

Homeschooling  
in the state of



**COLORADO**

by: Erica @ Confessions

## Homeschooling in Colorado

Hi, I'm Erica from Confessions of a Homeschooler. I'm so excited to be able to help other homeschoolers with this eBook on homeschooling in the beautiful state of Colorado! I hope you find this book a blessing to your homeschooling journey, and if you're ever in my area, make sure to say "hi" if we run into each other!

I know that homeschooling in general can be a very daunting task. All of the curriculum choices, lesson planning, learning styles, and self-doubt that surround us as we start out can be discouraging. It is my vision to help make the process of homeschooling a little bit easier and take some of the "mystery" and stress out of homeschooling.

So let's get started with homeschooling in Colorado...

### Homeschool Laws

While you don't have to be a lawyer to homeschool, you will at the very least need a basic knowledge of your state laws and requirements for homeschooling. Each state is different, so you'll want to make sure that you are following your specific state requirements.

One of the best places to learn about your state's homeschooling laws is by visiting the [Homeschool Legal Defense Association](#). They have current homeschooling information, laws, and general information on getting started as well.

### Basic questions to research when beginning to homeschool:

- At what age is a student required to start formal school?
- What are the requirements for attendance? (*i.e. How many days per year are you required to do school.*)
- What is the amount of hours required per year?
- What kind of records do I have to keep each year?
- What subjects do I have to teach?
- Is there a certain curriculum required?
- What requirements or qualifications must I have to teach my children at home?
- What is the age of attendance? (*Most states require school attendance by 6 years of age, but again states may vary.*)
- Is a [Notice of Intent](#) to homeschool required? If so when and where do you need to submit it? (*There is a Notice of Intent form in the Appendix of this Book.*)

- Is [Standardized Testing](#) required? If so, when and where do you send results?
- Are you required to “withdraw” from public school? *If your students are currently enrolled in a school district you may be required to officially withdraw them from the school, then submit your notice of intent to homeschool prior to starting.*

In the state of Colorado a parent intending to establish a non-public, home-based educational program for their child is required to comply with the following rules.

### **Reporting:**

- Provide written notification of intent to homeschool to any district in the state for any student reaching age six on or before August 1 of each year. This notification must be submitted annually as long as the child is being homeschooled. This notification can be sent to any [Colorado public school district office](#) and must be submitted yearly until after your child is sixteen years of age.
- Written notification must be given 14 days prior to starting your homeschool program. It must list the child’s name, age, place of residence, and attendance hours.
- Establish a home-based educational program when your child turns seven years of age.

### **Attendance:**

- A homeschool program must have no less than 172 days per year averaging four instructional hours per day.

### **Subject Requirements:**

In the state of Colorado, each year’s syllabus should include communication skills of reading, writing and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States.

### **Record Keeping:**

Annual records must include at a minimum attendance data, test and evaluation results, and immunization records. These records must be sent to the school district that has also received your notification of intent to homeschool your child.

## Testing:

In Colorado, homeschooled students must take either a nationally standardized achievement test or an assessment/evaluation test when they reach grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven to evaluate their academic progress. This test may be administered by a parent meeting the proper requirements or by a certified test administrator.

For more information regarding Colorado homeschooling laws, please visit the [Colorado Department of Education](http://Colorado Department of Education) website or visit [HSLDA.org](http://HSLDA.org).

*Disclaimer: I am not a legal attorney, nor do I have a degree in law. The information contained in this Book is what I have gleaned from my own research and should not be taken as legal advice. If you have any questions regarding homeschooling, please refer to the laws in accordance with your own state, or seek professional legal counsel.*

## Field Trips & Educational Places

Chances are there are several educational opportunities within the rich resources of your local community. A little research can go a long way to creating memorable hands on educational trips for your students. As you create your schedule for the year, make a list of field trips that will enhance your learning. Before showing up, contact the coordinator for the site. Many places offer a discount for homeschooling families or groups.

Don't forget to check with local companies, many offer free tours of their facilities. For example our local nursery offers free tours along with a project for small groups. We were able to get a tour of the grounds along with a personal guide who explained all about various plants, soil types, and plant care. We finished our tour with a hands-on activity where the students each potted their own small plant to take home.

