Dear Parent,

Thank you for the opportunity to assist with your questions about Maine home instruction. Please see below the information the Maine Department of Education (DOE) routinely provides to prospective home instruction parents. While the DOE does not provide guidance regarding any recommended specific steps for teaching or choosing programs for home instruction, the information below is designed to help you understand parent reporting requirements. Most student-specific questions can be answered in your [resident superintendent’s office](https://neo.maine.gov/DOE/neo/Supersearch/Supersearch/Town). Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions, may be found on the DOE’s home instruction webpage at <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/schoolops/homeinstruction>. If you cannot find an answer to your question, please email [Schoolquestions.doe@maine.gov](mailto:Schoolquestions.doe@maine.gov), and we will respond as soon as possible.

Briefly, when you are providing home instruction you are required to submit the Notice of Intent to Provide Home Instruction within 10 days of starting or by September 1 (via the [Home Instruction Portal](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fneo.maine.gov%2FDOE%2FNEO%2FDashboard&data=04%7C01%7CPamela.Ford-Taylor%40maine.gov%7Cb6ec7ac6fe3a4389d46408d95cfcd6a9%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C637643064829741497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=Z2KBMvG1lYT%2BnU%2BDb5AGyUfWQ5clFw27TbSzl%2F0qmEo%3D&reserved=0) or paper form found on the DOE webpage, sent to the resident superintendent) and then again each year by September 1 for continuing home instruction students, attaching one of the forms of assessment that has been conducted during the previous spring/summer to the Notice.

*Note:*

*If you experience issues with the* [*Online submission: Home Instruction Portal*](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fneo.maine.gov%2FDOE%2FNEO%2FDashboard&data=04%7C01%7CPamela.Ford-Taylor%40maine.gov%7Cdaea24c23c7f49ee46e308d9213ab8d4%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C637577358369911486%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=cB3xhPra8OMflbWZYA4wXpKN%2BQSx6UfEYzIgaCO5Sxg%3D&reserved=0)*, please know that parents using a phone, a non-Windows laptop, and/or a non-Chrome browser will experience issues. If you can use a Chrome browser on a standard Windows laptop, and clear your browser cookies before entry, the submission should go more smoothly. Also, if you are attaching a file, you must ensure that it is a pdf, word, or jpeg file and that the name of the file is simple, without special characters. If successful, you will receive a confirmation email if you have provided your email address on the form. If further attempts are unsuccessful, you may complete this* [*Paper form: Notice of Intent to Provide Home Instruction*](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/homeinstruction-noticeofintent2020-10-30_0.pdf)*, and mail/deliver it to the superintendent’s office where you reside (only). Note: Please do not send to the State (Maine Department of Education).*

We encourage you to stay informed and [Subscribe to Email Updates](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Feepurl.com%2FcTM8w&data=04%7C01%7CPamela.Ford-Taylor%40maine.gov%7Cb6ec7ac6fe3a4389d46408d95cfcd6a9%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C637643064829741497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=zeDWWZ4qbW%2FnOQY2WKzbrhOfKIwoABUcFMre8iHlIlM%3D&reserved=0) about home instruction from the Department. You may also want to look at [Special Education & Home Instruction](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdoe%2Flearning%2Fspecialed%2Flaws&data=04%7C01%7CPamela.Ford-Taylor%40maine.gov%7Cb6ec7ac6fe3a4389d46408d95cfcd6a9%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C637643064829751450%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=K%2FWEC2Zn1cZaokWQNIhy0o7ZXtBtBqwZP0C5uZLtYc8%3D&reserved=0). Home instruction students are eligible to receive special education services at their resident school unit’s public school. The public school has an obligation to provide such services only in the event that the student elects to participate in classes at the school, and only to the extent that those services are necessary, due to the student’s disability, to enable the student to participate in those classes. On the Special Education Laws & Regulations page, click "State Regulation: Chapter 101" to download the document. See Section IV.4.H.

In Maine, home instruction is an alternative to attendance at public day school.  Under Maine law, parents must take full responsibility for the child while the child is being provided home instruction—they legally direct the child's education by choosing the curriculum, facilitating the process and determining academic needs.  The Department does not make recommendations regarding home instruction curriculum choices or materials – if you seek recommendations, you may wish to consult with other home instruction parents, or ask your resident school administrative unit.

All the particulars of when and how to submit the assessment requirements for a subsequent year home instruction student (including for those discontinuing home instruction) are in this guidance: [https://mailchi.mp/maine/cu5lemq6y0-1323148?e=2ba93cac45](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmailchi.mp%2Fmaine%2Fcu5lemq6y0-1323148%3Fe%3D2ba93cac45&data=04%7C01%7CPamela.Ford-Taylor%40maine.gov%7C09e06c84586442e2de4208d92776de04%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C637584214028662235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=RokGIs5sEkVzjwmQf%2FcHqYpISvIzNLTqHyojIRDT2kg%3D&reserved=0).