#) lists \$1,200 monthly across eleven months, totaling \$13,200 plus a \$1,000 nonrefundable enrollment fee. [Acton Academy NW Indianapolis](#) lists \$9,995, just under the ten-thousand line. [Acton Academy Twin Falls, ID](#) runs \$675 monthly over 11 months for \$7,425 — a 78% price differential from the same brand in Northwest Austin. [Acton Santa Cruz](#) publishes a sliding scale of \$8,000 to \$20,000 for Spark Studio (ages four to eight) and \$10,000 to \$19,000 for Discovery Studio (ages seven to twelve) for the 2026-27 year.

mortar microschool at a similar service level, accredited, and state-curriculum-aligned in worldview.

Multi-child arithmetic. Three children at Acton Marietta runs \$39,450 per year. Three children at K12 Private at a \$5,000 average each, with sibling discount, runs roughly \$12,000 to \$14,000. The differential between a private-pay microschool stack and a state-funded virtual public school stack — the latter free in thirty-plus states via Stride / K12 and Connections public-school brands — is the single largest line item in the tier-five decision. A family with the multi-child differential to spend often uses it to fund tutoring, music lessons, sports leagues, and travel rather than to fund microschool tuition for which a free state alternative exists.

ESA reimbursement scenarios

The Education Savings Account landscape changes the arithmetic above materially. A family in Arizona, Utah, Arkansas, New Hampshire, West Virginia, Wyoming, Florida, Louisiana, or Idaho can have most or all of a typical year-one curriculum budget reimbursed through a state ESA — turning a \$2,800 sample basket into a net family cost of zero. A family in California, New York, Michigan, Illinois, or Oregon — or in any of the five states where an ESA exists but homeschoolers are explicitly excluded — pays full retail. Four scenarios trace the spread.

Scenario A — eligible and funded (AZ, UT, AR, NH). A family in Arizona pursuing the [ESA](#) sets a year-one budget of curriculum plus co-op plus one outsourced subject plus standardized test fees, totaling approximately \$2,800. The Arizona ESA standard award is roughly \$7,000 to \$8,000 per [A.R.S. §15-2402](#). Net family cost after reimbursement is zero, with the unspent balance rolling forward in the ClassWallet account. Most ESAs disburse quarterly, so the family fronts roughly \$700 in Q1 spending before the first reimbursement clears — a real cash-flow timing issue that families in the first year regularly under-budget for. Documentation burden is moderate: all purchases run

one child at [Acton Academy Cy-Fair](#) at \$11,500 plus \$500 supplemental materials budgets \$12,000 for the year. If the school appears on the state-approved vendor list, the AZ ESA pays roughly \$7,000 to \$8,000 toward tuition. Net family cost runs \$4,000 to \$5,000. The key verification step before enrollment is checking the state's approved-provider list rather than assuming any private school qualifies. Acton campuses appear on some state lists and not others; enrollment without verification of vendor status puts the family back at full retail.

Scenario C — tax-credit state (OK, ID). Oklahoma's [Parental Choice Tax Credit](#) caps homeschool students at \$1,000, refundable through tax filing. A family with a \$2,200 budget (curriculum \$1,200 + tutoring \$800 + standardized test \$200) pays the full \$2,200 up front and receives \$1,000 back at tax time. Net cost \$1,200. Idaho's [Parental Choice Tax Credit](#) runs up to \$5,000 per student (or \$7,500 for qualifying disability), refundable, with advance payment available for families at or below 300% of federal poverty. Net cost for an Idaho family with a budget under \$5,000 typically lands at zero, with the cash-flow timing dependent on whether the family qualifies for advance payment or waits for tax filing.

Scenario D — excluded state, or homeschool-excluded ESA state. A family in California, New York, Michigan, Illinois, or Oregon — or in Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, or South Carolina where the ESA exists but explicitly excludes homeschoolers — receives no state reimbursement. A \$1,600 to \$4,000 budget is paid at full retail. Federal tools are limited: 529 plans do not fund K-12 homeschool curriculum (only K-12 tuition at private school plus higher education). A Coverdell ESA funds K-12 books, supplies, and equipment up to \$2,000 per year, federally available regardless of state ESA status — the only federal-tax-advantaged tool that reaches homeschool curriculum specifically.

Cash-flow timing. The single most-underestimated ESA reality is the quarterly disbursement cycle. A family approved for an \$8,000 annual award in Arizona does not receive \$8,000 on September 1. The award disburses in four roughly-equal quarterly

receipts within 30 days of every purchase, an annual program assessment for some programs (FL PEP requires a Student Learning Plan plus a state-approved annual assessment; AZ ESA requires reading, grammar, math, social studies, and science instruction certification), and return of unused funds at graduation under the specific program's terms.

