Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is in response to your request for information regarding Home Instruction. Garrett County Public Schools support home instruction in accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.10.01.

Enclosed, please find the following items for your information and use:

1. Garrett County Public Schools Home Instruction Policy and Procedures
2. Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.10.01
3. Home Schooling Application
4. Directions for Completing the Home Schooling Notification
5. Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Home Instruction
6. Suggestions for Preparing the Portfolio for Home Instruction

After reviewing the materials, if you decide to instruct your child or children at home, please return the Home Schooling Application form to the address indicated at the bottom of the form. **Note that your application must be received at least 15 days prior to beginning your home instruction program.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Phillip E. Lauver, PhD
Supervisor of Pupil Services

PL:cag
Enclosures
.01 Home Instruction Program.

A. Purpose. The purpose of this regulation is to establish a procedure to be used by the superintendent of each local school system to determine if a child participating in a home instruction program is receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age.

B. Written Agreement.

(1) A parent or guardian who chooses to teach his or her child at home shall initially sign a statement on a form prescribed by the State Department of Education which:

(a) Indicates consent to the requirements set forth in §§C, D, and E of this regulation; and

(b) Shall be submitted to the local superintendent at least 15 days before the beginning of a home instruction program.

(2) Annual Verification. Annually thereafter, before the beginning of the school year, a parent or guardian shall verify the continuation of home schooling for his or her child with the local school superintendent or with the supervising nonpublic school or institution described in Regulation .05 of this chapter.

(3) Change in Status. A parent or guardian shall notify the local school superintendent or the supervising nonpublic school or institution described in Regulation .05 of this chapter if a change occurs in the home school status of a child during the school year.

C. Instruction Program. The home instruction program shall:

(1) Provide regular, thorough instruction in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age;

(2) Include instruction in English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education; and

(3) Take place on a regular basis during the school year and be of sufficient duration to implement the instruction program.

D. Educational Materials. A parent or guardian who chooses to teach a child at home shall maintain a portfolio of materials which:
(1) Demonstrates the parent or guardian is providing regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the areas specified in §C(1) and (2);

(2) Includes relevant materials, such as instructional materials, reading materials, and examples of the child's writings, worksheets, workbooks, creative materials, and tests;

(3) Shall be reviewed by the local superintendent or the superintendent's designee at the conclusion of each semester of the local school system at such times as are mutually agreeable to the local superintendent or designee and the parent or guardian.

E. A parent or guardian shall agree to permit a representative of a local school system to review the portfolio of educational materials, discuss the instructional program, and observe instruction provided that all of the following requirements are met:

(1) The review is at a time and place mutually agreeable to the representative of the local school system and the parent or guardian;

(2) The purpose of the review is to ensure that the child is receiving regular, thorough instruction as set forth in §C;

(3) There are not more than three reviews during a school year.

F. Additional Requirements. A local school system may not impose additional requirements for home instruction programs other than those in these regulations.

13A.10.01.02

.02 Voluntary Participation in Standardized Testing.

Upon request of a parent or guardian, a child receiving home instruction may participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing programs that are administered in the public school the child is eligible to attend.

13A.10.01.03

.03 Noncompliance with Requirements.

A. Failure to Consent. If a parent or guardian does not agree to the requirements of Regulation .01B, C, and D, above, a child shall be enrolled promptly in a public school or nonpublic school as defined in COMAR 13A.09.09.02B(9).

B. Deficiencies in the Program. If a local superintendent determines on the review of the home instruction program or inspection of the portfolio that a child is not receiving a regular, thorough instruction program in conformity with Regulation .01C and D, the local superintendent shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of any deficiencies in the program. The following apply:

(1) Within 30 days of receipt of notification of any deficiencies, the parent or guardian shall provide evidence to the local superintendent that the deficiency has been or is being corrected.
(2) If a local superintendent determines there is not a satisfactory plan to correct a deficiency or if a deficiency is not corrected, a child shall be enrolled promptly in a public school or a nonpublic school as defined in COMAR 13A.09.09.02B(4)(a).

13A.10.01.04

.04 Placement in Public School.

Upon application of a child for admission to a public school from a home instruction program, the local superintendent shall determine by an evaluation the placement of the child and any credits to be awarded toward high school graduation. The evaluation may include administration of standardized tests and examinations and interviews with the child.

13A.10.01.05

.05 Home Instruction Under Supervision of Nonpublic School.

