



OHIO

Homeschooling Guide & Directory

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Ohio Homeschooling Guide & Directory

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The author/publisher of this book is not a lawyer and does not claim complete knowledge of laws regarding homeschooling. Such information is provided for informational purposes only based solely upon research and experience with home education in the state of Ohio. Links to further information are provided in the Homeschool Legalities in Ohio section of this book, including links to pertinent legal representation.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the 2 Buckeye men in my life, my Beloved Michael and my Little Man Jonathan. Without each of whom I would never be a homeschooling mom in the state of Ohio. You bring joy, laughter, and peace to my life in ways you can't even imagine. Through your love, support and understanding this book has become a reality.

Acknowledgment

A special thank you goes to [Amy Stults](#) and the [iHomeschool Network](#) for suggesting I undertake this project. Also, a very special thank you and a big virtual hug goes to [Colleen Kessler](#) for contributing a great deal of research towards the completion of this book, especially all points north.

Always, thanks be unto God and my Savior Jesus Christ, through whom all things are possible for granting me the ability to write this resource guide. May it be to you the reader an encouragement and inspiration in your efforts to home educate your children in the great state of Ohio.



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Note From Author:

While I have striven to provide an exhaustive resource for homeschooling opportunities in the state of Ohio, I soon came to realize that it was an impossible task. Given the 88 counties, 3 major cities as well as a wealth of small cities and towns around the state, the reality of finding every resource was not within reach. Therefore, I have tried to offer an expansive listing for resources that I was able to find active websites and/or direct message options while ensuring coverage of each of the regions within the state boundaries. You will find the division of those regions on page 16. If you are aware of additional resources, be it class, co-op, support group, field trip opportunity or other and you do not see it listed know that the omission was not intentional but rather from an inability to locate the option in my personal research.

“The task of the modern educator is not
to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.”

~ C.S. Lewis

Homeschooling In Ohio

Ohio is a wonderful state in which to homeschool. There is a large homeschooling community throughout the state. In fact, the Ohio Department of Education's 2012/2013 academic year statistics show that [24,163 students](#) were home educated and that does not include online charter schools.

I live in central Ohio near the capitol; with that comes many prospects for field trips, co-ops, classes and other seminars which are right at my proverbial back door. But, all around the state of Ohio there are a wealth of opportunities for homeschoolers to explore and learn.

Overall, there are some wonderful things happening in Ohio for homeschoolers. There have been some recent changes to educational laws that are specific to home educators which I will discuss in the legalities section. Additionally, a variety of organizations have begun to recognize the homeschooling community at large by providing specialized "homeschool days." I will share various areas of resources that exist for families in Ohio from specialized classes to field trip opportunities.

Whether you are just beginning to consider homeschooling, are entering your first year, or you are a seasoned homeschooler I hope that you will find resources that you have not known existed. Homeschooling is not only a viable alternative to public school education it is proving to be the fastest growing form of education in this country. In fact, based upon an [Education News](#) report, homeschooling has grown by 75% since 1999. This means that the number of primary school aged students being homeschooled is growing at a rate of 7 times faster than students being enrolled in K12 schools each year. According to the [National Home Education Research Institute](#) the Homeschool Population Report for 2010 showed that there were more than 2 million students being taught in their own homes.

As you can see homeschooling is a valid choice. Home education is not only an option but ideal for children. The reason for this is because children thrive with one on one attention, and they work best when allowed to learn and explore in ways that meet their individual needs and talents. Homeschooling presents the ideal place to create an individualized custom education.

Homeschool Legalities in Ohio

Homeschooling in Ohio might seem a bit daunting when you first take a look at the requirements, but once you get started you realize the requirements are not that stringent. The Ohio Department of Education located at 25 South Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215 governs homeschooling regulations by means of [The Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 3301-34](#).

Christian Home Educators of Ohio, [CHEO](#), offers all of the [legal documentation](#) that you need on their website, free of charge. It is up to you to determine how you will structure your school within the Ohio Administrative Code guidelines.

The first thing to note is that the [compulsory age](#) for required education in the state of Ohio is age 6. That means that by the time your child reaches the age of 6 years, on or before September 30 of an academic year, you are required to enroll your child in either a public school, private school, or notify your school district of your choice to home educate.

As a homeschooling parent this gives you the freedom to begin formal education at whatever age you deem it to be best for your child as long as you do so by age 6. Please note that if you can enroll your child in Kindergarten at the optional age of 5. But if you do so they are then deemed to be of compulsory school age and you would subsequently be required to send in notification to begin home education.

We chose to begin formal education for our son at age 4, utilizing a local Montessori school. While this was not compulsory we deemed it to be formal education and he began in the Kindergarten program. We used this resource for half an academic year before choosing to complete Kindergarten at home. We then began first grade at home when he was 5 years old, and by the time he was 6 and we were required to send in notification we were already well on our way to a homeschool education.

You can choose to begin Kindergarten at age 6 if that is what works best for you and your child or be even more flexible by gathering resources for your child's skill level rather than age or grade level. The choice is yours and the freedom to customize education to meet your child's needs is your legal right.

Requirements for Home Education

- ❖ Notification Form 3301-34-02
- ❖ Brief outline of the intended curriculum for the current year. (Such outline is for informational purposes only.)
- ❖ List of textbooks, correspondence courses, commercial curricula, or other basic teaching materials that the parent intends to use for home education. (Such list is for informational purposes only.)
- ❖ Assessment Report form 3301-34-04 for previous year. (If you are homeschooling for the first time, you will not need this report; it is for ongoing home education).

In the book, you'll also discover details on how to implement these requirements, tips for managing them from year to year, information about portfolio assessments, and legal assistance organization.

