



IOSCO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

27 NORTH REMPERT ROAD, TAWAS CITY, MI 48763

PHONE: (989)362-3006 ♦ FAX: (989)362.9076

Date Sent_____

Child's Name_____

Dear Parent _____

This is the packet of home schooling information you requested. If you decide to home school your child please complete the enclosed form and return it in the self-addressed envelope, so that we may have a record of your intentions to home school should the Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency receive a truancy referral. Also, we recommend that you notify, in writing, the current school your child attends of your intentions to home school.

Times have changed and there are a lot of virtual public schools now. If you enroll your child in an on-line school program and do not have to pay any tuition, that is a public school, and you are not home schooling your child. If you have to pay tuition for the classes, then you are home schooling your child.

The following web sites will help you get started in home schooling your child: homeschool.com, nheri.org, time4learning.com, secularhomeschool.com, science4us.com, homeschoolonline.org, time4writing.com, and spellingcity.com.

Please contact the Michigan Department of Education at 517-373-1833 if you wish to receive a registration form to register as a nonpublic under exemption (a), or if you have any specific questions regarding home schooling that are not answered in the material attached. Nonpublic school and home school students have the right to enroll in nonessential elective courses such as band, physical education and music.

We have enclosed a copy of:

Home School Report Form

Home Schooling in Michigan

Compulsory School Attendance

The Revised School-Compulsory School Attendance Exemptions (f)

If we can be of further assistance please feel free to call 989-362-3006, ext. 1115.

Thank you,

Stephanie Conklin~School/Community Liaison Officer

Enclosures

The Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency does not discriminate in any activity, program, or employment on the basis of race, color, disability, national origin, gender, religion, age, height, weight or marital status.

Exemption (f) Home School

Exemption (f) Home School

380.1561(3)(f) states:

A child shall not be required to attend the public schools in the following cases:

(f) The child is being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian in an organized educational program in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar.

If a home school family chooses to operate under exemption (f), the conditions listed below apply:

- The Michigan Department of Education plays no role with the home school family.
- The home school family does not report as a nonpublic school to the Michigan Department of Education.
- Intermediate and local school districts are responsible for interpreting and enforcing the Compulsory School Attendance Law.
- There are no minimum qualifications for teachers except that they must be the parents or legal guardians of the children.
 - The home school family must provide "an organized educational program in the subject areas of reading, spelling mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar."

State of Michigan Compulsory School Attendance Laws

SEC. 1561. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section a child's parent, guardian, or other person in this state having control and charge of the child shall send the child to a public school during the entire school year from the age of 6 to the child's eighteenth birthday. The child's attendance shall be continuous and consecutive for the school year fixed by the school district in which the child is enrolled. In a school district that maintains school during the entire calendar year and in which the school year is divided into quarters, a child is not required to attend the public school more than 3 quarters in 1 calendar year, but a child shall not be absent for 2 or more consecutive quarters. Michigan Compiled Laws Section 380.1561(1)

Section 732. In the following cases, children shall not be required to attend the public schools: **(a)** Any child who is attending regularly and is being taught in a private, parochial or denominational school which has complied with all provisions of this act and teaches subjects comparable to those taught in the public schools of children corresponding in age and grade, as determined by the course of study for the public school of the district within which such private, denominational or parochial school is located.

SEC. 1571. (3) An attendance officer of an intermediate school district or a local school district shall have the powers of a deputy sheriff within the district or the intermediate school district while performing official duties. Michigan Compiled Laws Section 380.1571 (3)

SEC.1586. (2) If a child is repeatedly absent from school without valid excuse, or is failing in schoolwork or gives evidence of behavior problems, and attempts to confer with the parent or other person in parental relationship to the child fail, the superintendent of schools, or the intermediate superintendent in a district which does not employ a superintendent, may request the attendance officer to notify the parent or other person in parental relationship by registered mail to come to the school or to a place designated at a time specified to discuss the child's irregularity in attendance, failing work, or behavior problems with the proper school authorities.

SEC.1587. If a parent or other person in parental relation fails to send a child under his or her control to the public school or other school listed under section 1561, the attendance officer, upon receiving notice from proper authority of that fact, shall give written notice in person or by registered mail to the parent or other person in parental relation requiring the child to appear at the public school or other school on the next regular school day following the receipt of notice, and to continue in regular and consecutive attendance in school. The attendance officer shall notify the intermediate superintendent or superintendent of schools of the service of notice. The intermediate superintendent or superintendent of schools shall notify the attendance officer of the failure on the part of the parent or other person in parental relation to comply with the notice. History: 1976, Act 451, Imd. Eff. Jan 13, 1977.