Allowable expense categories. Universal across most ESA programs: curriculum and instructional materials, online courses, tutoring through approved vendors, educational therapies with documentation, testing fees (SAT, ACT, CLT, AP, CLEP), computer hardware (often capped — Texas TEFA caps at 10% of annual amount), approved private-school tuition, and specialty service providers (speech, OT, PT). Universal disallowed: parent compensation (Arizona and Idaho explicitly prohibit), family vacations and travel beyond documented field-trip expenses, extracurricular fees unrelated to academic instruction, and concurrent enrollment in conflicting state programs (Arizona ESA and private-school scholarship are mutually exclusive; Louisiana GATOR and BESE-approved homeschool registration are mutually exclusive). The state-by-state matrix is carried in full at [Every Homeschool's ESA by State 2026](#) guide, including application windows, marketplace platform, and approved-vendor notes for every program named above.

WHERE THE BUDGET LANDS

Zero is real. Three hundred is the printed-materials floor for one child. Fifteen hundred is the full mid-range branded year. Five thousand buys live-online instruction or community-day enrollment. Ten thousand and up buys microschool tuition. ESA reimbursement collapses the net family cost to near zero in the universal eligibility states; it does nothing in the excluded states. Cash-flow timing matters as much as the headline award figure: the family fronts the first quarter before the first reimbursement clears.

a typical week by the end of the first quarter is operating. A family that is still researching curriculum at day ninety, or still has the prior school's materials piled on the dining-room table at day ninety, is in trouble that compounds. The first ninety days are the load-bearing arc of year one.

The plans below are written per stream — one for the family starting fresh kindergarten, one each for the four mid-stream pickups by grade band, and one for the multi-grade family launch. Each plan divides the quarter into four phases. Week 1 covers withdrawal, legal launch, and the deschooling decision. Weeks 2 through 4 cover the curriculum selection and the first set-up days. Weeks 5 through 8 cover the establishment of a typical week. Weeks 9 through 13 cover the first review and the calibration that lets the family enter the second quarter on stable footing. Each plan names specific books, specific publishers, and specific purchases — concrete decisions, not abstractions.

Stream A — Fresh kindergarten 90-day plan

Week 1. A fresh-kindergarten family is not deschooling. The child has not been somewhere else. The first week is not about catching up to a curriculum — it is about resisting the urge to begin one too aggressively. The research base from Raymond and Dorothy Moore at the [Moore Foundation](#) argues that formal academic instruction before age eight produces no durable advantage over later starts and may correlate with reduced long-term achievement. The corollary is that a fresh-K year built around outdoor time, read-aloud, and habit formation is not a deficient year — it is the recommended year per the Moore Formula's three components of study, work, and service. Week 1 work: file whatever notification the state requires (Arizona affidavit, California PSA at the October window, North Carolina DNPE Notice of Intent), order one of the curriculum manuals named in week 2, and start a daily outdoor block of at least one hour per the Ambleside Year 0 emphasis.

The Memoria manual is the recommended choice for families that want a printed daily schedule and a single point of contact; the Ambleside path is the choice for families with strong reading lives of their own; the Easy Peasy path is the choice for parents who want every lesson clicked through in order. Second, the phonics decision: [All About Reading Pre-Reading](#) at \$119.95, [Logic of English Foundations A](#) at approximately \$243, or [Memoria Press First Start Reading](#) included in the kindergarten package. What to defer: formal Latin (Prima Latina is for grades 1-4 per Memoria Press, and a kindergartener is not the audience). Formal math beyond counting, sorting, and pattern work. Five-day-a-week formal academics — a fresh-K family planning a five-day week is planning a five-day quit.

Weeks 5 through 8. The typical week takes shape. A workable kindergarten week runs morning read-aloud plus phonics lesson plus outdoor block plus afternoon free play and craft, four days per week, with the fifth day a library trip or nature walk. Twenty minutes of phonics per day is the publisher-stated dosage for All About Reading. Memoria's kindergarten manual is written for five half-days. Ambleside Year 0 has goals and suggestions but no rigid schedule, leaving the family to set the cadence. By week 8, the parent should know which phonics lesson day-of-the-week the child handles best, which read-aloud titles the child requests again, and which outdoor blocks fit the household's morning versus afternoon rhythm. This is calibration data; it informs weeks 9-13.

