

How to Find a Homeschool Evaluator in Pennsylvania

Reference: 24 PS 13-1327.1

Choosing an evaluator is as important as choosing curriculum. Your evaluator works for you, not the school district. It is essential that they know what the home education law says. It is also essential that you know what the home education law says. You are responsible to hire an evaluator who is qualified by the definition in the law.

These two lists of homeschool evaluators are updated annually:

www.facebook.com/PAHomeschoolEvaluators

www.chaponline.com/evaluators-by-county

Questions to ask when considering whether an evaluator is a good fit for your family:

<https://chaponline.com/evaluators/questions-to-ask>

Who is qualified to be a homeschool evaluator in Pennsylvania?

1. A licensed clinical psychologist: No teaching or grading experience required in the law.
2. A school psychologist: No teaching or grading experience required in the law.
3. A teacher certified by the Commonwealth with two years of experience grading at the level they evaluate (K-6 and/or 7-12). The law does not specify whether this grading must be done in a public, nonpublic or other type of environment. It does not specify when the grading was done or that it have been done in Pennsylvania.
4. A non-public school teacher with two years of experience grading in Pennsylvania within the last ten years at the level they evaluate (K-6 and/or 7-12).
5. A non-public school administrator with two years of experience grading in Pennsylvania within the last ten years at the level they evaluate (K-6 and/or 7-12).
6. A person with other qualifications: Requires prior consent of the superintendent at the request of the home education supervisor (homeschooling parent). This is often a person who has homeschooled for several years, but it could be someone who has a teaching certificate from another state.

What Does the Law Say About Evaluator Qualifications?

“(i) A teacher or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the elementary level (grades kindergarten through six) shall have at least two years of experience in grading any of the following subjects: English, to include spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania; and civics.

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(ii) A teacher or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the secondary level (grades seven through twelve) shall have at least two years of experience in grading any of the following subjects: English, to include language, literature, speech, reading and composition; science, to include biology, chemistry and physics; geography; social studies, to include economics, civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; foreign language; and mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra, trigonometry, calculus and geometry.

(iii) As used in this clause, the term “grading” shall mean evaluation of classwork, homework, quizzes, classwork-based tests and prepared tests related to classwork subject matter.”

...

“(2) An annual written evaluation of the student’s educational progress as determined by a licensed clinical or school psychologist or a teacher certified by the Commonwealth or by a nonpublic school teacher or administrator. Any such nonpublic teacher or administrator shall have at least two years of teaching experience in a Pennsylvania public or nonpublic school within the last ten years. Such nonpublic teacher or administrator shall have the required experience at the elementary level to evaluate elementary students or at the secondary level to evaluate secondary students. The certified teacher shall have experience at the elementary level to evaluate elementary students or at the secondary level to evaluate secondary students. The evaluation shall also be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio required in clause (1) and shall certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring. At the request of the supervisor, persons with other qualifications may conduct the evaluation with the prior consent of the district of residence superintendent. In no event shall the evaluator be the supervisor or their spouse.”

Print and read the Pennsylvania Home Education Law from one of these sites:

<https://pahomeschoollaw.com/law>

<https://www.ihomeed.com/the-law>

More helpful resources:

<https://hslida.org/legal/pennsylvania>

<https://hslida.org/post/how-to-comply-with-pennsylvanias-homeschool-law>