SEC.1588. The attendance officer, after giving the formal notice prescribed in section 1587, shall determine whether the parent or other person in parental relation has complied with the notice. The attendance officer shall make a complaint against the parent or other person in parental relation having the legal charge and control of the child who fails to comply to the court having jurisdiction in the county of residence for refusal or neglect to send the child to school. The court shall issue a warrant upon the complaint and shall proceed to hear and determine it in the same manner as is provided for other cases under its jurisdiction. Michigan Compiled Laws Section 380.1588.

SEC.1599. A parent or other person in parental relation who fails to comply with this part is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$50.00, or imprisonment for not less than 2 nor more than 90 days, or both. Michigan Compiled Laws Section 380.1599.

Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency
27 North Rempert Road, Tawas City, MI 48763
Stephanie M. Conklin 989-362-3006, extension 1115
Liaison office hours: 7:30am to 3:00pm (Monday through Friday)

THE REVISED SCHOOL CODE (EXCERPT)
Act 451 of 1976

380.1561 Compulsory attendance at public school; enrollment dates; exceptions. Sec. 1561. (1)

Except as otherwise provided in this section, for a child who turned age 11 before December 1, 2009 or who entered grade 6 before 2009, the child's parent, guardian, or other person in this state having control and charge of the child shall send that child to a public school during the entire school year from the age of 6 to the child's sixteenth birthday. Except as otherwise provided in this section, for a child who turns age 11 on or after December 1, 2009 or a child who was age 11 before that date and enters grade 6 in 2009 or later, the child's parent, guardian, or other person in this state having control and charge of the child shall send the child to a public school during the entire school year from the age of 6 to the child's eighteenth birthday. The child's attendance shall be continuous and consecutive for the school year fixed by the school district in which the child is enrolled. In a school district that maintains school during the entire calendar year and in which the school year is divided into quarters, a child is not required to attend the public school more than 3 quarters in 1 calendar year, but a child shall not be absent for 2 or more consecutive quarters. (2) A child becoming 6 years of age before December 1 shall be enrolled on the first school day of the school year in which the child's sixth birthday occurs, and a child becoming 6 years of age on or after December 1 shall be enrolled on the first school day of the school year following the school year in which the child's sixth birthday occurs.

(3) A child is not required to attend a public school in any of the following cases:

(a) The child is attending regularly and is being taught in a state approved nonpublic school, which teaches subjects comparable to those taught in the public schools to children of corresponding age and grade, as determined by the course of study for the public schools of the district within which the nonpublic school is located.

(b) The child is less than 9 years of age and does not reside within 2-1/2 miles by the nearest traveled road of a public school. If transportation is furnished for pupils in the school district of the child's residence, this subdivision does not apply.

(c) The child is age 12 or 13 and is in attendance at confirmation classes conducted for a period of 5 months or less.

(d) The child is regularly enrolled in a public school while in attendance at religious instruction classes for not more than 2 class hours per week, off public school property during public school hours, upon written request of the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis.

(e) The child has graduated from high school or has fulfilled all requirements for high school graduation. (f) The child is being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian in an organized educational program in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar.

(4) For a child being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian, exemption from the requirement to attend public school may exist under either subsection (3)(a) or (3)(f), or both. (5) For a child who turns age 11 on or after December 1, 2009 or who was age 11 before that date and enters grade 6 in 2009 or later, this section does not apply to the child if the child is at least age 16 and the child's parent or legal guardian has provided to school officials of the school district in which the child resides a written notice that the child has the permission of the parent or legal guardian to stop attending school.

History: 1976, Act 451, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977;—Am. 1995, Act 289, Eff. July 1, 1996;—Am. 1996, Act 339, Eff. July 1, 1996;—Am. 2009, Act 204, Imd. Eff. Jan. 4, 2010;—Am. 2016, Act 532, Eff. Apr. 9, 2017.

Constitutionality: Shared time instruction of sectarian, nonpublic school students in and of itself is not violative of the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution even where benefits to religion appear substantial; it is only where it is clear that the program was motivated wholly by religious considerations that a conflict with the clause would exist. Snyder v Charlotte Schools, 421 Mich 517; 365 NW2d 151 (1984).

Shared time instruction clearly is not intended to benefit one or all religions; rather, the purpose is secular: to provide educational opportunities at public schools for all resident school-age children whether they attend public or religious or secular nonpublic schools. Snyder v Charlotte Schools, 421 Mich 517; 365 NW2d 151 (1984).

Popular name: Act 451

Administrative rules: R 340.71 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.



HOME SCHOOLING IN MICHIGAN

The section of the *Revised School Code* that addresses home schools is located in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.1561.

Right to Home School

Michigan parents have the right to home school their children. The law requires a parent or legal guardian of a child from the age of six to sixteen to send his or her child to school during the entire school year, except under certain limited circumstances (MCL 380.1561). The law was amended in 2010 to increase the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18 for a child who turned 11 after December 1, 2009, or who entered grade six after 2009. The exceptions include, but are not limited to, sending a child to a state-approved nonpublic school or educating a child at home in an organized educational program.

