

A top-down view of a study desk with a cup of coffee, a donut, a notebook, glasses, and a pencil.

LET'S HOMESCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL!

*Resources for
Success*

HOMESCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND

A GUIDE FOR HOMESCHOOLING TEENS

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Beginning The Adventure



It doesn't matter if you've been homeschooling for years or if you are just beginning this adventure, homeschooling in the high school years can be intimidating. This is a time of growing independence and responsibility for high school students, and it can be some of the best years of their lives! Students may be getting their first job, learning how to drive, thinking about their future, and even looking into colleges. It's time for these students to begin to take ownership of their education and the direction they want to take with their life.

There's often a lot of "soul searching" for the student while the parents may be thinking along a different line. Beginning homeschoolers may find they are looking for assistance navigating the whole idea of homeschooling high school while veteran homeschoolers may simply need some guidance on curriculum choices, record keeping, and perhaps help with what comes after high school.

Whatever the case, this guide will help prepare you for the next four years. As thousands of families who have graduated a homeschooler can attest, homeschooling in high school is completely doable! Use this information as a starting point, and you'll soon begin feeling more confident about the future. Let's get started.

To begin on this journey with a strong foundation, you will want to:

- Discover, understand, and fulfill your state homeschooling laws
- Withdraw the high schooler from their current school
- Discover student's strengths, learning preferences, and styles
- Discuss goals for high school and the future
- Recommended courses and how to choose a curriculum
- Explore extracurricular activities
- Plan a routine or daily schedule
- Learn about record keeping and credits

Check Your State Laws

While homeschooling is legal in every state, each has a different set of requirements for homeschooling. Some states like Georgia and Texas have few rules related to home education. Others, like Pennsylvania and Washington, are more regulated. You can easily find your state by clicking on this [homeschooling laws by state link](#). There may be things such as specified number of days of instruction, annual assessments, required subjects, and more.

Withdraw Your Student

There may be a timetable for registering your homeschool in your state. In some states, you can simply decide to begin homeschooling. In other states, you'll need to follow a specific process for notifying your state or local board of education before withdrawing a student. Formally pulling out a student from school isn't usually necessary. However, it is a good idea in order to prevent any issues.

What Are Your Student's Strengths?



This is one of the first things I'd like you to begin thinking about. If you are able to discover and tap into your student's particular strengths, and by the way, EVERYONE has strengths, your student will be more content in the career they eventually enter.

How does one discover their strengths? Well, the best and quickest way is through the book [Strengths Finder 2.0](#). This is actually much more than just a book, although, you will have to have the book to get started. Inside the back cover is a special code which you will use to access an online test. This test has been carefully researched and designed to help you identify what your individual strengths are. The information contained in the book can help you to better understand your results and give you a better handle on what sort of career is best suited for you.

Learning Preferences and Styles

As a homeschooler, you have probably already heard about learning preferences and learning styles. You may have already discovered your teen's dominant learning preference. Some homeschoolers feel that it's very important to teach according to your students' strengths, to encourage them to master those strengths instead of being a "Jack of all trades." Learning styles can also be a controversial learning tool, however, discovering your teen's dominant learning preferences and styles can be a tool to help create your homeschool plan. If you haven't discovered this yet, it may be helpful to grab your teen and work through the next few sections together.

By the way, can you guess why I keep saying dominant? That's right! You can use more than one learning style and you may even use a particular style when teaching/learning one subject and a totally different one for another subject. I'm going to speak to the student in the next few sections:

Why does it matter what your learning style is? Well, if you know your own particular learning style, you can employ it to help you do better throughout your high school years and into college. Learning the subject matter the way you relate to it best will make learning take less effort and seem less like work. So how does one figure out what their dominant style is? Let's take a look at each one. You may need to try each style with different subjects to determine which is the best fit.

Visual

This is obviously going to have to do with sight. If you like to see lots of pictures and diagrams to help you understand something, then you might be a visual learner. Other signs that you are a visual learner might include:

- You see pictures that compliment the music when listening to a song.
- You like websites that have a really cool design and have nice graphics.
- When waiting in line, you are likely to look at pictures or displays nearby.

- When looking for a book to read, you go for the one that has a grabbing cover.

How would you study using the visual style? Read back over your notes, look at the section titles in your textbook, analyze drawings and graphics and perhaps create your own, and then label them.

