



# CDE HOMESCHOOL GUIDELINES AT A GLANCE

For California families operating a private home-based school

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## Annual Private School Affidavit

Private schools offering elementary or high school instruction must file a Private School Affidavit each year. The statutory filing period is October 1-15; the online system generally opens August 1 for new and continuing schools.

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## Full-Time Instruction and Required Subjects

Instruction must be offered in English, unless an exception applies, and include the branches of study required for California public schools. Parents select and provide the curriculum, instructional materials, and other necessary resources.

3

## Attendance Records

Maintain an attendance register for every school day. The record must clearly show each absence of a half day or more.

4

## Courses and Faculty Records

Maintain the courses of study offered, plus the names and addresses of faculty and a record of each faculty member's educational qualifications.

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## Compulsory Education

California generally requires children ages 6-18 to attend full-time school unless a legal exemption applies. Filing the affidavit is a required first step for the private-school exemption, but the local educational agency determines whether statutory requirements are met.

6

## Know What Filing Does Not Mean

The affidavit is a registration document. Filing does not mean the CDE has approved, accredited, endorsed, validated, or certified the private school or its courses.

## GOOD-PRACTICE RECORDS

Keep copies of the PSA confirmation, grades, credits, course descriptions, work samples, transcripts, graduation planning records, and important correspondence related to the student's education.

These items support strong recordkeeping but may go beyond the minimum records listed by the CDE.

Educational information only, not legal advice. Requirements can change. Verify current guidance with the CDE and your local educational agency.

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