



*“Sheridan County School District Number 2 Faculty, staff, and administration are dedicated to preparing every student with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed for success.”*

# Home-Based School Information Packet 2022-2023

Pursuant to:  
District Board Policy IHBG  
State Law, Wyoming Education Codes  
Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 21-4-101, subsection (a) v and vi and Section 21-4-102, subsection  
(b) “home-based instructional program”

The form to complete annually, “Plan of Instruction for Home-Based Schooling,”  
can be completed online at <https://scsd2.com/parents/homeschool-information>

Sheridan County School District 2  
Office of Curriculum and Assessment  
P.O. Box 919  
Sheridan, WY 82801



**DATE:** April 25, 2022  
**TO:** Home-Based School Parents  
**FROM:** Kristie Garriffa, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Assessment  
**RE:** Home-Based School Packet Overview

This packet contains district policy, state statute and the administrative memoranda. A link to the required annual plan of instruction can be found on the district's website. Please look over this information and submit the plan of instruction before the start of the 2022-2023 school year. We hope this material is of value to you in your plan for home-based schooling.

Note: If you have enrolled your student in a virtual school, such as Wyoming Virtual Academy or Wyoming Connections Academy, completion of this packet is not required.

If you have any questions or comments about this packet, please do not hesitate to call 307-461-5430 or e-mail [amanda.hamilton@scsd2.com](mailto:amanda.hamilton@scsd2.com).



IHBG

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

Home-based educational programs are allowed in Wyoming pursuant to Wyoming Statute §21-4-101 and §21-4-102. Home-based educational programs are permissible for children ages 7 to 16 or those who have not yet completed the tenth grade.

Parents, guardians, or other persons legally responsible for a child residing within the District that desire to educate that child at home must first notify the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment and must submit a written “plan of instruction” before starting the program. The plan shall be consistent with Wyoming State Statutes §21-4-101(a)(vi) and §21-4-102(b).

The plan of instruction must be submitted to the District prior to the child missing days in the district’s schools and annually thereafter. An instructional program provided to more than one family does not constitute a home-based educational program.

Diagnostic testing and services for students with special needs will be provided by the District at an appropriate school in the District.

Children may be re-enrolled in the District at any time. They will be placed in the grade that is age appropriate or according to past education history. They will be subject to reassignment as their abilities are assessed.

If there is any indication that children are not receiving homeschooling, or if the parent has not presented the curriculum to the District, parents shall be liable under the compulsory attendance law, unless the affected child has been enrolled in a public school or a private school as defined by W.S. 21-4-101 (a)(iii) (which may include parochial and church or religious school).

Home school students wishing to participate in WHSAA (Wyoming High School Activities Association) activities must comply with current WHSAA association policies.

Sheridan County School District No. 2 may allow home school students to include public school classes and/or activities as part of their approved homeschool curriculum, in accordance with District procedure IHBG-P. This part-time attendance is permissive, requiring written approval from the superintendent or his/her designee and is subject to the rules and regulations of the District. A Home School Compact shall be entered into by the student and his or her legal parent(s) before the student is allowed to attend class.

Wyoming Statute §21-4-101 and §21-4-102

First Reading: 10-2-17

Second Reading: 11-6-17



IHBG-P

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

This procedure is designed to be the district's implementation process for homeschooled students who desire to include public school classes as part of their approved home based education programs pursuant to Board Policy IHBG.

Students who are residents of the District and who are receiving their education through a home-based educational program may request that the school allow admission of the home-school student to participate in isolated courses offered by the School District.

The School District is not required to accept students who only want to participate in isolated classes without being enrolled as a full-time student within the School District. The School District will, however, consider any request for a home-schooled student to participate in specific classes being offered by the School District. The decision of whether or not to allow such participation is left to the sole discretion of the School District. In the event the School District determines to accept a request for a home-schooled student to participate in specific classes offered by the school, the School District shall require the student and student's parents to comply with the School District's admissions process, including immunization requirements. Students who are allowed to participate in courses offered by the School District shall be subject to all the same policies, rules, regulations and course requirements as are applicable to all other students participating in that class.

Approval for admission into a class requested for the home-school student does not require the School District to approve admission into any other classes. The District may in its sole discretion approve admission into some courses and not others. Priority will be given to full-time enrolled students within the District as to admission into all classes offered by the School District. Admission of homeschooled students will be on a case-by-case basis for each student and each class.

A new request must be made by the home-schooled student and will be evaluated by the School District as to every class or course requested, including an advanced level class or any class that the home-schooled student might have been approved for. Participation in any one class by a home-schooled student will not guarantee participation in any other class.

Home school students desiring to attend public school classes must enroll in and attend a minimum of two periods in secondary schools (high school and/or junior high school) or a minimum of two hours in elementary schools. The school principal and the superintendent or his/her designee must approve of the classes or time periods in which the home school student wishes to enroll. Home school students who wish to attend on a half-time basis (four periods or four hours of instruction), are required to take classes in literacy, mathematics and science, at the grade level consistent with the age and ability of the student. Homeschool students attending school part time are subject to all school district policies.

