

Commonly Asked Questions Regarding Differences between Home Education and Government School at-Home Programs

Questions	Home-Based Instruction	Government Funded Alternative Learning Programs/ Virtual Schools/Parent Partnership Programs
What exactly is it?	Homeschooling consists of planned and supervised instruction and education related activities with the parent(s) as the teacher. Parents are free to choose the philosophy of education, curriculum, location, timing, and are responsible to make any necessary changes to fit their child's educational needs.	These programs are alternative education programs administered by a local school district. Some of the education may be done at home by the parent under the supervision of the local school. State law mandates the philosophy of education must be performance-based, the child must meet the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRS) of the state of Washington and take/pass the WASL.
Who is accountable for the education of my child?	The parents.	The public school that the child is enrolled in. While the child may or may not be on-site, the education being conducted within the home is under the supervision of the local public school program.
Who is responsible for the cost of my child's education?	The parents are responsible to provide curriculum and any other related educational expense.	The taxpayers of the state of Washington.
What laws regulate this educational option?	The home base instruction laws RCW 28A.200 & 28A.225.010.	There is currently no state law that authorizes the funding of these programs. Alternative programs are regulated under WAC 392-121-182 which allow for public schools to supervise a child's education off-site. Programs are subject to state laws governing public schools RCW 28A.150.210.
Who makes decisions on curriculum?	The parents.	School districts, by law, are to have an approved list of curricula. RCW 28A.320.230.
Can the curriculum be religious?	Yes, the parent can choose any curriculum.	No, it is against state law for public schools to use religious curriculum.
What about testing? Does my child have to take the WASL?	Parents are responsible to make arrangements and pay for testing. The State Board of Education provides a list of approved standardized achievement tests for home-based students, or parents may choose the non-test assessment option. Home-based students are exempt from taking the WASL.	All school districts must administer the WASL for 4th, 7th, and 10th grade. Passage of the WASL is required for graduation.
Who keeps my child's education, health, and testing records?	Parents keep the education, health, and test/assessment records at home and are not required to turn them in to any agency.	The school district that the child is enrolled in is required to keep education, testing, health, and any other related records.
What subjects must be taught?	Eleven basic subjects are to be taught: occupational education, science, math, language, social studies, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, and an appreciation of art and music.	The basic education act of the state of Washington, RCW 28A.150.210, requires reading, writing, math, science, social studies, art, and health.
Who sets the standards?	The parents.	The school district that the child is enrolled in which are subject to state laws governing public schools RCW 28A.150.210.
What if my child is not progressing?	It is the responsibility of the parents to make the necessary changes.	The certified staff assigned to the student will work with the student/parent to develop a student learning plan. If progress is unsatisfactory, the certified staff will make a revised plan or enroll the student in a different program.
Who issues my child's credit/transcript/diploma?	The parents.	The school district that the child is enrolled in.

Courtesy of
**CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL NETWORK (www.chnow.org) &
 CHRISTIAN HERITAGE HOME EDUCATORS OF WASHINGTON (www.ChristianHeritageOnline.org)**
 Permission granted to copy in entirety and distribute freely.