Weeks 9 through 13. First review. The fresh-K family asks two questions. Is the child reading new words the program has taught? If yes, continue. If no, the question is whether the gap is the program or the dosage — All About Reading and Logic of English both run intentionally slow at K, and a child who is not yet decoding at week 13 is not behind, per the Moore research base above. Second: is the child asking for more formal work, or asking for less? A child asking for more is ready for a single math program (Math-U-See Primer, Singapore Earlybird, Math Mammoth Grade 1) added in quarter two. A child asking for less is signaling that the kindergarten dosage should drop to three days per week rather than escalate. By the end of week 13, the family should have a stable

Every *Homeschool* Curriculum ESA Guides Directory Issues

Stream B — Early elementary mid-stream 50-day plan (grades 1-3)

Week 1. Deschool first. A family pulling a first, second, or third grader out of a private or public school in mid-year is leaving an institution that has shaped the child's daily rhythm for one to three years. The widely-cited rule of thumb among long-time homeschool advocates — documented on Sandra Dodd's [deschooling page](#) and [HSLDA](#) — is one month of deschooling per year of prior school attendance. The formula is practitioner-derived, not peer-reviewed, but no credible voice in the homeschool literature contradicts it. For an early-elementary mid-stream family, that means two to four weeks before any new curriculum begins. **Week 1 work:** file the state notification, withdraw the child from the prior school using a separate written letter to the principal (a step roughly twenty-eight states require independent of the homeschool launch), put the prior school's materials in a box in the garage, and begin reading aloud daily without assigning anything.

Weeks 2 through 4. The continuation of deschooling and the curriculum-selection window. Three purchases shape the early-elementary mid-stream year. Math: [Math Mammoth Light Blue](#) at \$39.50 per grade level (digital), or Singapore Dimensions at roughly \$123 per grade, or Math-U-See at \$222.55 for the Delta Universal Set. Each is mastery-based and conceptual rather than the spiral-procedural approach of Abeka and Saxon, and the methodology shift is the largest single decision in this stream. Phonics and reading: All About Reading at the grade-matched level (Level 1 for grades 1-2, Level 2 for grade 3 if the child is reading) or Logic of English Foundations B through D. Literature and history: [Story of the World Volume 1](#) plus Activity Book at roughly \$60 as a daily read-aloud spine. What to defer: formal grammar (Writing With Ease delivers grammar implicitly through copywork and dictation, and standalone grammar workbooks are not load-bearing in grades 1-3). A second language. Formal science before the Apologia foundations.

Weeks 5 through 8. A typical mid-stream early elementary week runs roughly morning math (20-30 min) plus phonics (20 min) plus read-aloud (30-45 min) plus narration or

has a sense of which math sessions are easy and which are hard, and whether the child's prior phonics work transfers (some prior Abeka or BJU phonics students arrive with strong decoding; some arrive with strong sight-reading and weak decoding, and the diagnostic happens in this window).

Weeks 9 through 13. First review. The early-elementary mid-stream family asks whether the math placement is right (Math Mammoth, Singapore, and Math-U-See all publish free placement tests; a child who is bored should move up a level, and a child who is struggling should move down a level — both are normal mid-stream calibrations, not failures). Whether the read-aloud spine is engaging (if Story of the World is not landing, the family substitutes Five in a Row, Sonlight Core, or Tapestry of Grace as a literature-history alternative). Whether the writing cadence holds (Writing With Ease is intentionally minimal; a child asking for more writing is signaling readiness for Brave Writer Partnership Writing or WriteShop Junior). By the end of week 13, the family should have a stable four-spine week and a quarter-two plan that calibrates dosage and substitutes one component if any one piece is not landing.

Stream C — Upper elementary mid-stream 90-day plan (grades 4-5)

Week 1. Deschool first, with placement tests scheduled in parallel. An upper-elementary mid-stream family is pulling a child with four or five years of formal schooling. The one-month-per-year rule places the deschooling window at four to five weeks. Inside that window, the family completes one administrative task that is unique to this stream: placement testing. [Sonlight publishes the Saxon Math placement test](#) families should use for any Saxon transition. Singapore, RightStart, Beast Academy, and Teaching Textbooks all publish free placement tests on the publisher pages. Week 1 work: state notification, withdrawal letter, prior materials boxed up, daily read-aloud begins, and the placement tests are downloaded and scheduled for week 3 (after enough deschooling that the child is not test-anxious from school habits).

both procedural). Switching from Abeka to Singapore is the largest (procedural to conceptual). Math Mammoth is the budget-conscious near-equivalent of Singapore. RightStart is manipulative-heavy and best for a child who needs hands-on grounding. Beast Academy is for the child who finds conventional math too easy and wants harder problems — the AoPS heritage makes it appropriate for competition-math families. Second purchase: a writing program. [IEW Structure and Style for Students](#) (which replaced Student Writing Intensive; older blog reviews still reference SWI but the product is discontinued) is the most popular upper-elementary entry, with Fix-It Grammar as the daily companion. [Brave Writer Partnership Writing](#) is the alternative for families who prefer a process-led approach to a structure-led approach. Third purchase: a history spine. [Story of the World Volume 2 or 3](#) matched to where the family wants to begin the four-year cycle. Science: [Apologia Young Explorer Zoology](#) or [Astronomy](#) works as a single-topic year, 28-week minimum, 2-day-per-week pacing.