A. A parent or guardian may provide instruction for a child at home without compliance with the requirements of this regulation, other than the requirements of Regulations .01B(1)(b) and .04 of this chapter, if that instruction is offered through correspondence courses and is under the supervision of a:

(1) School or institution offering an educational program operated by a bona fide church organization, and the supervision includes at a minimum all of the following components:

(a) Preenrollment conferences with parents or guardians,

(b) Textbooks, lesson materials, and other instructional materials or equipment designed to be used independently by the pupil at a site other than a school,

(c) Annual visits by supervisory personnel to the site where the pupil is receiving instruction, and

(d) Conferences with parents or guardians at appropriate intervals during the period of enrollment; or

(2) Nonpublic school with a certificate of approval from the State Board of Education, and the supervision includes at a minimum all of the following components:

(a) Textbooks, lesson materials, and other instructional materials or equipment designed to be used independently by the pupil at a site other than a school, and

(b) Assignment of a school-based teacher to assist the home teacher in using the correspondence courses and to assist the pupil by issuing progress reports, marking papers, and grading tests.

B. Annual Verification. The supervising nonpublic school or institution described in §A of this regulation annually shall:
(1) Verify with the local school superintendent the identification of home schooled students whose instruction is continuing under its supervision;

(2) Notify the local school superintendent of the identification of home schooled students whose instruction is newly added to its supervision; and

(3) Provide the local school superintendent with the identification of home schooled students whose instruction is no longer under its supervision.

C. Change in Status. The supervising nonpublic school or institution described in §A of this regulation shall notify the local school superintendent if a change occurs in the status of a home schooled student whose instruction was under its supervision during the school year.

**Contact Information**
Maryland State Department of Education
Certification and Accreditation Division
Nonpublic School Approval Branch
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-767-0407
Fax: 410-333-8963
Directions for Completing the Home Schooling Notification

Part A:

- Include the names of all students in your family being home schooled along with their gender, birth dates and current grade.
- Race is optional.
- Parent Information must be fully completed with street address and mailing address, if they differ.
- Alternate method of contact is helpful but optional.

Part B:

- Please read the COMAR and local policy and procedures enclosures before completing this section.

Part C:

- Parents choosing “A" are agreeing to have Garrett County Public School staff reviewing a portfolio of their child(ren)’s work twice a year. When choosing “A”, the name of the non-public school is not required.
- Parents choosing “B” are agreeing to use either correspondence courses under the supervision of a school or institution that meets the requirements of Maryland school law which includes the following components:
  1. Pre-enrollment conferences with parents or guardians,
  2. Textbooks, lesson materials, and other instructional materials or equipment designed to be used independently by the pupil at a site other than a school,
  3. Annual visits by supervisory personnel to the site where the pupil is receiving instruction, and
  4. Conference with parents or guardians at appropriate intervals during the period of enrollment OR
- A nonpublic school with a certificate of approval from the State Board of Education and the supervision includes, at a minimum, all of the following components:
  1. Textbooks, lesson materials, and other instructional materials or equipment designed to be used independently by the pupil at a site other than a school, and
  2. Assignment of a school-based teacher to assist the home teacher in using correspondence courses and to assist the pupil by issuing progress reports, marking papers and grading tests. Attached is a list of nonpublic schools with a certificate of approval from the State Board of Education in our area. The complete list for the entire state can be found on the Maryland State Department of Education website:

  [http://www.msde.state.md.us/nonpublic/home_instruction/DisplayLocationsByCounty.asp](http://www.msde.state.md.us/nonpublic/home_instruction/DisplayLocationsByCounty.asp)
Garrett County Public Schools

Home Schooling Notification

Instructions: Complete and return to the address on the bottom of the form.

State law requires that this form must be submitted at least fifteen (15) days prior to starting home schooling.

PLEASE PRINT: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

PART A: TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT(s) NAME</th>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>BIRTHDATE</th>
<th>CURRENT GRADE</th>
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Race (Optional):

___ American Indian or Alaska Native ___ Asian ___ Black or African American
___ White ___ Hispanic/Latino ___ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Public School Your Child Last Attended: ____________________________

Parent/Guardian’s Name: __________________________________________

Last | First | Middle
|------|-------|------|

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________

City | State | Zip Code
|------|-------|------|

Phone Number: __________________________ Email Address: __________________________

PART B:

1. ______ I hereby CERTIFY that I have read and understand the requirements in COMAR 13.A.10.01.01.05, Home Instruction Program, attached hereto.

