



# How to Start Homeschooling in California

Understanding your options

## PSA

### Private School Affidavit Program

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Homeschool parents who file a PSA with the California Department of Education are legally establishing their home and their family as a private school. Through filing the simple, annual online PSA form, and adhering to the straightforward requirements outlined in the affidavit, families remain in full legal compliance as their own private school. It's really that simple.

Why You Might Want to Choose the PSA Option:

Families who privately home educate their children are responsible for selecting and providing all curricular, instructional, and enrichment materials. They are fully, and completely in charge of their children's education. There are no rules, no funds, and no oversight from governmental agencies to structure or limit private homeschooling. Families are free to create the homeschooling life they would like for their children and are able to enjoy all the freedoms and joys that go along with that. This is the reason that most families choose to file a PSA.

Filing Period:

The statutory filing period is October 1 through 15; however, the online PSA filing system is usually open throughout the school year to accommodate new private schools. Private schools established between July 1 and September 30 need to wait to file an affidavit until the PSA filing period begins in October.

## IPS

### Independent Studies through Public & Charter Schools

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A Charter school is a tuition-free public school operating under the terms of a charter with a school district, county, or state department of education. Some charter schools offer only traditional classrooms held at their school site, but others offer Independent Study Programs or hybrid programs with some days spent in a traditional classroom and others spent doing independent study. California Code pertaining to charters offering independent study beings at §51745. California charter schools are allowed to enroll students in their county or in adjacent counties Education Code §47605.1(c).

- Your children will be enrolled in a public school
- Your children will be required to meet regularly with a credentialed teacher
- You will be signing a written learning agreement with the school
- The curriculum you use must be aligned with Common Core standards
- Public school students cannot use religious curriculum to meet educational requirements of the charter.
- Samples of your child's work along with other records will be turned in to the teacher
- The teacher will issue grades
- Charter school students are required to participate in standardized testing and parents are asked to sign a contract at enrollment that states that they will allow their child to be tested.

## PSP

### Private School Satellite Program

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A PSP is a private school that files the Private School Affidavit on behalf of homeschooling families. When you enroll in a PSP you become a teacher (of your own children) in that school.

The administrator of the PSP will collect the required records from families. There may be other requirements, which will be at the discretion of the school.

Some PSPs offer a newsletter and activities like park days and field trips for their members. Some PSPs offer classes or curriculum packages; some have administrators who give guidance. As with all educational choices, it is up to the parent to investigate carefully to make sure the PSP is the best choice for their children.

## Private Tutor

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A child who is being instructed by someone with a California teaching credential for the grade level taught is considered exempt from public school attendance. The child must be taught for at least three hours a day, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., for 175 days each school year in the several branches of study required to be taught by the public schools and in the English language. The instructor may be the parent, as long as he or she has the required California teaching credential. Families homeschooling under this option are not required to file private school affidavits or report any other information to the state.