Weeks 5 through 8. A typical upper-elementary mid-stream week runs morning math (30-45 min), writing (20-30 min), read-aloud or history (30-45 min), science (45 min, twice per week), and outdoor or independent reading block (60 min), four to five days per week. By week 8, the placement test results from week 3 have been validated by lived experience — a child placed at Math Mammoth Grade 4 who is finishing problems in 20 minutes is a child who should move to Grade 5; a child taking 60 minutes per lesson is a child who should drop to Grade 3 or who needs a manipulative-heavy program (RightStart) rather than a worktext-heavy one. The mid-quarter recalibration is normal at this entry point.

Weeks 9 through 13. First review. The upper-elementary mid-stream family asks three questions. Is the math placement holding (the most-revisited decision in this stream; publishers publish placement tests precisely because mid-stream placement is iterative). Is the writing cadence sustainable (IEW is intentionally structured and produces strong results when the family completes the program; Brave Writer is intentionally process-led and produces strong results when the family commits to daily teatime read-alouds

By the end of week 13, the upper-elem mid-stream family has a four-spine week and a clear sense of whether quarter two needs a single substitution or a stable continuation.

Stream D — Middle school mid-stream 90-day plan (grades 6-8)

Week 1. Deschool first, with two specific middle-school-only tasks running in parallel. A middle-school mid-stream family is pulling a child with six to eight years of prior schooling; the one-month-per-year rule places the deschool window at six to eight weeks, the longest in the stream matrix. The family that resists this window on time-pressure grounds is the family that compounds the catch-up problem. Per NHERI, homeschool students score on average 15 to 25 percentile points above public-school peers on standardized tests per the [Homeschool Academic Achievement Fact Sheet](#); a six-to-eight-week deschool window does not move that distribution. Week 1 work: state notification, withdrawal letter, the placement test downloads for math, and the second middle-school-only decision — whether Latin starts this year.

Weeks 2 through 4. The curriculum-selection window for middle-school mid-stream. Three load-bearing decisions. First, Latin. The Memoria Press position on late starters is that “all beginners, regardless of age, are in the grammar stage of learning” per the publisher’s [Which Latin Program Do I Start With?](#) guide. The recommended entry point for grades 6-8 is [First Form Latin](#) at \$126.50 for the Complete Set, skipping *Prima Latina* and *Latina Christiana* entirely. Nine hours of instructional video by Highlands Latin School teacher Jessica Watson are the load-bearing teacher when the parent has no Latin. Alternative entry points: [Visual Latin](#) by Dwane Thomas (ages 10+, 30 lessons, video-led, \$180 for 18-month streaming license) is the strongest secondary candidate. Wheelock’s is the wrong recommendation for a middle-schooler — it is a college textbook, pedagogically excellent but not age-appropriate. *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata* is a beautiful tertiary option requiring tutor support. Second decision: pre-algebra placement. Saxon 8/7 with Pre-Algebra at \$169.13 (often \$100.25 at retailer discount) per [Christianbook](#), or Singapore Dimensions 6 through 8 at \$164 to \$186 per

[Apologia Exploring Creation through General Science](#) for grade 7, or [Physical Science](#) for grade 8, or [Berean Builders Science in the Atomic Age](#) for the family that wants Dr. Jay Wile's newer chronological-history approach.

Weeks 5 through 8. A typical middle-school mid-stream week runs morning math (45-60 min), Latin (30-45 min with the video), writing (30-45 min), science (45-60 min), history or literature read-aloud or independent reading (45-60 min), four to five days per week. By week 8, the placement-test calibration from week 3 has been validated, and the Latin program is either holding or signaling that First Form should be paced at half-speed (a legitimate mid-stream calibration; First Form is designed for a 34-week year and a late-starter family can take 50 weeks without consequence). The hardest middle-school week-8 honesty is whether the child's daily cooperation is improving or eroding — a child who is increasingly resistant in week 8 is a child for whom the dosage or the program needs adjustment, not a child for whom the family should impose more discipline.

Weeks 9 through 13. First review. The middle-school mid-stream family asks whether the Latin program is sustainable for a four-year sequence (Memoria's First through Fourth Form builds cumulatively; a family stopping after First Form has gained the foundations of grammar and a year of vocabulary but has not reached translation fluency — the four-year arc is the point). Whether the pre-algebra placement is correct (the most-revisited decision in this stream after Latin). Whether the writing program is producing actual writing the family can read out loud (IEW produces structured paragraphs by the end of quarter one; Brave Writer produces freewrites and project-based writing; the family that has no writing artifacts to point to at week 13 is the family with a curriculum problem). By the end of week 13, the middle-school mid-stream family has a five-spine week and a clear quarter-two plan that either continues stable or substitutes one component.

