

## ***Deciding to Homeschool***

### **What might parents/guardians want to consider when deciding whether homeschooling is the best option for their child?**

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Homeschool parents/guardians do everything that traditional nonpublic school administrators and teachers do, but in the context of their home. This includes planning what students learn, recordkeeping, managing costs, and assuring the quality and scope of their student's education to college recruiters and employers. Students graduate from homeschools with homeschool diplomas and transcripts, just as they would from other nonpublic schools. Neither the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) nor local school districts validate or certify any nonpublic school's education, transcripts, or diplomas.

Homeschooling is an opportunity to tailor education to a family's values and a child's needs. Families should weigh the advantages and disadvantages carefully to determine the best option for their child.

Considerations may include:

- The opportunity to tailor education.
- The opportunity to include family experiences like world travel in a curriculum.
- Peer group interaction.
- Time, commitment, and lost wages of the parent/guardian.
- Whether all parents/guardians of the student fully support the choice.
- Whether a combination of homeschooling and public programs like Special Education or in High School, Postsecondary Enrollment Options or Shared Time, might provide the right mix.
- Whether the parent/guardian possesses the organizational skills and stamina to design and run a homeschool.
- Whether another public school choice, such as a public online school, or traditional nonpublic school would better meet the family's needs.
- New beginnings.

Minnesota offers school choice that includes both public and nonpublic educational options. Public options include choices within the family's resident district, open enrollment across district lines, magnet schools, charter schools, certified public online learning, and alternative education. Nonpublic options include traditional nonpublic schools (some may have financial aid programs), tutors, private online learning, and unaccredited nonpublic schools (including homeschools).

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