

# Getting Started

## A step-by-step guide to establishing a homeschool in North Carolina

### Where Do I Begin?

Deciding and preparing to homeschool can be an overwhelming process. Although North Carolinians for Home Education (NCHE) cannot make this process simple, we will give you a good start and lead you to additional sources of information. NCHE recommends seven steps to get started:

1. Learn
2. Notify the State
3. Join a local support group
4. Join NCHE
5. Decide on curriculum and resources
6. Plan
7. Subscribe to magazines and newsletters

### Step 1 • Learn

First you need to decide if home education is the right choice for you and your family. It is never too early to start this step. To learn about homeschooling, talk to experienced homeschoolers, attend classes, and read. NCHE's Annual Conference and Book Fair is a must for those wanting to learn more about homeschooling. If you cannot wait until the next conference, ask the NCHE office about ordering tapes from a past conference. Reading is always a good way to learn about homeschooling. As you read, your philosophy of education will develop. You need to invest some time in reading good books on the subject. Some suggested books are:

- *Better Late Than Early, The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook* (formerly titled *Home School Burnout*), Raymond and Dorothy Moore
- *For the Children's Sake*, Susan Schaeffer Macaulay
- *Home Schooling for Excellence*, David and Micki Colfax
- *Homeschooling the Early Years*, Linda Dobson
- *Homeschooling the Middle Years*, Shari Henry
- *Learning All the Time and Teach Your Own*, John Holt
- *The Three R's Series* and *You Can Teach Your Child Successfully*, Ruth Beechick
- *The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*, Debra Bell
- *The Whole Hearted Child*, Clay and Sally Clarkson

### Step 2 • Notify the State

If your child is seven, but not yet sixteen, or sixteen and over and planning to drive, you will need to file with the state a "Notice of Intent to Operate a School." Contact the Division of Non-Public Education (DNPE) and request a homeschool packet or download it from the DNPE website. You will also need to locate your high school or college diploma, or an equivalent. When the form is filed, DNPE will send a postcard to acknowledge its receipt. It is important to keep this card. You are now in compliance with the law.

**Department of Administration**  
**Rod Helder, Director**  
**NC Division of Non-Public Education**  
**1309 Mail Service Center**  
**Raleigh, NC 27699-1309**  
**(919) 733-4276**  
**Website <[www.ncdnpe.org](http://www.ncdnpe.org)>**

*Note: NCHE is not affiliated with the NC Division of Non-Public Education nor any other government agency or organization.*

### Step 3 • Join a Local Support Group

Contact and join your local support group. A local support group is an invaluable asset for resources, encouragement and opportunities. If you need help locating a support group, contact NCHE (919) 790-1100.

### Step 4 • Join North Carolinians for Home Education (NCHE)

Be a part of the state organization that is committed to supporting homeschoolers, promoting home education, and protecting the right to homeschool. We need your help to carry out this objective. Membership is \$20.00 per year. See the brochure, Home Education in North Carolina, for more information about joining NCHE.

### Step 5 • Decide on Curriculum and Resources

You will need to decide on a philosophy of education before you decide what curriculum and resources to use. A wide variety of resources is available. The closer your choices fit your family's philosophy and style, the more successful you will be. Most families piece together their own curriculum by picking and choosing the best for their family from different publishers. It is usually best to start small and add later. To get a firsthand look at the a large variety of materials, attend NCHE's Annual Conference and Book Fair. Our conference features about 90 vendors of curriculum and educational materials. A brief description of the most commonly used curricula and resources is provided in this brochure. For a more detailed and comprehensive description we refer you to:

- *Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual* (Elementary or Jr./Sr. High), Cathy Duffy
- *The Big Book of Home Learning: Getting Started*, Mary Pride

### Curriculum Approaches

Below are four common curriculum approaches. The four corresponding letters will be used as a descriptive tool in the Commonly Used Curricula section that follows.

- A. Traditional and Conventional Text Books: Uses graded textbooks for each subject; most commonly used approach in institutional schools.
- B. Early Academics: Stresses reading, writing, and arithmetic skills at an early age; uses workbooks, visual aids, and manipulatives.
- C. Workbooks or Programmed Learning: Workbooks are consumable books with questions or projects included and condensed instructions. Programmed is step-by-step sequence of small units of facts which provide immediate feedback.
- D. Unit Study: All subjects center around a common theme and different ages can be involved with the same theme. Units do not include a math or language program, therefore, these need to be added.