Auditory

Again it's probably pretty obvious that this one deals with listening. Is it easier for you to remember things if they are taught in a lecture format? Do you repeat information back to yourself? You just might be an auditory learner. Here are more clues to how auditory learners operate:

- When you are listening to music you can't help but hum along.
- The websites you like best have areas where you can listen to music or chat audibly with friends.
- If you are stuck in line, you are likely to strike up a conversation with people in line with you.
- You are likely to read a book from a friend's recommendation, not the cover.

What does a study session look like with the auditory learning style? You might have someone quiz you with facts about the material or you might find a place where you can say them aloud to yourself while not disturbing anyone else.

Tactile/Kinesthetic

This one may not be so obvious but it has to do with movement and manipulation of objects. This is what we so often hear referred to as "hands-on learning." The person who is a tactile/kinesthetic learner craves action. You might be a tactile/kinesthetic learner if:

- You have to move and dance to music, or at the very least, tap your foot or fingers.
- Your favorite websites are interactive.
- In line, you will fidget, tap out a beat, or simply be in constant motion.
- The books you choose will have numerous true accounts.

A tactile/kinesthetic learner would study by jotting down info on index cards, making an outline or creating 3D models.

The learning styles information is adapted from:

Russ, Jill S., (2012, April). *Figuring Out Your Learning Style*.
Russ' Rockets: The Official Website of Mrs. Russ' Third Grade Class.

Finding Yourself



There are some teens who have known what they want to do with their lives from a very early age. This is not the norm, however. For many of us, it can be a mystifying endeavour attempting to decide on the most suitable vocation. One exercise that can help is to write out your personal story. Following are some questions to help you “find yourself.”

- ☐ What are your favorite subjects in school?
- ☐ Which subjects do you seem to really struggle with?
- ☐ What activities do you find yourself doing in your free time? (Note here: seems that for many teens and kids these days, video gaming is a top free-time filler. Try to think beyond video games. What other kinds of things do you enjoy doing?)
- ☐ What kinds of things are you interested in?
- ☐ Do you prefer being outside or inside?
- ☐ Do you consider yourself to be a people person, or do you prefer to work alone?
- ☐ Do you have a special aptitude for working with computers? This is where the video gaming might be more than a time-filler.
- ☐ Are you self-motivated or do you work better with a prescribed agenda and plenty of accountability?
- ☐ Are you “artsy and creative”?
- ☐ What do your parents and other respected adults in your life have to say about your talents and aptitudes?
- ☐ Are you willing to work lots of hours or would you prefer to have more time to spend with your future family?

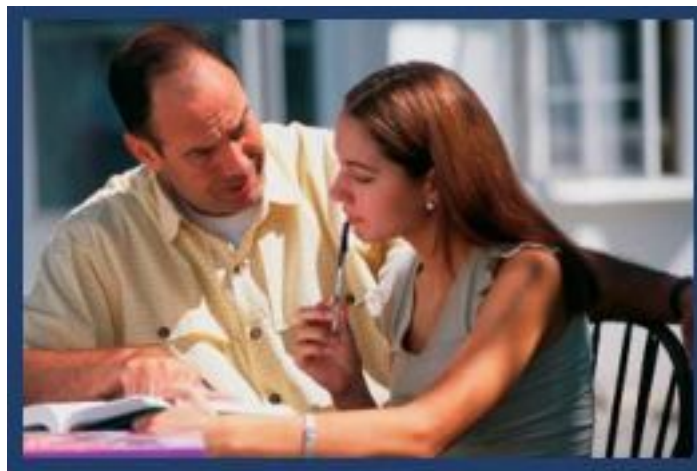
- ❑ Are you looking to become wealthy and have a big house and nice car, or will you be content to simply provide for a family?

Again, don't forget to take into account your strengths and how they relate to particular job choices.

Can you see a pattern in any of your answers? Anything that might suggest a particular line of work? Don't despair if you are still feeling lost. It may help to read up on different careers. A great place to find out about any job available in the US is to browse the [Dictionary of Occupational Titles](#).

- ❑ Go to your local library and ask your research librarian to help you.
- ❑ Ask people you know about their jobs and what they entail.
- ❑ You might even want to see if you can spend a week or so tagging along with an employee in your field of interest.
- ❑ Make a list of the job possibilities that interest you.
- ❑ You might also think about taking an aptitude test. The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is one of the most widely used and does NOT indicate a commitment to join the military.

What's the Game Plan?