Stream E — High school mid-stream 90-day plan (grades 9-12)

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

homeschool high school graduation requirement is 24 credits across four years — 4 English, 3 to 4 math, 3 to 4 science, 3 social studies, 2 foreign language, 1 PE, 1 fine art, 6 or more electives. Week 1 work: state notification, withdrawal letter, and a transcript framework decision. HSLDA publishes [free transcript templates](#) for members. Multiple free Common App-aligned templates are documented at [Fearless Homeschoolers](#) and [Homeschool Boss](#). The transcript is not optional — it is the document a college admissions office, the NCAA Eligibility Center, and the state scholarship board will ask for. Building it from day one is dramatically easier than reconstructing it in senior year.

Weeks 2 through 4. The curriculum-selection window plus credit-counting. The high-school mid-stream family works backward from the graduation requirement. If the child has completed two years of high school elsewhere with documented credits, the family carries those credits forward and plans the remaining two years to total 24. If the child is mid-year, the family asks whether the prior school's grade for each course transfers (most do; the family lists each course on the transcript with the prior school named as the institution issuing the credit for the in-progress year). Four planning decisions structure the curriculum window. First: dual-enrollment. Ohio College Credit Plus, Washington Running Start, Georgia Move on When Ready, Minnesota PSEO, and Florida Dual Enrollment are tuition-free or low-cost pathways for high-school homeschoolers to take college courses at state community colleges per [WA OSPI](#) and parallel state sources. Eligibility and enrollment processes vary by state; check the state DOE page early because deadlines often fall a quarter ahead. Second: standardized testing schedule. [SAT](#) at \$68, [ACT](#) at \$68 base or \$93 with writing, [CLT](#) at \$69, [PSAT/NMSQT](#) at roughly \$18 (must be taken October of junior year for National Merit eligibility, and homeschoolers register as "Away student" at a local school). Homeschool code AI 970000 goes on the SAT registration. Third: AP exam planning if the family is taking AP courses (\$99 per exam in US per [College Board AP](#); registration deadline Nov 14 for the following May; homeschoolers test at an AP-authorized school identified via the AP Course Ledger). Fourth: NCAA registration if the child is an athlete recruited at the D1 or D2 level. The [NCAA Homeschool Toolkit](#) requires 16 NCAA core courses across grades 9-12, with the

Weeks 5 through 8. A typical high-school mid-stream week runs four to six core credits in parallel, with each credit-bearing course operating at roughly 45 to 60 minutes per day, five days per week, for 32 to 36 weeks. The family logs instructional hours per course per week against the Carnegie unit target. Live-online classes through [Well-Trained Mind Academy](#) (secular classical), [Wilson Hill Academy](#) (Reformed classical), [Logos Online School](#) (Reformed classical, \$2,668 full-time), or [Veritas Scholars Academy](#) (Reformed classical) carry the load for families who want a graded transcript from a third-party institution rather than a parent-issued one. By week 8, the family knows whether the credit-counting target is achievable at the current pace or whether one course needs to drop a half-credit.

Weeks 9 through 13. First review. The high-school mid-stream family asks whether the standardized test calendar is on track (PSAT in October of junior year, SAT or ACT or CLT in spring of junior year, retake in fall of senior year, AP exams in May). Whether the dual-enrollment application clock is met (Ohio CCP fall deadline is April 1 for the following school year; Washington Running Start uses the 2026-27 RSEVF; both fall outside the standard curriculum-shopping window and surprise families that did not plan ahead). Whether the transcript is being built in real time rather than reconstructed (week 13 is the right time to finalize the first-quarter grades for each course and enter them on the transcript). The Common App opens August 1 annually for the next-year senior class per [Common App membersupport](#); the parent assumes the Counselor Account role and uploads the transcript, the course descriptions, the school profile, and the counselor letter of recommendation. By the end of week 13, the high-school mid-stream family has a populated transcript, a standardized test date on the calendar, and a clear sense of whether dual-enrollment is the right play for the remaining high-school years.

Stream F— Multi-grade family launch 90-day plan (4 children across grades)

answer the multi-grade veterans converge on is Morning Time — a daily family-style block where every child participates in shared read-aloud, prayer or devotional or shared values reading, poetry memorization, picture study, music appreciation, and one family-style subject (history OR science OR literature; not all three). Pam Barnhill's [Better Together](#) is the canonical text on Morning Time as a launch protocol. Sarah Mackenzie's [The Read-Aloud Family](#) supplies the booklist (nearly 400 age-organized recommended titles). Cindy Rollins's [Mere Motherhood](#) supplies the long-form Charlotte Mason philosophy. The three function as a package: Mackenzie supplies what to read, Barnhill supplies how to schedule it, Rollins supplies why it matters. Week 1 work: state notification (four times, one per child), four withdrawal letters, prior-school materials boxed, Morning Time launches on a five-things-in-a-basket protocol per Barnhill (read-aloud, prayer or values, poetry, hymn or song, picture study).

