

## ARIZONA

- Compulsory Attendance Ages:** “Between 6 and 16.” Arizona Revised Statutes Annotated § 15-802 (A). If a child who will attend homeschool has not reached eight years of age by September 1 of the school year, the person who has custody may exempt that child from the compulsory attendance law by filing an affidavit of intent to not begin homeschool instruction.
- Required Days of Instruction:** Does not apply to homeschools. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-802(B)(2).
- Required Subjects:** Reading, grammar, math, social studies and science. Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-802(A).

**Home School Statute:** Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-802.

1. The parent or guardian must file an affidavit of intent to homeschool with the county school superintendent within 30 days after home schooling begins.
2. An affidavit of intent is not required thereafter unless the homeschool is terminated and then resumed. The parent or guardian shall notify the county school superintendent within 30 days of the termination of homeschooling that the child is no longer being instructed at home. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-802(C).
3. A homeschool that operates under the homeschool statute is not a private school. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-802(F).
4. The affidavit of intent shall include: the child’s name, the child’s date of birth, the current address of the school the child is attending, the names, telephone numbers and addresses of the persons who currently have custody of the child. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-802(B)(2).
5. The parent or person with custody must also provide the county school superintendent either a “certified copy of the child’s birth certificate” or “[o]ther reliable proof of the child’s identity and age” along with an affidavit explaining inability to provide a copy of the birth certificate.” § 15-828(B).

**Teacher Qualifications:** None. The parent/teacher’s test requirement was repealed in 1991.

**Standardized Tests:** The standardized test and optional evaluation requirement was repealed in 1995 by Arizona Senate Bill 1348.

**Religious Freedom Act:** A.R.S. § 41-1493 et seq.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), passed with the help of HSLDA members, gives religious home schoolers another legal means to protect their right to home school. If the parents' free exercise of religion is substantially burdened by having to comply with the homeschool law, the parents may use the RFRA as a defense or file suit against the state. Under this statute, the burden is on the state to prove that its requirement "furthers a compelling state interest" and is the "least restrictive means" of fulfilling its interest that children be educated. This Act restores the highest protection of the individual's right to freely exercise his religious beliefs taken away by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1997 *City of Boerne* decision. 520 U.S. 507.

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