2. a. _____ I would like my child/children to participate in the state assessment testing; or
   b. _____ I would not like my child/children to participate in the state assessment.
PART C: (A SEPARATE PART C MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH CHILD)

Student Name: ____________________________

Parent/Guardian must select either A or B

Parents selecting A: will maintain a portfolio of materials which demonstrates that regular, thorough instruction is being provided according to .01C, .01D and .01E. The portfolio will be reviewed by the local school system’s personnel at least twice during the year at a mutually agreeable time and place.

A. ☐ I hereby AGREE that I will comply with state regulation COMAR 13A.10.10.01C, .01D and .01E

or – Parents selecting B: will use correspondence courses under the supervision of a school or institution offering an educational program operated by a bona fide church organization that provides for .05A(1), .05A(2), .05A(3), and .05A(4), or under the supervision of a nonpublic school with a certificate of approval from the State Board of Education that provides for .05B(1) and .05B(2). The local school system will verify this information. Please note that the school system will not conduct portfolio review for parents teaching under .05A or .05B.

B. ☐ I hereby CERTIFY that I will be using correspondence courses under the supervision of a nonpublic school with a certificate of approval from the State Board of Education, or under the supervision of a school or institution offering an education program operated by a bona fide church organization under COMAR 13A.10.10.05.

Name of Nonpublic School

Address: ____________________________

City/County ____________________________ State __________ Zip Code

Signature, Parent/Guardian ____________________________ Date __________

Please indicate program of student before enrolling in home schooling.

Public School: ____________________________ Nonpublic School: ____________________________

Special Education with IEP: ____________________________ Other: ____________________________

FOR LEA USE ONLY

Signature of LEA Staff Receiving Form ____________________________ Date __________

Please return form to:
Name of Local Coordinator: GARRETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Department of Pupil Services
Local Board of Education Address: 40 South Second Street, Oakland, MD 21550
# Allegany and Garrett Nonpublic Entities that Supervise Home Instruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Outreach Center</td>
<td>398 Philos Avenue, Westernport, MD 21562</td>
<td>301-359-9706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Christian Academy</td>
<td>PO Box 5154, Cresaptown, MD 21502</td>
<td>301-729-0791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Christian Homeschool Ministry</td>
<td>2020 Bedford Street, Cumberland, MD 21502</td>
<td>301-777-3105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Homeschool Ministry</td>
<td>PO Box 1205, Cumberland, MD 21502</td>
<td>301-722-2699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shekinah Home School Association</td>
<td>150 Center Street, Frostburg, MD 21532</td>
<td>301-689-5146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bittinger Mennonite School</td>
<td>10707 Bittinger Road, Bittinger, MD 21522</td>
<td>301-245-4419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casselman Valley School</td>
<td>1348 River Road, Grantsville, MD 21536</td>
<td>1-814-662-4022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Family Fellowship Academy</td>
<td>PO Box 36, Oakland, MD 21550</td>
<td>301-334-1332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gortner Amish Church School</td>
<td>4251 Mason School Road, Oakland, MD 21550</td>
<td>301-334-4061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant View Baptist Church Homeschool Association</td>
<td>8931 Garrett Highway, Oakland, MD 21550</td>
<td>301-334-8515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Baptist Church Homeschool Association</td>
<td>P.O. Box 493, Oakland, MD 21550</td>
<td>240-321-1640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. View Christian School</td>
<td>P.O. Box 277, Springs, PA 15562</td>
<td>1-814-662-2607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Resource:
SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING THE PORTFOLIO FOR HOME INSTRUCTION

Curriculum Notes

The General Regulations state that instruction should be provided in subjects “usually taught in the public schools to students of the same age” and should include “English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health and physical education.” The following are Garrett County Public School System recommendations:

- English/Language Arts should include developmentally appropriate instruction in reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Formal writing and spelling are not typically included at the kindergarten level.
- The following areas not listed in the General Regulations are highly recommended:
  - Career and Technology Education (e.g., computers, other technology, tech education, family consumer science, business, industrial arts)
  - Library/Media Skills
  - Foreign Language
- The K-8 program includes developmentally appropriate instruction in every area. In grades 6-8 instruction in Art, Music, Health, Physical Education and Technology Education is typically of 9 weeks duration.
- The 9-12 program includes six or more credits of instruction per year toward the Maryland high school graduation requirements. (One credit is equal to an hour of daily instruction for a full school year.) The Maryland high school graduation requirements include as a minimum:
  - 4 credits English
  - 3 credits Mathematics (1 credit must be in Algebra and 1 credit must be in Geometry)
  - 3 credits Science (1 credit must be in Biology)
  - 3 credits Social Studies (US History, American Govt., World History)
  - 1 credit Fine Arts (Dance, Drama, Visual Arts or Music)
  - 1 credit Technology Education
  - 1 credit Physical Education/Health
  - 2 additional credits Advanced Technology Education or a Foreign Language

Documenting Regular, Thorough Instruction or Sufficient Duration

Student Portfolio

While curriculum outlines, instructional materials and descriptions of instruction are helpful, actual samples of student work are an essential component of a portfolio review.

1. Keep each student’s work organized in a loose-leaf notebook, series of folders, portfolio folder, box, etc.
2. Keep each subject separate and arranged chronologically.
3. Provide adequate examples of work to document for each subject throughout the period of instruction.
4. **Samples of the student’s writing, worksheets, workbooks, creative materials and tests must be provided.** Reading lists are recommended. Other means of documenting work include journals, photographs, certificates, awards and programs. The checklist on the
portfolio review form represents recommended items, but not all are required for a satisfactory review.

5. Date and identify (if necessary) each piece of work.
6. Photographs may be used to document work.

**Review of the Portfolio**

1. Each subject area will be reviewed for clear evidence of instruction according to the criteria below.
   a. *Clear Evidence* indicates there is sufficient evidence of planning as well as physical evidence of student work to show that regular, through instruction has taken place on a regular basis during the school year and is sufficient duration to implement the program.
   b. *Needs Better Evidence* indicates there is insufficient evidence of instruction. It is expected that weaknesses will be addressed the next time the portfolio is reviewed.
   c. *Unacceptable* indicates there is little or no evidence of instruction. The subject area or portfolio does not comply with COMAR 13A.10.01.D. A portfolio receiving this rating must be revised and resubmitted within 30 days.
Garrett County Board of Education
Oakland, Maryland 21550

Home Instructions
(Parent Teaching Children at Home)

Definition: Home Instructions (designated home teaching) programs are provided by parents or legal guardians who desire to teach their children at home in lieu of enrolling them in a public or private school.

Board Policy

Requirements

I. Written Agreement. A parent or guardian who chooses to teach a child at home shall sign a statement on a form prescribed by the State Department of Education which:
   A. Indicates consent to the requirements set forth in sections II, III and IV; and
   B. Shall be submitted to the Department of Pupil Services, Garrett County Board of Education, at least 15 days before beginning of a home instruction program.

II. The Home Instruction Shall
   A. Include regular, thorough instruction of those subjects usually taught in public schools to children of the same age.
   B. Be taught to the child on a regular basis during the school year and shall be of sufficient duration to implement the instruction program;
   C. Provide instruction in English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health and physical education.

III. Educational materials. A parent or guardian who chooses to teach a child at home shall maintain a portfolio of materials which:
   A. Demonstrates the parent or guardian is providing regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the areas specified in II. A. B. C., above.
   B. Includes relevant materials such as instructional materials, reading materials, and examples of the child's writings, worksheets, workbooks, creative materials, and tests.
   C. Shall be reviewed by the local superintendent or the superintendent's designee at the conclusion of each semester of the local superintendent of the local school system at such times as are mutually agreeable to the local superintendent or designee and the parent or guardian.

IV. A Parent or guardian shall agree to permit a representative of the Garrett County Board of Education to review the portfolio of education materials, discuss the instructional program, and observe instruction provided that all of the following requirements are met:
   A. The review is at the time and place mutually agreeable to the representative of the local school system and the parent or guardian.
B. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the child is receiving regular, thorough instruction as set forth in II, above.

V. Voluntary Participation in Standard Testing

Upon request of a parent or guardian, a child receiving home instruction may participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing programs that are administered in the public school the child is eligible to attend.

VI. Noncompliance with Requirements

A. Failure to consent. If a parent or guardian does not agree to the requirements of Section I, II, III, above, a child shall be enrolled promptly in a public school or nonpublic school as defined in COMAR 13A.09.02B(4)(a).