Weeks 2 through 4. Family-style spine selection plus individual skill subjects. The four-child multi-grade family chooses one family-style spine that all four can do together, then layers individual skill subjects per child. Three publishers dominate the family-style-spine market. [Sonlight](#) combines students within a 3-year age range into one History/Bible/Literature core plus one Science program; the “Couch Subjects” do family-style and the “Table Subjects” (Language Arts, Math, Spelling, Handwriting) do individually. [Tapestry of Grace](#) was designed by Marcia Somerville, mother of six, specifically for multi-grade families: a four-year cycle, four levels (K-3, 4-6, 6-9, 10-12), all studying the same week of history at their own level each week. [My Father's World](#) runs a five-year Investigate cycle for grades 2-8 covering Exploring Countries and Cultures, Creation to the Greeks, Middle Ages to the Reformation, 1600s-1850, and 1850 to Modern Times, all family-style. None of the three includes math; all three are Christian-worldview. The selection criterion is parent type: TOG for the parent who wants depth and is willing to plan (initial planning per nine-week unit is roughly two hours); Sonlight for the parent who wants open-and-go literature richness; MFW for the parent who wants a year-by-year package with biblical-worldview integration. Then the individual skill subjects: one math program per child (matched to the child's placement-

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

stream has. Morning Time runs roughly 30 to 60 minutes with all four children present. Family-style spine runs roughly 45 to 60 minutes with all four participating at their own level. Individual skill subjects run in rotation — the parent gives 20 to 30 minutes of focused attention to each child for math and writing, while the other three rotate through independent work, free reading, or enrichment. Per [Demme Learning's block schedule guide](#), the combination of group subjects plus individually-rotated skill subjects is the load-bearing structure of multi-grade weeks. Per [Pam Barnhill's loop versus block scheduling guide](#), the practical adaptation most multi-grade families report is the shift from a rigid block schedule (every subject every day) to a loop schedule (the next subject in the loop, regardless of which day it falls on). By week 8, the parent has calibrated which children can work independently for which subjects and which need the parent in the room.

Weeks 9 through 13. First review. The multi-grade family asks whether Morning Time is sustaining (a consistent daily block produces compounding family-formation benefits Barnhill, Mackenzie, and Rollins all document; an inconsistent block produces little). Whether the family-style spine is reaching all four children (the youngest may be in passive listening mode rather than active narration; the oldest may be intellectually under-stretched by the family-level reading and may need a parallel independent reading assignment). Whether the individual-skill rotation is sustainable for the parent (a parent giving four 30-minute focused sessions per child per day plus Morning Time plus the family-style spine is at roughly five to six hours of direct teaching, which is the documented upper limit before parental burnout sets in for most families). By the end of week 13, the multi-grade family has a daily Morning Time that holds, a family-style spine that works across the age spread, and an individual-skill rotation that fits inside the parent's sustainable teaching day. Adjustments in quarter two typically reduce, not expand, the formal academic load — veteran multi-grade families consistently report that less is more in year one, and the family that tries to run a five-subject load for each of four children in the first ninety days is the family that quits by Christmas.

through 8 are when the typical week takes shape. Weeks 9 through 13 are when the family reviews and calibrates. Mid-stream families deschool first (one month per year of prior school). Fresh-K families resist the urge to run a five-day-a-week formal academic week. Multi-grade families set up Morning Time first and the individual skill subjects second. High-school mid-stream families build the transcript from day one rather than reconstructing it in senior year.

31. What to skip in year one

The single most common year-one mistake is not under-doing it. It is over-doing it. A family that has just left a school system arrives with the school system's expectations intact, then layers a homeschool curriculum on top of those expectations rather than replacing them. The result is a five-subject load for each of several children, a five-day-a-week formal schedule, a foreign language plus an art curriculum plus a music theory program plus a coding curriculum plus standardized-test prep, all running in parallel, all in year one. Susan Wise Bauer — the author of *The Well-Trained Mind*, first published 1999 by W. W. Norton, now in its 5th “Essential Edition” — has spent twenty-five years telling families that the classical model she popularized is not designed to be implemented at full intensity in year one. The Moore Formula research base described in §30 makes the same case from a different methodological direction: formal academic load before age eight does not produce durable advantage, and the family that fronts that load in year one is paying a cost for no benefit.