Homeschool Enhancement Opportunities

As I previously mentioned, Ohio offers a wide variety of opportunities for homeschoolers. I find that no matter what county or area of the state you live in you can find a multitude of chances to get out of the house and do activities and enhancement classes with your children. Sometimes by simply travelling one or two counties away you find a whole new world of possibilities while in other cases you can find these chances right in your home or neighboring town.

Homeschool Cooperatives, Support, Field Trip, and Meet-up Groups

Homeschooling your family can be one of the most rewarding efforts you will ever undertake. You will develop relationships with your children that you may never have dreamed possible. You will watch with enthusiasm as your children learn and absorb knowledge. That being said it also can become



overwhelming, isolating and lonely. Which is why you will want to reach out to other homeschooling families, with over 24,000 homeschooling families in the state you should not have to look far to find a homeschool community. Below is a listing of groups found throughout Ohio. This by far is not an exhaustive listing, just a sampling of what is available.

North Western

- [Allen County Christian Homeschoolers](#) – Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Putnam
- [Classical Conversations](#) - Lima
- [Classical Conversations](#) – Findlay
- [Classical Conversations](#) – Perrysburg
- [Family Academics In The Home](#) (F.A.I.T.H.) – Toledo
- [New Heights Educational Group](#) – Defiance
- [Van Wert Christian Home Educators](#) – Van Wert

Homeschool Enhancement Classes

There are times in a homeschool teacher's career where she may have to reach out to others to help provide a well-rounded education. Perhaps it is for physical education, the arts or for advanced math. Below are a few enhancement class opportunities for you to consider.

Art

- [Columbus Art Museum](#), Homeschool Workshops – Columbus
- [Cleveland Museum of Art](#), Homeschool Classes - Cleveland
- [Eastern Ohio Art Guild](#), Summer Art Camps – Cambridge
- [K12 Gallery for Young People](#), Homeschool Classes - Dayton
- [McConnell Arts Center](#) – Worthington
- [My Little Red Haus](#) - Cincinnati
- [Rosewood Art Centre](#) – Kettering

“Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. imagination encircles the world.”
~Albert Einstein



Music

- [Buckeye Band and Strings](#), Meetup Group - Westerville
- [Central Ohio Christian Homeschool Chorus](#) – Dublin
- [Columbus Music Academy](#) - Westerville
- [Summer High School Music Theater CAMP](#) – Muskingum University, New Concord
- [West Chester Academy of Music and Dance, Homeschool Classes](#) – West Chester/Cincinnati

Gym/Physical Education

- [Central Ohio Homeschool Field Day](#) – Columbus Area
- [Cleveland State University](#), Homeschool Sports & Gym - Cleveland
- [Columbus Crusaders](#), Homeschool Sports – Columbus
- [Ecob Knights](#), Homeschool Sports – Eaton
- [Homeschool Sports Network](#), Ohio Listings – National Organization
- [The Homeschool Gym](#), Chris Quickert – Columbus Area

In the book you'll find information for groups in each region of the state, as well as a listing of homeschool enhancement class opportunities such as these.

Field Trip Destinations

At the time of this writing I have been homeschooling in the state of Ohio for 6 years, yet in researching I was both surprised and thrilled to find a wealth of field trip destinations that I had not previously known about. The listing below is only a sampling of what is available. Ohio has a rich history as well as a broad spectrum of industry, agriculture and the arts. In every corner of the state you will find opportunities to increase your children's learning in hands on and life experience ways.

Amusement Parks

- [Cedar Point](#) – Sandusky
- [Coney Island](#) – Cincinnati
- [Jungle Jack's Landing, Columbus Zoo](#) – Powell

“Nothing happens until something moves.” ~ Albert Einstein

Arboretums, Parks & Nature Preserves

- [Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm](#) – Dayton
- [Beaver Creek State Park and Pioneer Village](#) – East Liverpool
- [Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Garden](#) - Columbus
- [Cincinnati Nature Center](#) – Milford
- [Cincinnati Parks](#) – Greater Cincinnati Region
- [Columbus Metro Parks](#) – Greater Columbus Region
- [Cox Arboretum & Gardens](#) - Dayton
- [Dawes Arboretum](#) - Newark
- [Edge of Appalachia Preserve](#) – West Union

In Ohio Homeschooling you will see a full list of field trip opportunities, there are hundreds of options and I've included listings for each county, all organized by subject.

Homeschool Methods

There are several methods which are common in home education. These are determined due to parent/teacher preference, child learning styles, family education philosophy or by happenstance. Every homeschooling family approaches their structure from different perspectives. There is no right way or wrong way. When choosing a method or educational approach whatever works for you, your family and your children is the right choice.

I've listed some of the most popular forms of education methods below, however there are just as many other methods available. I am also including resources where you can find materials for each method. These are just a sampling of curriculum companies that are using these methods. Please also note that I neither support nor endorse any of these materials, I simply offer them as a resource for your benefit.

Teaching Methods

Traditional

This is an approach found in most public and many private schools today. This method uses traditional text books and workbooks. Generally lesson plans are formulated by professional educators and are included in the materials. Parent Teachers can simply follow the lesson plans to instruct students at home. It is ideal for parents who want to see a lot of structure with lessons that are guided by professionals for classroom development.

Curriculum options for this method:

- [Abeka](#)
- [Bob Jones](#)

I've included details on homeschool education methods to help you determine what might be the best option for your home, homeschool and lifestyle. I've also included a listing of places to find educational materials both online and in local communities.

Get Ohio Homeschool Now

I hope you enjoyed this preview of [Ohio Homeschooling Guide & Directory](#). The entire book is filled with more information like you've seen here with opportunities in every region and every county in the state.

Ohio Homeschooling is available in both paperback and ebook Kindle versions.

Just click the images below to get your copy today.