### Commonly Used Curricula

**A Beka** (800) 874-BEKA, <[www.abeka.com](http://www.abeka.com)>

- Curriculum approaches A, B, C
- Christian, patriotic, and conservative
- Developed for classroom use.
- Must be adapted to home situation; if done as recommended it would be a whole day's school work; books may be good reference material

**Accelerated Christian Educators** (800) 925-7777, <[www.schooloftomorrow.com](http://www.schooloftomorrow.com)>

- Curriculum approaches B, C
- Materials designed for students to work independently
- Students are placed at the appropriate starting point in each subject
- Biblical perspectives are incorporated throughout the material

**Advanced Training Institute** (630) 323-2842, <[www.ati.iblp.org](http://www.ati.iblp.org)>

- Curriculum approach D
- Unique Bible-centered family program emphasizing life training and character development

- Requires attendance at three week-long seminars and adoption of certain spiritual convictions
- Requires commitment to regular reporting to the Institute
- Multi-age level use

**Alpha Omega** (800) 622-3070, < [www.aop.com](http://www.aop.com)>

- Curriculum approaches B, C
- Bible-centered
- CD-ROM and correspondence versions available
- An interactive, teacher-presented math is an option in K-6
- Diagnostic tests for appropriate placement in each subject

**Bob Jones** (800) 845-5731, <[www.bjup.com](http://www.bjup.com)>

- Curriculum approaches A, B, C
- The description is the same as A Beka

**Calvert** (410) 785-3400, <[www.calvertschool.org](http://www.calvertschool.org)>

- Curriculum approaches A, B, C
- Early academics offered but more relaxed than *Bob Jones* and *A Beka*
- Uses a tutorial method and therefore takes less time than other traditional approaches, especially in the early years
- Mixing of grade levels not allowed; pre-packaged for each grade level; fully prepared daily lessons
- Secular, but has traditional moral values
- K through eighth grade

**Christian Liberty Academy** (847) 259-4444, <[www.homeschools.org](http://www.homeschools.org)>

- Curriculum approaches A, B, C
- Christian, patriotic and conservative
- Texts chosen according to student's achievement level

**Clonlara** (734) 769-4515, <[www.clonlara.org/edures](http://www.clonlara.org/edures)>

- Curriculum approach up to the parent
- Provides record keeping and counseling
- Supportive of less structured homeschooling
- Provides recommendations of educational resources
- Offers some computerized high school courses

**Konos** (336) 887-2045, <[www.konos.com](http://www.konos.com)>

- Curriculum approach D
- Based on character traits such as obedience
- Comes from a Christian perspective
- Provides activity suggestions, book lists, vocabulary words, pertinent historical character examples, and optional character timeline
- Multi-age level use
- Offers a new high school program covering world history, English and art, written to the student
- Emphasis is discovery learning

**Sonlight Curriculum.** (303) 730-6292, <[www.sonlight.com](http://www.sonlight.com)>

- Literature based, emphasis on world history and cultures and international Christian missions
- Provides materials in all subjects and coordinates them for a school year
- Early academics offered but more relaxed than Bob Jones, A Beka, Alpha Omega, etc.
- Provided in grade levels but can be adapted for multiple children close in age

Note: For resources below, if a telephone number is not given for a specific title, consult the catalog list.

### **Other Sources for Math**

- *Elementary Algebra and Geometry*, by Harold Jacobs
- *Discovering Geometry, Key to...Workbooks, Miquon*, Key Curriculum Press (800) 338-7638, <[www.keypress.com](http://www.keypress.com)>
- *Making Math Meaningful*, Cornerstone Curriculum Project (972) 235-5149,

<[www.cornerstonecurriculum.com](http://www.cornerstonecurriculum.com)>

- *Mastering Mathematics* (828) 684-0429, <[www.masterypublications.com](http://www.masterypublications.com)>
- *Math-U-See* (877) 563-6077, <[www.mathusee.com](http://www.mathusee.com)>
- *Moving With Math*, Math Teacher's Press (800) 852-2435, <[www.movingwithmath.com](http://www.movingwithmath.com)>
- *Saxon Math Series* <[www.saxonpub.com](http://www.saxonpub.com)>
- *Singapore Math* <[singaporemath.com](http://singaporemath.com)>