The load-bearing subjects. Math, reading, and writing carry the year-one load. A history spine carries the fourth seat at the table for a family with the bandwidth. Everything else is supplemental and can wait. The family that completes a full year of math, reading, writing, and one history spine in year one has done a successful year-one. The family that completes three-quarters of those four because the parent was also trying to teach Latin, French, Spanish, music theory, coding, art history, Bible memorization, and a

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

The honest skip list. Five categories of curriculum can be deferred to year two or three without consequence. A second foreign language. The Memoria Press position on Latin in middle school (described in §30) is that First Form is the right entry point regardless of age, and the family that tries to add a modern language alongside Latin in year one is the family that drops both by Christmas. Defer the second language to year two, after Latin is established. Formal music theory. A family with a child taking piano or violin lessons is already receiving music theory through the instructor; a standalone music-theory curriculum on top of the lesson is duplicative in year one. Coding curricula. Khan Academy, Code.org, Scratch, and the various commercial coding platforms are free or low-cost, and a child who is genuinely interested in coding will pursue it independently in year two. Advanced sciences before Apologia foundations. A family that attempts Apologia Biology in year one with a child who has not yet worked through the Young Explorer series is the family that discovers in November that the biology textbook assumes prerequisites the child does not have. Year-long history projects or research papers in the elementary years. The four-year history cycle the classical model recommends is not a year-one project; it is a year-two-onward commitment that compounds. In year one, a read-aloud spine (Story of the World, Beautiful Feet Books, Five in a Row) does the load-bearing work without a research-paper expectation.

The schedule skip. Five days a week of formal academics is not the year-one default. Four days is the dominant pattern across the publisher landscape — [Sonlight](#) offers explicit 4-day options, [BookShark](#) is built around 36-week 4-day-per-week schedules, [Ambleside Online](#) schedules flex to family rhythm. The fifth day is reserved for library trips, nature walks, field trips, co-op meetings, music lessons, sports leagues, or pure free play. A family that schedules a five-day-a-week formal week and a fifth-day field trip has scheduled six days of obligation per week, which compounds into resentment by Thanksgiving. Year one is the wrong year to optimize for academic density.

The output skip. Standardized test prep does not need to run in year one for elementary-grade students. The NHERI [Homeschool Academic Achievement Fact Sheet](#) documents

than dedicated test-prep curriculum. Test-prep books and online services have a role in junior year of high school for the SAT, ACT, or CLT; they do not have a role in year-one grade 3.

The portfolio skip. Some families enter year one with the conviction that every piece of student work must be saved, photographed, annotated, and filed for portfolio review. In the five states that require a portfolio review (Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont), the portfolio is not a complete archive — it is a representative sample. Pennsylvania requires “a log made contemporaneously with instruction” plus work samples (writings, worksheets, creative materials) per [HSLDA’s Pennsylvania compliance guide](#), not an exhaustive accumulation of every page the child produces. A year-one family that tries to save everything spends more time on archival administration than on teaching. The portfolio gets the same week-9-through-13 calibration the rest of the curriculum gets: enough to satisfy the state requirement, shaped to fit the family’s actual filing capacity, not shaped to fit a notional ideal of completeness.

The cooperative skip. A homeschool co-op, Classical Conversations community, or hybrid school in year one can be load-relieving (the co-op carries one or two subjects the family does not want to teach personally) or load-adding (the co-op requires weekly attendance, weekly tutor preparation, weekly drive time, plus all the home-instruction days). The decision belongs in year two for most families. A family that joins a Classical Conversations community in year one has added one in-person community day plus the home-instruction structure CC presumes — a structural commitment that compounds across the family’s entire week. The right move for most families is one year of home-only practice, then a co-op decision in year two informed by what the family has learned about its own rhythm.

The you-are-not-behind frame. A child arriving mid-stream from public or private school is, by every research measure available, in a position to gain ground rather than

most effective remediation intervention — precisely what homeschool offers as its default structure. A child who is behind grade level in math at the moment of withdrawal is a child who has access to the most effective remediation pattern documented in the catch-up literature. Year one is not the year to push that child two grades forward in twelve months. Year one is the year to drop the child to the correct placement level, build daily 1:1 attention, and let the catch-up arc compound across years two and three. Sonlight's [It's Okay More Homeschoolers Are Behind](#) publisher essay is the practitioner version of the same finding: the homeschool population includes many students working below conventional grade level, and the homeschool outcome distribution remains above public-school averages. The honest year-one frame is that the child is in the right environment for catch-up, and the family's job is to not break that environment by importing the prior school's pace.

SKIP WITH CONFIDENCE

Year one carries math, reading, writing, and one history spine. Everything else can wait. Four days a week beats five. A second language, music theory, coding, and advanced sciences belong in year two. The portfolio is a representative sample, not an archive. The co-op decision belongs in year two for most families. A child behind grade level at the withdrawal moment has access to the documented most-effective remediation pattern — daily 1:1 attention — built into the homeschool structure by default.