As we discussed earlier, the high school years are a time of many firsts and much decision making. Many of the decisions made at this time will have an effect on the rest of your student's future. Don't panic. Just like a good quarterback always has a game plan, so should you. Take things one step at a time. The very first step is figuring out what classes are needed for high school.

Keep in mind that there are certain core subjects that every high school student would be wise to complete. However, there are some states in which the regulations on homeschoolers are much stiffer than for other states. It's always a good idea to [find out what the rules are in your particular state](#).

For the College Bound

The wonderful thing about being a high school homeschooler is that the options are endless for tailoring a high school education to meet future career needs. Electives may consist of courses that will help gain experience in the chosen career field. Students may even decide to [dual-enroll in your local college](#) to get a head start on their degree. Another option would be [interning with a professional](#) to get a feel for the career you are considering. For now, it all starts with the core subjects. For any student who is looking to enter college, you would be wise to make sure you complete 4 credits of language arts, 2-4 credits math, 2-4 credits history/geography, 2-4 credits science, 2-4 credits foreign language.

It is also a good idea, if you have a clue of what college you would like to attend, to [find out which classes they require](#) for high school before they will admit you to their school. I would even suggest checking this for several possible colleges. A traditional four-year plan usually looks something like this:

Ninth Grade: First Semester	Ninth Grade: Second Semester
English	English
Math	Math
Science	Science
History	History
Foreign Language	Foreign Language
Elective Physical	Elective Physical

Tenth Grade: First Semester	Tenth Grade: Second Semester
English	English
Math	Math

Science	Science
History	History
Foreign Language	Foreign Language
Career Oriented Elective	Fine Art Elective

Eleventh Grade: First Semester	Eleventh Grade: Second Semester
English	English
History	History
Math	Math
Science	Science
Fine Art Elective Career	Career Oriented Elective

Twelfth Grade: First Semester	Twelfth Grade: Second Semester
English	English
Math	Math
Science	Science
History	History
Elective	Elective

It's also wise to examine your goals for high school. Answer these questions to help you think these through.

- ☐ What electives are you hoping to take in high school?
- ☐ What extracurricular activities do you want to be involved in?
- ☐ Do you plan to play any sports? If so which ones?
- ☐ Do you hope to have a job during high school?
- ☐ Will you do volunteer work somewhere?
- ☐ Are you going to take advantage of the option to take college classes for free while in high school?
- ☐ What is your plan to fit all this into your schedule?
- ☐ Will you have your own vehicle available to drive or will you have to rely on others for transportation?

Preparing for a 2-Year College

A 2-year college degree is often also called an Associate's Degree. There are high schoolers who mix college level classes with their high school classes to get a head start on their associate's degree even while they are in high school. This is called [dual enrollment](#), and if it's available in your state, you can usually take advantage of it beginning in your junior year. If you already have a busy high school career planned, then this may not be an ideal option. Also, keep in mind that as a college student you will be required to take specific classes in which the material may be more mature than you are ready to deal with. One of the greatest advantages of taking classes at a community college is cost.



Most community college courses are transferable to four-year institutions, but if you are planning on doing some of your coursework at a community college and then transferring to a four-year college afterward, it is important to check with the college you are interested in to make sure they will accept community college credits.

Preparing for a 4-Year College

This is, of course, the way to get a bachelor's degree. If your chosen career requires this level of education, you will need to enroll in a four-year college or university, or transfer to one after community college.

The requirements for gaining admission to a university can be as varied as there are universities in the U.S. That being said, many universities look first and foremost at ACT and/or SAT scores. Again, you can take these tests as many times as you have the cash to pay for them. There are many ways to prepare for these tests from taking a special test prep course to hiring a tutor. Students can start taking these tests as early as 9th grade.

Most 4-year colleges will also look at prospective students' high school grades, extracurricular activities, recommendations from teachers, and the types of classes they took. They want to see well-rounded students who challenge themselves and are community-minded. This is why a transcript is important in giving admissions officers a glimpse of your student's abilities and aptitude.

If you have decided that a four-year college is the right choice for you, your high school homeschool planning should include:

- ❑ planning out [what courses you will need to cover](#) in high school
- ❑ keeping strong records of what coursework is completed in the form of a transcript. See Homeschool.com's Guide to High School Transcripts including a free transcript download.

If you or your student is NOT college bound, you may find that you have even more freedom to tailor your education. Many homeschoolers may not be aware of this, but there are no specific graduation requirements for homeschool students. Of course, you want the very best education possible to secure your future success. But isn't it nice that you aren't forced to fit an educational mold that you just aren't shaped for?

