

## Find a SUPPORT GROUP

Support groups can play an important role in the success of your homeschooling adventure. They provide opportunities for parents and children to socialize, offer encouragement, share resources and expertise in various academic pursuits, provide prospects for athletics, science fairs, geography and spelling bees, and much more.

Groups can be highly organized or casually structured. They can be large or small, may meet in churches, libraries or homes. Some meet quarterly, others weekly. Others are conducted primarily through the internet.

Their value can hardly be overstated. The NDHSA has many groups loosely associated with it and works to support and expand the growth and efficacy of area meetings. Each group maintains its own integrity, operating under its own rules and procedures.



To find a support group in your area go to:

[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

The NDHSA Support Group Coordinator:  
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## Become MEMBERS of...

**NDHSA** - The North Dakota Home School Association is the only statewide homeschool group. For \$35 per year, member families receive reductions in convention fees, advertising rates and materials sold by the NDHSA. Member families also have access to 'member only' sections of the website at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org). Families also receive the monthly, e-newsletter *The Eclectic Report (TER)*.

**HSLDA** - With more than 85,000 member families Home School Legal Defense Association is the largest international group of attorneys whose primary job is to ensure the rights of parents to oversee and direct the education of their children. Annual membership fee is \$110 (\$95 if you are a member of the NDHSA) and provides free legal advice and support. Membership also gives you access to an online curriculum market, discounts in the bookstore, weekly updates and alerts and the bimonthly magazine, *The Home School Court Report*. For more information go to: [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

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## Supply & Action Checklist

# The Home Schooling Adventure: What You Need to Know



## What you need to know:

The North Dakota Century Code governing parent-directed education requires the following:

To homeschool in N.D. the parent must have a high school diploma or G.E.D. or be monitored for at least two years by a N.D. state certified teacher.

The parent must file an annual statement of intent with the local school district of residence (printable copy at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)) for each child between the ages of 7 and 16. This must be filed at least 14 days before beginning instruction and is accompanied by the child's proof of identity and immunization record. The law requires that the parent provide 4 hours of instruction for 175 days. Which hours, which days are left to the discretion of the parent.

You are required to keep an annual record of courses and standardized achievement test results.

Homeschooled children must be tested with a nationally normed standardized achievement test in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 unless the parent chooses to opt out. If opting out of testing you must indicate such on your Statement of Intent when filing. If the local school district is using a test which renders scores in percentiles and is standardized you may request the use of it; if not you must rent one from a test supplier. The test must be administered in the child's learning environment or at the public school (parent's choice) by a N. D. state certified teacher. If you are in a monitored program, your monitor may administer the test.

If your child tests below the 30th percentile (basic battery/composite score) he/she must be assessed for a learning disability (more information on this at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)).



## Suggestions for reading:

### **Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling** by Mary Pride

A comprehensive manual that gives guidance on almost every aspect of parent-directed education.

### **The Way They Learn** by Cynthia Tobias

It is vital that parent-educators discover how best the child learns. Doing so will help the parent to teach to the child's strengths, allowing real joy to permeate the entire teaching/learning process.

### **Dumbing Us Down** by John Taylor Gatto

A stunning read from a former p.s. teacher about the inherent problems of institutional schooling.

### **Home Schooling The Right Choice** by Chris Klicka

A splendid overview of the academic, historical, practical and legal aspects of parent-led learning. Written by an attorney and long-time homeschooling dad. **The Heart of Home Schooling** by the same author deals with the most important aspect of home education: the development of a passionate commitment to Christian principles. This really is a book for the heart.

### **For the Children's Sake** by Susan S. Macaulay

A book to "help every parent awaken the young minds of their children and give them a new richness, stability and joy for living."

### **Home Learning Year by Year** by Rebecca Rupp

Information to help the parent educator design a curriculum of their own. A scope-and-sequence for K-12 in a book.

### **Homeschool Your Child for Free** by LauraMaery Gold & Joan Zielinski

For one-income families this book is a must-have for the home library. Filled with a plethora of resources on the internet.

### **Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling** by Dr. Brian Ray

YES, research shows clearly that homeschooling really, really works!

### **Homeschooling at the Speed of Life** by Marilyn Rockett

Balancing your life and schooling and accomplishing it with what works best for *your* family.

## Suggestions to buy:

1. Your needs will depend on the age groups you are teaching and the courses. Some of these items may be available through your local support group.
2. Obvious purchases include:
  - Paper (lined, graph, drawing, writing, construction)
  - Notebooks (3-ring, spiral)
  - Writing implements (pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils)
  - Glues and tape
  - Scissors
  - Rulers
  - Calculator
  - Microscope, optional & may be available through your local support group
  - Binoculars
  - Compass, protractor
  - Computer, printer, copier
  - Marker board, markers, eraser
  - Dictionary, atlas, thesaurus
  - Curriculum (many others available)
    - A Beka
    - Bob Jones
    - Veritas
    - Sonlight
    - Konos
    - Alpha-Omega
    - Rod & Staff
    - Saxon
    - Christian Liberty Press
    - Apologia Science
    - Robinson Curriculum

There are many choices in homeschool curriculum, many available from used-book outlets on the internet. Attending a statewide homeschool convention and perusing the vendor hall will allow the parent educator to view the many varieties of curriculum and resources. (For information on North Dakota Home School Association's annual convention go to [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org))