## Here are just a few of our state's fine attractions!

- [Botanical Gardens](#) – Enjoy a beautiful variety of plant life at the Denver Botanical Gardens, they even have a rainforest exhibit! Check the website for special group pricing as well as educational programs and tours.
- [Butterfly Pavilion](#) – Take an adventure into the world of butterflies and insects at the Butterfly Pavilion. Students can see insects and butterflies up close. Check their website for current events. Located in Westminster, CO.
- [Cave of the Winds](#): With two different tours to choose from, Cave of the Winds is a adventurous tour through caves and taverns where you'll



witness some of the wonders of the underground world! Located in Colorado Springs, CO

- [Cheyenne Mountain Zoo](#) – This zoo features up close animal exhibits as well as many interactive events as well. Students can feed giraffes as well as birds, and you can expect to see some unique animals on your visit here. The zoo offers various educational tours and programs, visit their website for more information. Located in Colorado Springs, CO
- [Colorado Kids Activity and Family Vacation Guide](#)
- [Colorado State Capital](#) – Visit the Colorado State Capital building for a tour where students learn about early Colorado history, Capitol construction, and a visit to see the Senate and House of Representatives. The facility offers historical tours, Mr. Brown's Attic tours, Legislative Tours, and general building tours free of charge.
- [Cripple Creek Narrow Gauge Railroad](#) – You'll learn all about pioneer days of railroading as you take a 45 minute trip through the gold mining district on the Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad.
- [Crow Canyon Archaeology Adventures](#) – A hands-on adventure exploring Mesa Verde, for students 10+, or families. Located in Cortez, CO 1-800-422-8975
- [Denver \(United States\) Mint](#) – Take a tour of the United States Mint located in Denver, Colorado. Tours welcome students of all ages to come and see the present state of coin manufacturing and the history of the Mint. They will learn about the "craftsmanship required at all states of the minting process from the original designs and sculptures to the actual striking of the coins"
- [Denver Museum of Nature & Science](#) – The Denver Museum has various exhibits depending on the time of year, check with their website for special group pricing and events. Located in Denver, CO
- [Denver Zoo](#) – Come see some of the coolest animals around at the Denver zoo! They also offer family and educational programs, zoo camps and many other educational activities! Located in Denver, CO
- [Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad & Museum](#) – Take a train ride on the historic Denver & Rio Grande Railway which was first founded in 1880. It is estimated over \$300 million in precious metals has been transported across this route.
- [Focus on the Family](#) – Take a tour through the kids' play area featuring a three-story slide, Wit's End Soda Shoppe, and bookstore as you learn more about the Focus on the Family Ministry. Located in Colorado Springs, CO.
- [Garden of the Gods](#) – Take a guided tour, or hike on your own as you view some of the most beautiful of God's creations here in Colorado! You

can expect to see not only glorious landscape, but also a variety of plant life and wild life. Located in Colorado Springs, CO.

- [History Colorado Center](#) – This museum offers tours based on Colorado historical events and people, it includes various exhibits and events. Check their website for current attractions. Located in Denver, CO
- [Littleton Historic Museum](#) – This museum offers free tours of their 1860's and 1890's living farms. They feature a museum with four galleries, educational classrooms, as well as hands-on tours and activities for families and groups. The museum is located in Littleton, CO
- [Manitou Cliff Dwellings](#) – Tour the fascinating cliff dwellings of the Anasazi, they also have two museums featuring cultural displays. Located in Manitou Springs, CO
- [Mesa Verde National Park](#) – Tour the spectacular lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people where you'll view amazing archaeological sites, including the best preserved cliff dwellings in the United States.
- [NCAR](#) – Visit the National Center for Atmospheric Research where students can learn more about NCAR's mission and all about atmospheric science. NCAR offers many varying tours and events, visit their website for more information. Located in Boulder, CO
- [NOAA](#) – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration offers guided tours for students ages Kindergarten – 12 and university level students. The tour includes stops at the space weather prediction center, global monitoring division, the National Weather Service Forecast, and Science on a Sphere. Located in Boulder, CO
- [Pikes Peak](#) – Enjoy spectacular scenery, Manitou cliff dwellings, horseback riding, biking, and exploring the beautiful Pikes Peak area. You can also ride on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway to the top of the mountain where you enjoy breathtaking views! Located in Colorado Springs, CO.
- [Royal Gorge Bridge and Park](#) – Enjoy breathtaking scenery as you learn how the Royal Gorge was created. The park offers more than 360 acres and 21 rides, shows, and attractions. Please call before going as weather can affect its availability. Located in Canyon City, CO.

## Support Groups

Homeschooling co-ops are a great way to meet other homeschoolers, as well as pool resources. Many offer activities like spelling bees, presentation days, and geography and science fairs. Some even offer a variety of classes where students are able to use a more expensive curriculum at a discounted rate. And

still others offer things like computer classes and science labs that would otherwise be too expensive for one family to afford. By making use of a co-op you can also draw on the expertise of other homeschooling parents, create opportunities for new friendships among students, and parents alike.