B. Deficiencies in the Program. If a local superintendent determines on the review of the home instruction program or inspection of the portfolio by either the Director of Elementary Education or the Director of Secondary Education, as appropriate, that a child is not receiving a regular, thorough instruction program in conformity with sections II and III, the local superintendent shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of any deficiencies in the program. The following apply:

1. Within 30 days of receipt of notification of any deficiencies, the parent or guardian shall provide evidence to the local superintendent that the deficiency has been or is being corrected.

2. If a local superintendent determines there is not a satisfactory plan to correct a deficiency or if a deficiency is not corrected, a child shall be enrolled promptly in a public school or a non-public school as defined in COMAR 13A.09.02B(4)(a).

VII. Placement in Public School

Upon application of a child for admission to a public school from home instruction program, the school principal shall determine by an evaluation the placement of the child and any credits to be awarded toward high school graduation. (Credits shall be awarded according to Garrett County Board of Education (Policy 433.0). The evaluation may include administration of standardized tests and examinations and interviews with the child.

VIII. Home Instruction Under Supervision of Nonpublic School

A parent or guardian may provide instruction for a child as home without compliance with the requirements of this Policy, other than the requirements of Sections I and VII, that instruction is offered through correspondence courses and is under the supervision of a:

A. School approved by the State Board of Education or operated by the bona fide church organization, and the supervision includes at a minimum all of the following components:

1. Pre-enrollment conferences with parents or guardians,

2. Textbooks, lesson materials, and others instructional materials or equipment designed to be used independently by the pupil at a site other than a school,
3. Annual visits by supervisory personnel to the site where the pupil is receiving instruction, and

4. Conferences with parents or guardians at appropriate intervals during the period of enrollment; or

B. Nonpublic school with a certificate of approval from the State Board of Education, and the supervision includes at a minimum all of the following components:

1. Textbooks, lesson materials, and other instructional materials or equipment designed to be used independently by the pupil at a site other than a school; and

2. Assignment of a school-based teacher to assist the home teacher in using the correspondence courses and to assist the pupil by issuing progress reports, marking papers, and grading test.
Administrative Procedures

I. Application

A. Parent or legal guardian must submit the “Assurance of Consent – Home Instruction Program” to the Garrett County Department of Pupil Services at least 15 days before the beginning of home instruction.

B. Upon receipt of the application the forms will be reviewed for completeness and appropriateness by the Department of Pupil Services.

Incomplete applications shall be returned to the applicant for additional information. Applications which list non-approved non-public schools in Section 4b will be returned to parents informing them of such and that they must either

1. Use an approved school, or

2. Enroll their child in a school which complies with Maryland School Law.

C. If the “Assurance of Consent” form is complete and in compliance with the Maryland Regulations, the Department of Pupil Services will schedule the necessary reviews.

D. The director of Pupil Services will send a copy of the assurance form to the appropriate school principle.

E. If the parents request that their child participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing program, a copy of the “Assurance of Consent” form will be sent by the Department of Pupil Services to the Local Accountability Coordinator (LAC) who will notify the principal of the school where the child will participate in the testing program and will notify the parents of the time, dates, and location.
Fact Sheet Regarding Home Instruction in Maryland

Does Maryland law permit a student of mandatory school age to be home schooled instead of attending a public or a nonpublic school?

Yes. Maryland law, Education Article, §7-301, Annotated Code of Maryland, Compulsory Attendance, states that each child who resides in Maryland and is 5 years old or older and under 18 shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public school to children of the same age. Maryland recognizes nonpublic schools and home instruction as alternatives to public school enrollment as a means for students to receive regular, thorough instruction.

Are there regulations that govern home instruction in Maryland?

Yes. COMAR 13A.10.01 Home Instruction, are the regulations that govern home instruction in Maryland. The purpose of COMAR 13A.10.01 is to establish a procedure to be used by the superintendent of each local school system to determine if a child participating in a home instruction program is receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age.

What must a parent do before beginning home instruction?

At least 15 days before the beginning of a home instruction program, a parent or guardian who chooses to teach a child at home must sign a written statement on a form prescribed by the State Department of Education. The parent should contact their local school system for a copy of the consent form and COMAR 13A.10.01.

Does the local school system or the Maryland State Department of Education provide a curriculum to parents to use for the purpose of home schooling?

No. A parent or guardian who elects to provide instruction to his/her child (ren) must select the curriculum to be used. The home instruction regulation does, however, specify the subjects that must be taught by the parent or guardian.
What subject areas of home instruction are mandatory?