So what are some of the tributaries this path can take?

- Apprenticeships
- Trade schools
- Getting a job
- Starting a business
- Joining the military
- Volunteer service
- You might want to check out the free eBook: "[It's My Life: A Guide to Alternatives After High School](#)" for even more ideas of alternate post-graduation paths.

For the Non-College Bound

Vocational and Trade Schools

If you are looking at a career in a specific trade, this may be your best route. For instance, if you want to become a hairdresser or an electrician, a trade school is pretty much the only way to gain the knowledge you'll need. You will also not be compelled to take classes that have nothing to do with your field of study.

Many people opt for this avenue because you can earn your degree more

quickly and with a far lower cost. In fact, be very leery of trade schools that cost more than typical colleges. There are many that are “for-profit” and will pretty much soak you for all they can get while not always delivering on their grandiose promises.

You will also need to provide the admissions counselor with your standardized test scores. They may want you to take specific standardized tests as a way to determine which classes you will need to take.



Certificate Programs

This is a twist on the idea of tailoring your secondary education to your career choice. While you are focusing only on the courses that relate to your degree, this is not necessarily the same as learning a trade. Certification can enhance an already earned degree or give you the skills for a very particular vocation. Some certifications can be earned in a matter of weeks while others take longer.

Certification can be gained via online schools or at community colleges as well as traditional colleges. There are even trade schools that offer certification for specific jobs.

Joining the Workforce/Apprenticeship

There is something to be said for getting a job in the vocation of your choice and starting from the ground up. There are some employers who prefer that you come in with little or no experience so that you can learn to do things their way before developing bad habits. I have an aunt who wanted to become a baker. She walked into a local bakery shop and filled

out an application telling her future boss that she was willing to sweep floors in order to learn the business. She is now the manager of one bakery in a major bakery chain.

Some trades actually require the worker to advance through different levels of apprenticeship before they are allowed to handle all the equipment and be considered a master of the trade. In most cases the employer will expect the apprentice to continue working for them for at least a specific amount of time after completing their training. The main advantage of this option is pretty evident. Not only are you learning the trade of your choice but you are getting paid while doing it.

[CareerOneStop](#) is a great site to find apprenticeship programs in your area.

Joining the Military

There is a good reason why many people opt to join the military. Beyond fulfilling a patriotic sense of duty, there are many other advantages to spending time in the military. At the top of our list is the job training you'll receive while in the service. Every branch of the service also provides GI Bill benefits, which can be used after you leave the service. All this, and a chance to travel and see the world!

However there is a flipside! This is not a decision to be made frivolously. There are questions that your student should ask before enlisting:

- ☐ Are you willing to die for your country? Are you willing to kill for your country? Both are very real possibilities.
- ☐ Are you at least nominally fit?
- ☐ Are you willing to relinquish your choices on when you sleep, when you eat, where to live, and where you work for the number of years you are in the service? You will basically BELONG to the government for the time you are in the military.
- ☐ Are you willing to spend extended periods of time away from your family?
- ☐ Are you willing to endure grueling physical training paired with verbally abusive superiors?
- ☐ How are your parents going to feel about you joining?

As someone who has never served in the military, I'm sure others could add to this short list. The point is, count the cost before you join.

If both parents and the student are okay with all of the above, then the next step is speaking to a recruitment officer. You will be expected to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) for which it is advisable to prepare as much as possible. This test designates what options you will have available while in the service.



There are several personal documents which you will likely need to provide to your recruiter. These include a government issued ID such as your driver's license, your social security card, your high school diploma, your birth certificate, any college transcripts, marriage license, medical documents, court documents and adoption documents.

Preparing For the Military While in High School

Since you are still in high school, there are additional ways that you can prepare for a military career. Aside from attending a military academy, unless that's what floats your boat, you can join a JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps). This can help you to gain many of the disciplines you will employ when you join the military.

JROTC may not be an option for homeschoolers in every state. The reason for this is that most JROTC programs are closely tied to the school system in which they are offered. This can result in homeschoolers being denied access. If this is the case, an alternative is the Civil Air Patrol.

Civil Air Patrol of course affiliated with the Air Force. They provide emergency services, cadet programs, and aerospace education. Their cadet programs provide plenty of activities to fit a wide range of interests.