- [Christian Home Educators of Colorado](#) - Colorado
- [Heart 2 Heart Homeschooling](#) - Aurora
- [Brighton Options Homeschool k-12](#) - Brighton
- [Academy Charter School Homeschool Support Program](#) – Castle Rock
- [Academy District 20: Home School Academy Programs](#) – Colorado Springs
- [eDCSD Online Education](#) – Douglas County
- [Mountain Vista Home School Academy](#) – El Paso County
- [Rocky Mountain Homeschoolers](#) – Fort Collins
- [Longmont Homeschool Group](#) – Longmont
- [Parker Christian Home Educators](#) - Parker
- [Common Grounds Homeschoolers](#) – South Denver

## Conventions & Fairs

Regardless of our income, we all want to get a good deal on school materials. Whenever possible we purchase used teacher's manuals, student text books, and supplies. Not only does buying used save money, but it also makes parting with materials that aren't working for your family less painful!

My number one purchasing spot is at our annual used curriculum fair. I take my handy price sheet with me, so that I can easily decide if the cost of the used item is a good deal or not. It also helps in bartering with the seller. I typically purchase teacher's manuals for my oldest student at the used fairs as well as any other fun items that will benefit our homeschool. I HIGHLY recommend taking a list with you, as it's very easy to get overwhelmed with the amount of products found at a used fair. When buying used, make sure to determine if you can get associated workbooks for older versions of curriculum before purchasing.

Here is a list of Colorado curriculum fairs and homeschooling conventions to keep your eye out as you get ready for your year!

- [Christian Home Educators of Colorado](#)
- [Loveland Curriculum Fair](#)
- [Homeschool Conventions](#)
- [Teach Them Diligently](#)

## Colorado teacher supply stores:

While online shopping is my typical go to, there's something inspiring about browsing through an actual store filled with educational products!

It also gives you a chance to see materials in person, ruffle through pages, and engage with educational toys, books, and other materials hands-on.

Colorado has a few good teacher supply stores located across the state. And most will allow you to purchase online and ship if you don't have one near you! Here is a list of some of Colorado's best educational stores along with their locations.

- [Barnes & Noble Bookstore](#) – Various locations
- [Beyond the Blackboard](#) – Aurora, CO
- [Bookies Bookstore](#) – Denver, CO
- [Lakeshore Learning](#) – Englewood, CO
- [Mardel's](#) – [Colorado Springs](#) & [Littleton](#), CO
- [Salt & Light Learning](#) – Loveland CO
- [US Toy Company](#) – Englewood, CO

## Online teacher supply stores:

- [Amazon](#)
- [Banks School Supply](#)
- [Discount School Supply](#)
- [Oriental Trading](#)
- [Really Good Stuff](#)

## Online new and used materials:

- [Homeschool Classifieds](#) – an online forum where homeschoolers can buy and sell curriculum
- [eBay](#)
- Local Used Curriculum Fairs (Do an internet search for used fairs in your area.)
- [Half Price Books](#)
- [Half.Com](#) – Like eBay, but you can sell books without any listing charges
- [Amazon](#) - Amazon is a great place to find used materials
- [Christian Book](#) – low prices on educational resources
- [Rainbow Resource](#) – low prices on educational resources



## Free Homeschooling Links:

Along with the local library, the internet can be a very valuable tool for homeschooling on a budget. Not only can you research just about anything you want to for free, there are also several blogs and websites that offer free printables for a variety of topics. Here are some of my favorites:

- [Confessions of a Homeschooler](#) - homeschooling website full of resources, ideas, and curriculum!
- [Deep Space Sparkle](#) – free online art lessons and activities for all ages.
- [Donna Young](#) – a variety of free homeschooling forms, planners, calendars, and lesson ideas.
- [Homeschool Share](#) – free online resource for lapbooking and unit studies.
- [KB Teachers](#) – free online worksheets
- [Lapbook Lessons](#) – free online lapbooking resources
- [Ambleside Online](#): full online curriculum using the Charlotte Mason method of learning
- [Homeschool Freebie of the Day](#): subscribers receive a new homeschool freebie each day
- [Starfall](#): excellent site for teaching reading skills to younger learners

## Colorado Unit Study:

Most states require students to complete a unit on the history of their state during their fourth grade year. I have written a Colorado Unit Study complete with lesson plans and student workbook to help students learn about the history of this beautiful state!

→ [Download the Colorado Unit Study](#)



**Erica** is a Christian, a wife, a mom, and a homeschooler. She authors the homeschooling website, [Confessions of a Homeschooler](#), where she offers tons of free printables, resources, ideas, homeschool curriculum, organizational tips, and more! Feel free to drop by her site for a visit anytime!

*Disclaimer: I am not a legal attorney, nor do I have a degree in law. The information contained in this Book is what I have gleaned from my own research and should not be taken as legal advice. If you have any questions regarding homeschooling, please refer to the laws in accordance with your own state, or seek professional legal counsel.*