English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education are the subject areas that parents or guardians must teach their child (ren) who are home schooled. [COMAR 13A.10.01.01C.(2).]

Must home instruction be supervised in Maryland?

Yes. Home instruction must be supervised in Maryland by one of the following entities:
1. The local school system.
2. A nonpublic school that holds a Certificate of Approval from the Maryland State Board of Education.
3. A church-exempt nonpublic school.
4. An education ministry of a bona fide church organization.

What must a nonpublic school or education ministry of a bona fide church organization do before beginning to supervise home instruction of Maryland students?

Before beginning to supervise home instruction, the head of the legal authority of a nonpublic school or the chief officer of a bona fide church organization that elects to supervise home instruction must contact the Maryland State Department of Education for registration procedures. Registration procedures include the completion of an official registration form that can be obtained by calling the Nonpublic School Approval Branch at the Department at (410) 767-0407.

Can a tutor or someone other than the parent or guardian be hired to teach a child who is home schooled?

No. The Home Instruction regulations (COMAR 13A.10.01) are clear that the parent or guardian is to be the primary provider of the home instruction. Other adults may assist with a special area of interest but such adults are not permitted to replace the parent or guardian as the primary provider of instruction.

Is a home schooled student prohibited from being tutored?

No. A home-schooled student may be tutored in a particular subject just as a student enrolled in a public or nonpublic school may be tutored. Regardless of whether a student is enrolled in home schooling or in a public or nonpublic school, tutoring is supplemental to each of these primary forms of instruction. Tutoring may not be substituted for the instruction that is provided by the parent or legal guardian to his/her home schooled student or the instruction provided by a public or nonpublic school to students enrolled.
Must the parent/guardian be a certified teacher?

No. Present regulations do not require parents/guardians to have teacher certification in order to home school their child(ren). [COMAR 13A.10.01]

Can a student who is home schooled participate in other aspects of the instructional or extracurricular programs that are offered by a Maryland public school?

No. Present regulations indicate no provision which allow homeschooled students to participate in courses or activities that are offered by a Maryland public school other than the standardized testing program. [COMAR 13A.10.01]

May a home-schooled student participate in the standardized testing program that is offered by the student’s local school system?

Yes. A child receiving home instruction may participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing programs that are administered in the student’s assigned school. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to contact the public school that the child is eligible to attend to find out the testing schedule and to make arrangements for participation prior to the testing date. [COMAR 13A.10.01.01.02]

What are the procedures for a home-schooled student to return to a public school?

The parent must contact the local school for procedures regarding returning from home instruction to enrollment in a public school. The local superintendent of schools or designee shall determine the placement of the child and any credits to be awarded toward high school graduation. The evaluation may include administration of standardized tests, examinations, and interviews with the student. [COMAR 13A.10.01.04]

How can a home-schooled student receive a diploma?

If the home-schooled student returns to a public school and meets their secondary school graduation requirements, yes, the student may receive a Maryland issued state diploma.

If the home-schooled student returns to a nonpublic or church-exempt school and meet’s that school’s secondary school graduation requirements, the student may receive a diploma issued by that school’s legal authority. Note: COMAR 13A.09.09.09E states that the diploma of a nonpublic secondary school may not imply that the requirements for graduation from a Maryland public secondary school have been met.

Another alternative for the home-schooled student is to successfully complete the General Educational Development (GED) test and be issued a GED by the Maryland State Department of Education. For more information regarding GED contact the General Educational Development office at (410) 767-0538.
Does the Maryland State Department of Education provide information about home instruction support groups?

No. The Maryland State Department of Education does not collect information about home instruction support groups. The Department, however, maintains the names and addresses of the nonpublic schools and bona fide church organizations that are registered to supervise home instruction in Maryland.

Whom should I call if I have more questions?

For questions about filing the consent form with the local school system, curriculum, portfolio reviews, standardized testing, special education services, returning to the public school system, contact the Pupil Personnel Office of your local school system.

For questions about the requirements of the home instruction regulations and other matters of concern pertaining to home instruction, contact the Student Services and Alternative Programs Branch of the Maryland State Department of Education in Baltimore at (410) 767-0311.

For questions about nonpublic entities that are registered to supervise home instruction, contact the Nonpublic School Approval Branch of the Maryland State Department of Education in Baltimore at (410) 767-0407.