

## **Nonpublic School Reporting Requirements to Resident School Districts**

A parent who teaches homeschool is required to file either a Full Report or a Letter of Intent to Continue Homeschooling. Families should verify their reporting requirements by visiting the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) website: [MDE - Homeschool Information](#).

In accordance with state law, Lake of the Woods School is required to ensure that all school-age children living within the district's boundaries are being educated. The district's primary role is to be certain that families choosing to homeschool are in compliance. Certain information is required to be reported annually to the school district in which you reside. You may use the suggested forms that are available on the MDE website or contact Lake of the Woods School. This reporting requirement is due to your resident district by October 1.

### **How old do you have to be to homeschool in Minnesota?**

Minnesota requires homeschoolers to follow these rules:

1. Parents are "qualified" to teach their own children in Minnesota (If someone other than the parent will be teaching, he or she must possess specific credentials.)
2. Submit an Initial Report to Superintendent by Oct 1st for all children older than 7 years old and within 15 days of withdrawing your child from a public school to homeschool; and/or within 15 days of moving into a new school district.
3. Submit a Letter of Intent to Continue Homeschooling to the superintendent by Oct 1st each year for all children 7 through 17 being sure to include any changes.

Homeschool families have the opportunity to apply for limited educational aid. To be eligible for reimbursement, the [Student Report for Aids to Nonpublic Students](#) form must be completed and turned in to the Lake of the Woods School by October 1. No late forms will be accepted.

### **Accredited by a state-recognized accrediting agency**

If your nonpublic school is currently accredited by a Minnesota-state recognized accrediting agency, Minnesota's Compulsory Instruction statutes (sections [120A.22](#), [120A.24](#) and [120A.26](#)) require you to submit the name, birthdate and address of each student ages 7-17 to each student's resident public school superintendent by October 1 of each year. Because of your accreditation, you are waived from the requirement to come to an agreement on a nationally normed achievement test.

### **Unaccredited by a state-recognized accrediting agency**

If your nonpublic school is not accredited by a Minnesota-state recognized agency, Minnesota's Compulsory Instruction statutes (sections [120A.22](#), [120A.24](#) and [120A.26](#)) require you to submit the name, birthdate and address of each student ages 7-17 as well as instructor qualifications to each student's resident public school superintendent by October 1 of each year. You also must come to an agreement with the superintendent on a nationally normed achievement test each year.

**Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, public schools are obligated to locate, evaluate, and identify all children with disabilities, including those students voluntarily enrolled in and

attending nonpublic schools (i.e homeschool or private school). Lake of the Woods School also stands ready to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to non-public students who qualify for special education services.

The following is intended to provide an overview of the special education rights, called procedural safeguards, which are available to parents who have unilaterally enrolled a child with a disability in a nonpublic school. These same procedural safeguards are also available for students with disabilities who have reached the age of 18, who remain eligible for special education and who have enrolled themselves in a nonpublic school.

Upon request, your local public school will provide information to concerned parents on specific disabilities including information about the educational or behavioral characteristics of each disability. Parents who believe their child may indeed have a disability may request information on how to arrange for an evaluation through the district's special education staff. The evaluation will be designed to determine whether the child has a disability as defined by special education eligibility criteria in Minnesota Rule (MR) 3525.

Parents of students who are evaluated and are found to be eligible for special education services will become part of a team, which will develop, implement and monitor the effectiveness of a Service Plan to meet the identified needs of their children. The district will offer Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and a plan of services that meets all instructional needs, and will stand ready to provide FAPE if parents choose to reject services.

If you have questions or would like to receive information about specific disabilities, evaluations, or other related questions throughout the school year, please contact Jeff Nelson, Superintendent at 218-634-2735 ext. 1506 or [jeff\\_n@lakeofthewoodsschool.org](mailto:jeff_n@lakeofthewoodsschool.org) . Your school district is committed to success for all learners.

This notice is not intended to address a parent's specific rights in a particular factual situation. If you need help understanding this notice or anything about your child's education, please contact Jeff Nelson, Superintendent at 218-634-2735 ext. 1506 or [jeff\\_n@lakeofthewoodsschool.org](mailto:jeff_n@lakeofthewoodsschool.org) .

Homeschool paperwork should be mailed to:

Lake of the Woods School #390  
Attn: Jeff Nelson, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 310  
Baudette, MN 56623