Advancing through both JROTC and Civil Air Patrol will provide higher ranks upon joining the military. It is important to note, however, that

membership in either of these programs does not force the participant to join the military later on.

When it comes to scholarships and other financial aid, most teens have guidance counselors to help them sort it all out. As homeschoolers we don't have that luxury. So where does a homeschool teen begin looking for scholarships and such? That is actually a loaded question which cannot be fully addressed here. However, I will try to give you a few tips to get you pointed in the right direction. For this section, I encourage both parents and students to read together and determine a future path.

Scholarships, Grants, & Other Financial Help



Scholarships

Just like we discussed in the section on getting into college, the best way to get a scholarship is to make good grades and show that you are a leader. People who award scholarships want to feel that they are making a good investment in someone who will make a difference in the world.

As far as finding scholarships, the internet can prove a huge resource for research. It may behoove you to go through an online scholarship search engine. Just make sure to authenticate the information they are providing. Things change quickly in the world of scholarships. What you are viewing may already be outdated so be careful to find a search engine that keeps their information consistently up to date. [FastWeb](#) and

[Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com) are a couple to get started.

Grants

A grant is similar to a scholarship in that you will never have to pay it back. Grants are a bit different than scholarships in that they are usually based on financial need rather than how well the student performs. Grants can also be awarded to people of specific ethnicities or are part of a specialized student group (such as disabled learners, first generation college students or single moms). Some grants are given to pupils who are going into certain trades or careers.

You will need to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid). The best time to submit this is early in January since that's when the limited funds become available. You can go online to complete [the FAFSA here](#). There may be other forms to fill out as well to be sure that you don't miss out on any financial help that may be available to you. There are plenty of sites online to help you.

Loans

There are no end of financial institutions willing to hand out student loans. Unless you have scored an all expenses paid scholarship or your parent's invested in a prepaid college plan for you, chances are that you will need to seek out some sort of student loan. Obviously, this is money that will need to be repaid once your education is complete. For that reason, it might be best to seek out the advice of your family CPA or the financial aid counselors at each college you are applying to when it comes to this portion of paying for your college expenses.

Choosing a High School Curriculum

There are five main curriculum types – you can choose one or a mix if that meets your teen's needs. For example, you might mix textbooks and an online program. One curriculum doesn't work against the other; together they form a well-rounded educational experience.

- **Online curricula:** Many high school students enjoy video games on phones and tablets. If that's true for your teens, an online curriculum makes perfect sense. Some online educational systems have web-based multimedia lessons, automatic grading, interactive activities, and printable worksheets. They may even have online assessments, answer keys, teacher guides, and progress reports for home education. Do your research and find one that fits your needs.
- **Traditional textbooks:** Teaching from textbooks is a style of education that many people are familiar with. Textbook packages often include resource

materials such as a scope and sequence, and an educators' manual. This typically includes teaching strategies, a student book with content explanations and examples, and a practice workbook.

- **Literature-based curricula:** This system incorporates fiction books (both classic and contemporary) into the teaching approach.
- **Unit studies:** This system is often used for single subjects. But some families build their whole curriculum program using short-term studies on specific themes. Usually, a unit study outline is included, and parents are responsible for gathering the books and materials.
- **Video curricula:** Watching videos of teacher-led courses that copy the instruction a student might receive in a regular classroom is also a method parents use.

Many parents use a mix, something that's called an eclectic approach. Whatever suits your purposes and suits your high schooler's learning style is completely fine.

Plan Your Daily Routine

Planning a daily routine is important, but it's also important to keep the needs of the individual in mind. Plan your day to fit your family's personality. Sarah, a homeschooler of a tenth-grade student, remembers when her daughter started her freshman year:

"She was up in the dark sometimes. She liked to shower in the morning but soon started to shower the night before so she could get an extra half hour of sleep. I remember her walking out to the bus stop just after the sun was rising. All the other teens looked tired. She would take a nap after school but was drowsy for the rest of the day. She didn't mind the morning as much during middle school, but it started bothering her as she got older. I decided that these hours just didn't fit her needs. The teachers would rush through the lessons because they were required to stay on schedule. She always needed extra help keeping up. That's when I started investigating homeschooling. My daughter is pretty independent, so I knew she would get her schoolwork done at home. Now she wakes up around 9 a.m. cleans up her room and starts her daily studies on the computer. She's not tired all the time now and she's happy."

