

What Goes into a Portfolio?

Reference: 24 PS 13-1327.1

What Does the Law Say About Portfolios?

“In order to demonstrate that appropriate education[*] is occurring, the supervisor of the home education program shall provide and maintain on file the following documentation for each student enrolled in the home education program: The portfolio shall consist of a log, made contemporaneously with the instruction, which designates by title the reading materials used, samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the student and in grades three, five and eight results of nationally normed standardized achievement tests in reading/language arts and mathematics or the results of Statewide tests administered in these grade levels.”

This tells us that there are two parts of a portfolio, and sometimes three parts:

1. Log (See my video and resource sheet: www.iHomeEd.com/askDarlene)
2. Samples
3. Standardized Test scores for grades 3, 5 & 8 (See my video and resource sheet: www.iHomeEd.com/askDarlene)

Ask yourself:

What is the minimum requirement?

What else do I want to include in my child's portfolio and why?

* “Appropriate education” shall mean a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects[**] for the time required[***] in this act and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.

** (1) At the elementary school level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires; health and physiology; physical education; music; and art.

(2) At the secondary school level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include language, literature, speech and composition; science; geography; social studies, to include civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra and geometry; art; music; physical education; health; and safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires.

*** A child who is enrolled in a home education program and whose education is therefore under the direct supervision of his parent, guardian or other person having legal custody shall be deemed to have met the requirements of section 1327 if that home education program provides a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction per year at the elementary level, or nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year at the secondary level:

Print and read the Pennsylvania Home Education Law: <https://pahomeschoollaw.com/law>

Other helpful resources: <https://hslda.org/post/the-importance-of-recordkeeping-in-pennsylvania>
<https://phea.net/pa-home-education-portfolios/>