32. Closing — what this booklet refuses to do

This booklet refuses to advocate one method. A Charlotte Mason family and an Abeka K5 family are described in the same matter-of-fact register, with the same level of detail, with the same inline links to publisher-current pricing, with no editorial preference

[Every *Homeschool*](#)[Curriculum](#)[ESA](#)[Guides](#)[Directory](#)[Issues](#)

from any publisher named in these pages. The order in which publishers appear inside each stream is alphabetical or chronological, not promotional. Inline pricing carries the publisher's own URL or the first-party retailer where the publisher page returned an access error to automated fetch. The reader can verify every price against the publisher's live page on the day of reading. Prices change; publishers run sales; the May 2026 timestamps on this booklet are good through roughly September 2026 before re-verification is required.

This booklet refuses to simplify the fifty-state legal landscape. The launch table in §1 runs across all fifty states plus the District of Columbia. The differences between Texas (no notification, no testing, no portfolio, no state form) and New York (Letter of Intent plus IHIP within twenty-eight days plus four quarterly reports plus annual assessment in alternate years grades 4-8 and annually grades 9-12) are real differences that families ignore at the cost of a truancy investigation. A one-paragraph summary of homeschool law in the United States would not be a summary — it would be misinformation.

This booklet refuses to pretend international homeschool regimes are interchangeable. The Canadian provinces operate under their own school-acts; England and Wales operate under the Education Act 1996 with elective home education recognized; Germany continues to ban homeschooling outright under the Schulpflicht; the United Arab Emirates permits homeschooling for expat families only; Brazil's Supreme Court ruled in 2018 that homeschooling is not constitutionally prohibited but requires federal legislation that has not yet passed. None of those statements is a substitute for the actual jurisdictional research. The companion volume now in editorial review covers ten regions outside the United States in the same depth this booklet covers the fifty states; it ships separately when the jurisdictional research clears.

This booklet refuses to hide pricing volatility. The May 2026 prices in §29 are anchored to publisher pages on the date of retrieval. Power Homeschool moved from \$32 per month to \$99 per month over an eighteen-month window per the [brighterly.com Power Homeschool cost analysis](#). Classical Conversations publishes no national tuition page, so

microschool tuition, ESA award levels), annual for the print-curriculum publishers. The booklet flags this cadence rather than pretending the prices in \$29 are durable beyond the next nine months.

This booklet refuses to publish a methodology block. The research and synthesis processes that produced these pages are documented elsewhere in the Every Homeschool editorial archive and are available to readers who request them. They do not belong on the published surface. The work is by the Every Homeschool Editorial Team. The reader's contact channel is editor@everyhomeschool.com. Subscriptions to future issues publish at everyhomeschool.com/issues. Corrections, factual disputes, and reader-supplied additions are handled at everyhomeschool.com/corrections with a forty-eight-hour acknowledgment commitment. The editorial team reads every message; the editorial team replies to every message that carries a substantive correction or addition.

What remains is the family the booklet was built for. The parent at the kitchen table on a Tuesday night with a child withdrawn from a school district, a stack of catalogs from three publishers, a notification deadline three weeks out, and a question that has not yet found its answer. The ambition of these pages is to be the document that family reads first, cites in conversations with relatives who have opinions, and consults again in October when the first plan needs adjusting. The legal launch table holds. The ESA matrix holds within the re-verification cadence flagged above. The streams hold across the entry points the booklet sorts families by. The publisher pricing holds until the next catalog refresh. The reader carries it forward from here.

PRINTABLE EDITION

The full booklet — 199 pages, 65,878 words, 636 inline primary-source citations — is available as a printable PDF. Useful for ESA-eligible families who can purchase it as an instructional aid, or for offline reading on the road or in places without reliable internet.

EVERY MONDAY

A new dispatch, published here.

Curriculum reviews, ESA changes, state-law updates, and plain-English coverage of the research that matters. Reader-supported. Always open. No paywall, no email list.

[READ THE ARCHIVE →](#)

[RSS FEED](#)

Every *Homeschool*

An independent national hub for homeschool families. Not owned by a curriculum publisher.

VOLUME 01 · 2026 · WEEKLY

News, curriculum, and policy for every homeschool family. Any method. Any state. Any budget. Published every Monday morning.

SECTIONS

Curriculum

PILLAR GUIDES

Math

[Every *Homeschool*](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[ESA](#)

[Guides](#)

[Directory](#)

[Issues](#)

[NEWS](#)

[Issues archive](#)

[MUSIC](#)

[Visual Arts](#)

[Trivium & CM](#)

[Start here](#)

EDITORIAL COLOPHON

Every Homeschool is an independent, reader-supported portal. Editorial opinion is separated from sponsorship. We accept sponsorships and earn affiliate commissions on some curriculum links, clearly labeled where they appear. No vendor pays for a review. No review is ever traded for access or revenue. Corrections are public.

FOLLOW



✦ © 2026 EVERY HOMESCHOOL | UPDATED CONTINUOUSLY

[About](#) [Privacy](#) [Terms](#) editor@everyhomeschool.com