

## Legal Obligations for Home Schooling in Oregon

During the 1999 legislative session, the Oregon Legislature revised statutes pertaining to home school (ORS 329.465, 339.030, 339.035, 339.250, 339.460, and 345.505). New Oregon Administrative Rules were passed in May 2000 and require home schoolers, age 7 (on September 1) to 18 to:

1. Provide a one-time written notification of your intent to home school to the Education Service District (ESD) that contains the school district of which your child is a resident. If you move to another ESD, the new ESD must be notified in writing as well.

Your letter stating your intention to home school must be received by the ESD at least ten calendar days prior to the first day of school for your local school district. If the student is taken out of school after the school year has started, the letter of intent is to be submitted within ten days from the time the student was withdrawn. In either case, the letter must provide the ESD with:

1. The child's and parent's name, address, phone number (optional), and e-mail address (optional)
2. Child's date of birth
3. The name of the school the child is presently attending, or last attended, or if the child has not attended school, the name of the public school district in which the child resides.

2. Test at grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. Testing for these grades is to occur in the third, fifth, eighth, and tenth year ending August 15. The first year is defined as when the child is seven on September 1, or earlier at the parent's discretion. The following table illustrates how the new rule is to be applied.

### Age on September 1

9 years old	grade 3
11 years old	grade 5
14 years old	grade 8
16 years old	grade 10

In many cases a student might be a year older when they test depending upon the date they were born. For example, a third grader born November 20 will be 10 if they take the test in May. The key question remains, *how old was the child on September 1st*.

Some home schoolers who do not have children in the above grade levels may wonder if they should still have their children tested. Our position here at Basic Skills has always been that parents should test for their own information first, and secondly in order to comply with state law.

Achievement testing helps:

- to determine if the curricula being used is working
- identify academic strengths and weaknesses
- provide proof of the progress their children are making
- establish a beginning or ending academic benchmark
- aid them in preparing their child for the achievement test that is legally required

3. Turn test results into ESD at grades 3, 5, 8, 10 upon request.

The new law does not require home schoolers to turn in test results unless the ESD specifically requests them. Blanket requests in some counties may take place.



## Local ESD's

Clackamas ESD  
Diana Rick  
13455 SE 97th Ave  
Clackamas, OR 97015  
Phone: 503-675-4031  
DRick@clackesd.k12.or.us

Multnomah ESD  
PO Box 301039  
11611 NE Ainsworth Circle  
Portland, OR 97220  
Phone: 503-255-1841  
www.mesd.k12.or.us

High Desert ESD  
145 SE Salmon, Suite A  
Redmond, OR 97756-8427  
Phone: 541-693-5600  
www.hdesd.org

Lane ESD  
PO Box 2680  
1200 Hwy 99N  
Eugene, OR 97402-2033  
Phone: 541-461-8200  
www.lane.k12.or.us

NW Regional ESD  
5825 NW Ray Circle  
Hillsboro, OR 97124  
Phone: 1-888-990-7500  
503-614-1428  
www.nwresd.k12.or.us

Willamette ESD  
2611 Pringle Rd. SE  
Salem, OR 97302-1533  
Phone: 503-588-5330  
www.esd.org

Yamhill ESD  
2045 SW Hwy. 18, Suite 100  
McMinnville, OR 97128-8598  
Phone: 503-424-1431  
www.heroweb.org/yamhillesd.htm

Umatilla – Marrow ESD  
2001 SW Nye  
Pendleton, OR 97801-4416  
Phone: 541-276-6616  
www.mesd.k12.or.us

Southern Oregon ESD  
101 N. Grape  
Medford, OR 97501-2793  
Phone: 800-636-7450  
541-776-8590  
www.soesd.k12.or.us

## Legal Obligations for Home Schooling in Washington

Parents who home school in Washington state need to qualify as home instructors, notify their local school district each year, and have their students tested annually. You may contact the following organization for more information:

WA Assoc. of Teaching Christian Homes (WATCH)  
PO Box 14122  
Millcreek, WA 98082  
425-956-3282  
www.wathome.org