### **Other Sources for Phonics and Reading**

- *Alpha-Phonics*
- *Explode the Code*
- *Learning Language Arts Through Literature*
- *100 Easy Lessons*
- *Phonics Museum*
- *Reading Made Easy*
- *Sing, Spell, Read, and Write*

### **Other Sources for Language Arts**

- *Daily Grams*
- *Design-a-Study's Comprehensive Composition*
- *Easy Grammar*
- *Grammar Songs, Audio Memory* (800) 365-SING
- *Learning Language Arts Through Literature*
- *Understanding Writing*
- *Wordsmith, Wordsmith Apprentice*
- *Writing Strands*

### **Other Sources for Science**

- Apologia Science Series by Jay Wile: *Exploring Creation with General Science*, *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*
- *Beautiful Feet's Literature Approach to the History of Science*, by Rea Berg
- *Considering God's Creation* by Mortimer and Smith
- Creation Series by Felice Gerwitz and Jill Whitlock: *Creation Anatomy*, *Creation Astronomy*, *Creation Science*, *Creation Geology*
- Lyrical Life Science Series by Eldon

### **Miscellaneous**

- Design-a-Study
- *How to Create Your Own Unit Study and the Unit Study Idea Book*, Valerie Bendt

### **Catalogs**

Most homeschoolers acquire their resources by attending a book fair or by ordering from a catalog. The NCHE Annual Conference and Book Fair offers the opportunity to view and purchase many of the homeschooling resources that are available. It is one of the biggest book fairs east of the Mississippi. Most of the resources are also available through catalogs. Many of the catalogs have descriptions of the resources.

Elijah Company (888) 2-Elijah, <[www.elijahco.com](http://www.elijahco.com)>

Greenleaf Press (800) 311-1508, <[www.greenleafpress.com](http://www.greenleafpress.com)>

Home Training Tools (800) 860-6272, <[www.hometrainingtools.com](http://www.hometrainingtools.com)>, science equipment and materials

Lifetime Books (800) 377-0390, <[www.lifetimebooksandgifts.com](http://www.lifetimebooksandgifts.com)>

Timberdoodle Company (360) 426-0672, <[www.timberdoodle.com](http://www.timberdoodle.com)>

Veritas Press <[veritaspress.com](http://veritaspress.com)>

## **Step 6 • Plan**

Now that you have determined what resources you will be using, you will need to develop short and long-term goals and establish a tentative calendar and schedule.

## Step 7 • Subscribe to Magazines and Newsletters

For continuing education and encouragement, you may want to subscribe to homeschool magazines or newsletters. Below are some suggestions.

- *Greenhouse Report*, NCHE's statewide newsletter (919) 790-1100, <[www.nche.com](http://www.nche.com)>
- *Growing Without Schooling*, Holt Associates, <[www.holtgws.com](http://www.holtgws.com)>
- *Homeschooling Today*, (281) 492-6050, <[www.homeschooltoday.com](http://www.homeschooltoday.com)>
- *Home Education Magazine*, (800) 236-3278, <[www.home-ed-magazine.com](http://www.home-ed-magazine.com)>
- *The Moore Report International*, (360) 835-5500, <[www.moorefoundation.com](http://www.moorefoundation.com)>
- *Practical Homeschooling*, (800) 346-6322, <[www.home-school.com](http://www.home-school.com)>
- *The Teaching Home*, (503) 253-9633, <[www.teachinghome.com](http://www.teachinghome.com)>

Note: North Carolinians for Home Education does not officially recommend nor endorse any materials or schools or agencies listed. This list cannot represent the entire spectrum of educational materials.

For more information on how to join NCHE, or attend NCHE's Annual Conference and Book Fair held each spring, call or write:

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Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-6125  
919-790-1100  
919-790-1892 FAX  
E-mail <[nche@nche.com](mailto:nche@nche.com)>  
Web site <[www.nche.com](http://www.nche.com)>

Other brochures available from NCHE:

- Homeschooling High School
- Home Education in North Carolina
- Homeschooling the Special Needs Child—A Resource Guide

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