





HOMESCHOOLING101

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One of the greatest challenges military families face is creating educational continuity while living a mobile military lifestyle. There are often variances in educational programs between states, because education is a function of the state rather than a federal system. In response, military families have begun to explore the option of homeschooling as a means of providing stability and flexibility for their children.

Some items to keep in mind if you are considering homeschooling:

- · Homeschooling is also a function of the state
- The laws and regulations you need to follow will depend on the state in which you physically reside, not your military state of residence
- If you do decide to homeschool your children, you MUST withdraw them from their last school and request their records

Option 1 - PSA

The State Department of Education, as well as any county or local public school district, lacks jurisdiction over the establishment or operation of private elementary and secondary schools. Parents can legally use this provision to establish their own home-based private school. To do so, you will need to file the Private School Affidavit with the California Department of Education between October 1st and October 15th of every year (EC 33190). This option gives you a great scope of independence and freedom with your child's education. In addition, financial outlays are controlled by you.

Education Code sections §48222, §48415, §33190, §51210 and §51220 set the criteria for a private school. Access the entire California education code at leginfo.ca.gov.

Option 2 - Virtual Academy

There are several virtual academies and charter schools available in the area from which to choose. Contact the School Liaison for recommendations. These schools provide online instruction and printed materials, as well as individual support to parents via telephone and in person through an assigned teacher (usually monthly). This option also provides support for record keeping and curriculum, which may be helpful for first time homeschool parents.

Option 3 - ICE

You may utilize the ICE (Independent and Continuing Education) Program available through the Local School District. ICE offers flexible weekly support from a state certified teacher and all materials are provided to parents at no cost. The program will assist you in record keeping and provide parents with support in teaching their children at home.

ICE East (Twentynine Palms) 760.367.3709 ICE West (Yucca Valley) 760.228.2267 Ice-morongousd-ca.schooloop.com

Option 4 - Private Tutor

According to California Home School Network, a parent with a California teaching credential may school their child under the private tutorial exemption. The parent may only school children in the grade levels and subjects covered by the credential. Parents may also hire a credentialed tutor. Students using this option must receive instruction for at least three hours a day, 175 days per school year, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00 pm.

Can I really do this?

Thousands of parents of all educational backgrounds are successfully homeschooling. Fortunately, the decision you make is also yours to change.

- There is no homeschooling bureaucracy
- There are no committees to pass judgment
- There are no forms to fill out in triplicate You are not alone! For support, contact:
- Growing Palms Home school support group
- Twentynine Palms Home Educators -Home school co-op