Who May Home School

Home school education is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The parent assigns homework, gives tests and grades these tests. The issuance of report cards, transcripts, and diplomas are the responsibility of the home school family (based on internal standards). If home schooling continues through grade 12, the parent issues a high school diploma to the graduate.

Reporting Process

The annual reporting of a home school to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is voluntary. It is not required unless the student is requesting eligible special education services from the local public school or intermediate school district. It is recommended the parent first submit a completed Nonpublic School Membership Report to MDE if special education services will be requested. This form is available on the Michigan [home school website - www.michigan.gov/homeschool](http://www.michigan.gov/homeschool). Before special education services are established, the school will contact MDE for verification that this process is complete. The home school must register each school year to continue services. A list of registered home schools is provided to intermediate school district superintendents each December and March or by emailing nonpublicschools@michigan.gov.

It is not required that a parent inform their local school of the decision to home school, however, it is suggested. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked absent and the involvement of the truancy officer. Notification may be a phone call or a written note to the district. Keep in mind that a written note can be placed in the student's school record indicating when the student has withdrawn from the school district.

Teacher Requirement

A parent or legal guardian who home schools his or her child is not required to hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate, permit, or occupational authorization.

A parent or legal guardian reporting to MDE must have a minimum bachelor's degree to be approved unless they claim a sincerely held religious belief against teacher certification (People v DeJonge). Reporting is required if the parent or legal guardian is seeking eligible special education services for their child(ren).

Course of Study

Instruction must include mathematics, reading, English, science, and social studies in all grades; and the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Michigan, and the history and present form of civil government of the United States, the State of Michigan, and

the political subdivisions and municipalities of the State of Michigan in grades 10, 11, and 12.

Home-schooled students may enroll in nonessential elective classes at the resident public school subject to the district's enrollment policy.

Textbooks

Home school families are responsible for purchasing the textbooks and instructional materials of their choice. School districts are not required to provide curriculum, textbooks, or materials to home school families.

Student Records

Parents are encouraged to maintain student records of progress throughout the year. These records will assist school personnel with placement should the student enroll in a public or nonpublic school. The granting of credits and placement of students is solely determined by the receiving school. If a student attends a home school and returns to a public school, the public school generally reevaluates the students for grade placement and the transfer of credit.

Required Testing

There are no required tests for a home-schooled student. The parent is responsible for administering tests based upon the curriculum they use. Although not required, home schooled students may participate in state testing at their local public school. These tests are managed by MDE and are administered at no cost to a home-schooled student. For further information, contact your local public school.

Athletics

The supervision and control of interscholastic athletics are the responsibility of each local board of education. Most local boards have adopted policies as proposed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Please contact the appropriate local school district or the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) at (517) 332-5046 or [MHSAA website - www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com)

Work Permits

Home school students may obtain a work permit through their local public school.

Funding

There are no public funds available for home schooling.

Additional Information

MDE's website provides additional information on home schooling that includes legislation, the registration form, and instructions. You may access this information at the Michigan [home school website - www.michigan.gov/homeschool](http://www.michigan.gov/homeschool). For additional information on home schooling, please email nonpublicschools@michigan.gov.

This information is provided as a service of the Michigan Department of Education and is distributed with the understanding that the Department is not engaged in rendering legal advice. Those individuals desiring or requiring advice should seek the services of an attorney.

August 2017

HOME SCHOOL REPORT FORM

This form is to be completed by all parents or legal guardians who are educating their children at home who wish to be exempted from the compulsory school attendance provision of the Revised School Code under Exemption, Section 1561(3)(f)

The child is being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian in an organized education program in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar.

We hereby intend to home educate our child(ren) and be exempted from the compulsory school attendance under Exemption, Section 1561(3)(f) as stated above.

Date Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Public School District _____

Name of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Enrollment in Home School _____

Reason for Homeschooling (Optional) _____

NAME(S)	BIRTHDATE	GRADE

Home school education is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to assure the home school education meets legal standards. Parents are encouraged to maintain records of the student's progress throughout the year. These records will assist school personnel with placement should your child(ren) re-enroll in public school. If a student is homeschooled and returns to a public school, the student will be evaluated for grade placement and transfer of credits. For additional information and contacts on home schooling, go to <http://www.michigan.gov/mde> and search home school.

Evidence of "an organized education program" must be available in each of the following subject areas (check all that apply):

_____ Reading _____ Science _____ Literature _____ Spelling _____ History
_____ Writing _____ Mathematics _____ Civics _____ English Grammar

Form must be submitted to:
Stephanie M Conklin~Truancy Officer
Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency
27 North Rempert Road
Tawas City, Michigan 48763

Date Returned: _____
Office Use