There are many examples of high school homeschoolers who wake up later in the morning. Some even start school in the afternoon or evening. It all depends on your family's lifestyle and your student's personality and needs. Some teenagers need more

structure; others are independent workers. There's no correct schedule, just the one that works for you and your children.

New homeschoolers may not understand this yet and some veteran homeschoolers may need a reminder – you have flexibility. If you realize a few weeks into the new year that the schedule needs tweaking, then tweak away! Finding the right schedule doesn't happen overnight.

For example, you may want a four-day school week, or, if you're a working parent, you might give your children a weekday off and hold school for half a day on Saturday. Use a [daily homeschool planner](#) to jot down your ideas and talk them over with your teens. Now that they're getting older, they should have a say in the scheduling.

Record Keeping and Credits

One of the chief concerns of parents who homeschool a child during the high school years is tracking their progress. Credits, transcripts, and college prep can feel daunting if you've never handled those aspects of education before. When you start on the path to homeschooling, take some time to learn the best practices for keeping records for your student. To start, you might be interested to know these things.

- Unless your student is enrolled in a private distance education program, you as the parent are in charge of [assigning credits](#) to coursework.
- Similarly, parents of homeschoolers are also in charge of creating a transcript for their high schooler. If your student doesn't graduate as a homeschooler, the transcript will be helpful to any school they may re-enroll in during their high school years.
- Deciding what credits your homeschooler needs depends on the path they plan to take after high school. If your teen is unsure of that path, you'll want to cover as many bases as possible.
- Determination of when your student has enough credits to graduate is up to you. However, it's a good idea to note the [general credit requirements of your particular state](#). Those will likely be what state colleges and other higher education institutions will be looking for.
- If your student graduates as a homeschooler, the homeschool diploma is issued by you, unless the student is enrolled in a diploma-issuing online or distance education program.

Using Portfolios for High School

Some states require a [homeschool portfolio](#). The portfolio documents your child's progress. It shows what your child has learned, how it was taught, the resources used,

and how much your child progressed over the year. Depending on your state laws, these portfolios are sometimes reviewed by a state representative. If your state requires a portfolio, you should:

- Decide how you will present your portfolio. Many parents use three-ring binders, accordion files, or keep electronic portfolios.
- Find out what should be included in the portfolio. Many states require writing samples, a daily, weekly, or monthly log of activities, lesson samples, a list of books, videos and other supplements used.
- Include extracurricular activities such as field trip information, sports, theatre, volunteer work – and don't forget awards and achievements.

Whether you are a new homeschooler or a veteran, the portfolio for many becomes a keepsake. It is a document of all the things your child accomplished over four years. You can keep it and remember the time you spent with your growing teenager.

Making Homeschooling High School Affordable

If you've begun researching online schools, curriculum packages, and local classes, you may have begun to feel that homeschooling will get expensive. The truth is, though, that if you are willing to be creative, you can teach your high schooler at home quite affordably.

Kay, a homeschooling mom of high school junior, Matt, shares her story.

"Our first year of high school we enrolled in a tuition-based online school that nearly pushed our financial situation to the brink. After a year of homeschooling, though, I began to feel confident enough to actually pick and choose curriculum options. Not only were they much less expensive, but they fit Matt's interests better. Now that we've added in free dual enrollment classes at our local community college, homeschool costs a fourth of what we paid the first year. It's been a learning curve, for sure--but a good one!"

So, how can you homeschool without breaking the bank? Here are some innovative options.

- **MIT OPENCOURSEWARE from the Massachusetts Institution of Technology.** The notion behind this courseware is explained by Dick K.P. Yue, Professor, MIT School of Engineering. "The idea is simple: to publish all of our course materials

online and make them widely available to everyone.” Click on this [link](#) for more information.

- **Open Learning at Harvard:** Harvard explains it this way: “At Harvard Extension School, free and open learning is hardly a new concept. In fact, the Extension School was founded with this mission in mind: to create an affordable way for any motivated student to take courses at Harvard.” For more information click this [link](#).
- **Dual-Enrollment:** This is a great way to save money now and later. As discussed above, there are lots of resources to help you with this on Homeschool.com.
- **Apprenticeship:** If your child is interested in learning a trade or testing out a career choice to see if they enjoy it or not, an apprenticeship is ideal. Check out this [Apprenticeship guide](#).
- **AP/CLEP Testing:** We all know that college tuition and fees are expensive. Here’s a way to cut those expenses! AP stands for Advanced Placement courses and CLEP is a College Level Examination Program. Your students can gain college credit by examination. For further information, check out [our article on AP and CLEP testing](#).
- **Curriculum Swaps:** Many local homeschool groups will schedule curriculum swaps during the year. Families who have finished with a particular program can trade with others in the same boat. Groups with the space may even host a curriculum “library” for families to check out and use materials as needed.
- **Online Subscriptions:** While purchasing a full year’s curriculum package may be good for some families, it certainly isn’t for all. Explore curricula such as [Time4Learning](#) that offer many courses for a single monthly subscription fee.
- Using the Library
- Video based learning: sites like [Coursera](#) or [The Great Courses Plus](#) are perfect for high school learning.

