

## Home Study Frequently Asked Questions

### *Public School Questions:*

#### **How will my public school be notified that my student is enrolled in a home study program?**

Superintendents receive weekly updates indicating which students have enrolled in a Home Study Program. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to notify the local schools.

It's important for families to enroll students in a Home Study Program prior to the start of the school year. Students who are not enrolled in a public school, independent school or Home Study Program by the start of the school year may be considered truant.

#### **Is my home study student allowed to participate in public school?**

Yes. Students enrolled in a Home Study Program may take part in classes and activities at their public schools. Act 119 provides for the participation of home study students in public school academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular programs.

To be enrolled in a home study program, at least **three** of the core academics must be conducted *at home*. "Core academics" include reading/writing, math, history/citizenship/government, literature and natural sciences.

#### **What is VTVLC?**

The [Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative](#) (VTVLC) works with Vermont schools to facilitate online courses for students statewide. VTVLC has some options for families enrolled in a Home Study Program. Families who wish to participate should contact either their local public school or VTVLC directly.

#### **How do I withdraw my student from their Home Study Program?**

Students returning to school (public or independent) or moving out of state need to close out their home study enrollment. The easiest way to do this is by sending an email to [aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov](mailto:aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov) with the following information:

- Identify the name of student who is withdrawing and the date of the withdrawal.
- Include the name of the school the student is attending.
- Identify the date the student enrolled in the public or independent school.

If the student is moving out of state just identify that the family is withdrawing the student from Home Study due to relocation.

The End of the Year (EOYA) is necessary to close out the student's home study record, or we will not be able to verify that the enrollment was completed.

### **Will a school accept the work my student completed in a home study program?**

The grade level, credits and academic standing of students who enroll in a public or independent school after participating in a Home Study Program is at the discretion of the school. Students may have to take a placement test upon entering/re-entering school. High school students may not receive credit for courses taken at home and may need to repeat courses. We recommend contacting the school's guidance department.

### **I want my student to take a class at the local school, but the class is full. Can my student still access it?**

The rules of the State Board of Education (SBE) require that home study students and full-time students are treated on the same basis as to enrollment procedures, deadlines and capacity limits. You should consult the parent/student handbook for the district's home study integration policies established by your local school board." If there is a waiting list for a popular class (i.e. driver's education) then your child should be placed on the waiting list under the same criteria as full-time students (i.e. by birth date, date of learner's permit, etc.)

### **Where will my student receive his/her high school diploma?**

High school students enrolled in a home study program do not receive a diploma from the Agency of Education. If your student has successfully completed a year or more of home study, our office will provide, upon request, a verification letter that identifies that the student was enrolled in a home study program. To request a verification letter, send an email to [aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov](mailto:aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov) and include the student's name and date of birth.

If you want your student to receive a high school diploma at your local school, you will need to work with the guidance department to assess credits and/or proficiencies.

## **Should I enroll my 16-year-old (or older) student?**

Each family needs to determine if they want to enroll their student at age 16. While it's not required, some families want to receive a verification letter from the Home Study Office stating that their student has been enrolled in a home study program. This letter may be presented to colleges, trade schools and the military to proving that the student has been enrolled in a home study program.

Additionally, families may want to consider enrolling in either the Dual Enrollment and/or Early College Programs via Act 77 (Flexible Pathways). These programs provide older qualified students the opportunity to participate. The Dual Enrollment Program provides juniors and seniors vouchers to take two college courses. Students may take courses during summers preceding their junior and senior year.

The Early College Program provides eligible students (in their "senior" year) the opportunity to complete their final year of high school/home school at college, tuition free. For more information visit the [Early College](#) page of the AOE website.

In order to be eligible for the Early College Program, students must provide a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP). Home study students can find the [Critical Elements of PLP](#) on our website. Home Study students minimally must submit a Minimum Course of Study as the foundation for their PLP and can include additional elements as needed.

## **I consider my student to be a 12<sup>th</sup> Grader. Can I follow the High School requirements?**

Yes and No. Families can follow the specific curriculum or school subjects that the public school teaches in any given grade. For example, many high schools typically offer Algebra I to freshman. Home Study families can offer their student Algebra I during the same time frame.

Many high schools suggest that students take 4 English classes, 3 Science classes, 3 History classes, 3 math classes, 1 year of Fine Arts, 1 ½ years of PE, a Health class and a variety of electives. Home Study requires that every student who is enrolled must include every core subject each year. If your 12<sup>th</sup> grade student has taken Earth Science, Biology, and Chemistry at the local school (or at home), that would satisfy the public school's requirements, however it does not satisfy the home study requirements. A student's 12<sup>th</sup> grade year must still include a science class even if the public school's requirements have been met.

## **Other Questions:**

### **I need help, how can I contact someone at the Home Study Office?**

You can contact the Home Study office by email: [aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov](mailto:aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov) or by our technical assistance phone number, (You will not initially talk to a staff member, as this is a voicemail system): 802-828-6225.

Emails and voicemails are generally answered within 1-2 business days depending on the time of year and the volume of calls/emails.

Please choose to either email or call the Home Study Office. Emailing and contacting multiple staff members directly with the same questions significantly delays our responses to families. We appreciate your patience.