“Homeschoolers, in most states, have been granted the authority and freedom to be the “teacher of record” and to grant their own diplomas when finished with high school. Given that privilege, the need for accreditation is diminished. In addition, most colleges and universities are aware of that freedom for homeschoolers and they don’t even ask about accredited status. The key is creating a transcript that describes and showcases what your student studied during the course of high school. Then, colleges and universities aren’t as concerned about the validity of the student’s education. Of course, SAT/ACT scores back up what is seen on the transcript so those work as validation as well.” Tonya, MI

Appendix of Homeschool Resources

All of these resources can be found on [Homeschool.com](https://www.homeschool.com).

 STUDENT REPORT CARD						
Student Name:			Homeschool Name:		School Logo or Image	
School Year:	Student Grade:					
Days Attended:	Days Absent:	Homeschool Address:				
Teacher Name:						
Principal Name:						
Teacher Signature:			Principal Signature:			
Course	Level	Credits	Sem. 1	Sem. 2	Final Grade	Comments
	Total Credits:					
Course Level Key		Credit Key		Grading Scale Key		
Honors Course	HN	1 semester course	.5 credits	Grade	Low %	High %
Advanced Placement Course	AP	2 semester course	1 credit	A	0.9	1
				B	0.8	0.89
				C	0.7	0.79
				D	0.6	0.69
College Prep Course	CP			F	Below 60%	

Official High School Transcript			
Dual Enrollment - Honors/ College Classes			
Date Started:	Date Ended:	Credits/Grade:	Location/Notes:
Standardized Testing Information			
Test:	Date Taken:	Score:	Location/Notes:
Activities, Awards, Achievements, Hobbies, Volunteer Work, etc.			
Date Started:	Date Ended:	Notes:	

Official High School Transcript

Student Information			School/Institution Information		
Full Name:			School Name:		
Home Address:			Address:		
City, State, Zip:			City, State, Zip:		
Phone Number:			Phone Number:		
Student DOB:			Fax Number:		
Parent/Guardian Name:			Email:		

Student Academic Record

School Year:		Grade Level:		School Year:		Grade Level:	
Course Name & Description		Credits Earned	Final Grade	Course Name & Description		Credits Earned	Final Grade
Total Credits:		GPA:	Cumulative GPA:	Total Credits:		GPA:	Cumulative GPA:
School Year:		Grade Level:		School Year:		Grade Level:	
Course Name & Description		Credits Earned	Final Grade	Course Name & Description		Credits Earned	Final Grade
Total Credits:		GPA:	Cumulative GPA:	Total Credits:		GPA:	Cumulative GPA:

Official High School Transcript

Activities, Awards, Achievements, Hobbies, Volunteer Work, etc. (continued)

Date Started:	Date Ended:	Notes:

Attendance

Grade:	9	10	11	12
Present:				
Absent:				

Academic Summary

Cumulative GPA:	Diploma Earned:
Credits Earned:	Graduation Date:

Grading Scale

A+ 98 (4.00)	A 94 (4.00)	A- 90 (3.70)	B+ 87 (3.33)	B 84 (3.00)	B- 80 (3.00)	Pass/Fail Courses 70% Min. Passing Grade
C+ 77 (2.30)	C 74 (2.00)	C- 70 (1.70)	D+ 67 (1.30)	D 64 (1.00)	D- 60 (0.70)	

This certifies that the information herein is complete and accurate.

Signature: _____ Title: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Homeschool Credit Planner for College Admissions



English (4 credits)	May choose to cover: Grammar and Composition, Literature, Public Speaking, Research and Reporting	Credit One:	
		Credit Two:	
		Credit Three:	
		Credit Four:	
Mathematics (3-4 credits)	Need at least: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and preferably an advanced math	Credit One:	
		Credit Two:	
		Credit Three:	
		Credit Four:	
Science (3-4 credits)	May choose to cover: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics; at least one of these should be a lab course	Credit One:	
		Credit Two:	
		Credit Three:	
		Credit Four:	
Social Studies (3-4 credits)	May choose to cover: World History, US Government & Civics, U.S. History or Economics	Credit One:	
		Credit Two:	
		Credit Three:	
		Credit Four:	
Foreign Language (2-3 credits)	At least two credits of the same language	Credit One:	
		Credit Two:	
		Credit Three:	
Health & Phys Ed (1-2 credits)	Health is often counted as 1/2 credit	Credit One:	
		Credit Two:	
Electives (3-4 credits)	May choose from subjects such as computer science, SAT Prep, Debate, Fine Arts, Bible, Career Prep, etc.	Credit One:	
		Credit Two:	
		Credit Three:	
		Credit Four:	

Calculating a Student's GPA

Original version by Lisa B. Potter [2006] – reprinted with permission

The GPA (Grade Point Average) is usually included on a high school transcript. Most colleges want to know an

applicant's GPA. Some colleges use the high school GPA to determine eligibility for an "academic scholarship

discount" from tuition.

The GPA is normally calculated on a 1-4 scale. This is what the numbers mean:

4.0 = A- to A+

3.0 = B- to B+

2.0 = C- to C+

1.0 = D- to D+

0.0 = Failing

Some high schools weight the GPA, if the student took Honors or AP courses, adding anywhere from 1.0-1.7

points to grades earned in those courses. For homeschoolers, most colleges will not recognize these unless the

Honors or AP course was taken from an outside source (verifiable as AP, etc.) or the AP or SAT 2 (tests) taken

afterward demonstrated a sufficiently high score. So, for the most part, consider not using a weighted GPA and

identify the GPA as "not weighted" on the college applications.

A normal one year course = 120-150 hours of academic instruction.

This would be equivalent to 1.0 unit or 1.0 credit in high school.

- 0.75 credit or unit may be given to a student when they worked on a subject for 90+ hours
(because $0.75 \times 120 \text{ hrs} = 90 \text{ hrs}$).
- 0.5 credit or unit may be given to a student when they worked on a subject for 60+ hours
(because $0.5 \times 120 \text{ hrs} = 60 \text{ hrs}$).
- 0.25 credit or unit may be given to a student when they worked on a subject for 30+ hours
(because $0.75 \times 120 \text{ hrs} = 30 \text{ hrs}$).

Each course listed on the transcript should list the course name, the grade earned and the number of credits

earned (order is not important). Example: Astronomy grade: B- 0.5 credits

Then, use this information to calculate the GPA.

Multiply the grade point value from the chart above by the credits earned for each course. Add all of these

products together.

Separately, add together the total number of credits earned.

Divide the first total by the total credits earned to find the Total GPA.

List the Total GPA somewhere on the transcript.

Next, let's look at a sample calculation and a worksheet.

Sample Worksheet for Calculating a Student's GPA

4.0 = A- to A+ 3.0 = B- to B+ 2.0 = C- to C+ 1.0 = D- to D+ 0.0 = Failing

Sample Transcript Data:	Grade Values:	Calculations:
English Composition	C - 1.0 credit - C = 2.0	$2.0 \times 1.0 \text{ cr.} = 2.0$
World History-Ancient	B - 0.5 credit - B- = 3.0	$3.0 \times 0.5 \text{ cr.} = 1.5$
World History-Modern	C+ - 0.5 credit - C+ = 2.0	$2.0 \times 0.5 \text{ cr.} = 1.0$
Algebra 1	B+ 1.0 credit - B+ = 3.0	$3.0 \times 1.0 \text{ cr.} = 3.0$
Physical Science	A - .0 credit A- = 4.0	$4.0 \times 1.0 \text{ cr.} = 4.0$
Astronomy	A - 0.5 credit - A = 4.0	$4.0 \times 0.5 \text{ cr.} = 2.0$
Spanish 1	C - 0.75 credit - C = 2.0	$2.0 \times 0.75 \text{ cr.} = 1.5$
P.E./Soccer	A+ - 0.25 credit - A+=4.0	$4.0 \times 0.25 \text{ cr.} = 1.0$

Total of Credits Earned = 5.50 credits Sum Units = 16.0

Total GPA Calculated = Sum Units ÷ Total Credits (usually rounded to 3 digits).