See also policies: Policy JH

First Reading: 10-2-17

Second Reading: 11-6-17



## Sheridan County School District No. 2 - Home School Compact \*

Home school students are welcome to attend classes in Sheridan County School District No. 2 schools with the understanding that the following rules and guidelines will apply to them while in attendance.

1. The home school program must be registered with the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for School District No. 2 before enrolling in Sheridan County School District No. 2 schools, even for those students who exceed the mandatory attendance age.
2. Home school students understand that there is no guarantee of a high school diploma. Home school students are encouraged to seek credits from accredited institutions or their affiliates, and realize that credits will only be accepted from accredited schools and programs.
3. Students must abide by all school rules as outlined in the student handbook and must complete registration paperwork and pay student fees. A locker will be assigned if needed. The student may attend lunch only if assigned classes are adjacent to lunch.
4. The attendance policy must be adhered to with a limit of 7 absences per semester with parents calling to excuse absences due to illness, bereavement, or family emergencies.
5. A student may arrive no more than five minutes before the registered class convenes and must depart the building within five minutes of the end of the class. Exceptions will be made only with the consent of the principal.
6. Home school students can participate in extracurricular activities such as competitive sports and clubs sanctioned by the Wyoming High School Activities Association (WHSAA). The WHSAA requires a fee; information is available through the Activities Office.
7. Sheridan County School District No. 2 schools reserve the right to schedule homeschool students in back-to-back classes or deny class registration if a desired class is full.
8. Home school students who attend fewer than five classes are considered part-time students and are not entitled to the rights and privileges of full-time students. Arrangements must be made with the principal to attend student-only activities (prom, lunch, dances, fairs and assemblies) that are not open to the public.
9. Because home school students are listed on our attendance and school roster, they will be required to take the state assessment (Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students).

Questions regarding this compact can be addressed to the principal and every effort will be made to clarify the intent of this document. Your signature indicates that you are willing to abide by the rules and guidelines in this document. In order for the student to attend Sheridan County School District No. 2 school on a part-time basis, both the parent and student must sign this compact.

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**Student**

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**Date**

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**Parent/Guardian**

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**Date**

**\*This form is only needed for home-based schooling students enrolling part time in SCSD2 schools.**



**CHAPTER 4**  
**Pupils**  
**ARTICLE 1**  
**COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE**

21-4-101 Definitions

- (a) For the purposes of this article:
- (i) Unexcused absence means the absence, as defined in the policies of the local board of trustees, of any child required by this article to attend school when such absence is not excused to the satisfaction of the board of trustees by the parent, guardian, or other person having control of such child;
  - (ii) Habitual truant means any child with five (5) or more unexcused absences in any one [(1)] school year.
  - (iii) Private school is any nonpublic, elementary or secondary school providing a basic academic educational program for children any may include parochial and church or religious schools and home-based educational programs;
  - (iv) Parochial, church or religious school is one operated under the auspices or control of a local church or religious congregation or denomination established to promote and promulgate the commonly held religious doctrines of the group though it may also include basic academic subjects in its curriculum. Nothing contained in W.S. 21-4-102(b), 21-11-101 or 21-11-106 grants to the state of Wyoming or any of its officers, agencies or subdivisions any right or authority to control, manage, supervise or make any suggestions as to the control, management or supervision of any parochial, church or religious school;
  - (v) A home-based educational program means a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child's parent or legal guardian or by a person designated by the parent or legal guardian. An instructional program provided to more than one (1) family unit does not constitute a home-based educational program;
  - (vi) Basic academic educational program in one that provides a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, civics, history, literature and science. These curriculum requirements do not require any private school or home-based educational program to include in its curriculum any concept, topic or practice in conflict with its religious doctrines or to exclude from its curriculum any concept, topic or practice consistent with its religious doctrines.



21-4-102 When attendance required, exemptions

- (a) Every parent, guardian or other person having control or charge on any child who is a resident of this state and whose seventh birthday falls on or before September 15 of any year and who has not yet attained his sixteenth birthday or completed the eighth grade shall be required to attend a public or private school each year, during the entire time that the public schools shall be in session in the district in which the pupil resides; provided, that the board of trustees of each school district may exempt any child from the operation of this article [21-4-101 to 21-4-107] when :
  - (i) The board believes that compulsory attendance in school would be detrimental to the mental or physical health of such child or the other children in the school; provided, the board may designate at the expense of the district a medical doctor of its choice to guide it and support it in its decision;
  - (ii) The board feels that compulsory school attendance might work undue hardship; or
  - (iii) The child has been legally excluded from the regular schools pursuant to the provisions of section 62 [21-4-306].
- (b) **A home-based educational program shall meet the requirements of a basic academic educational program pursuant to W.S. 21-4-101 (a) (vi). It shall be the responsibility of every person administering a home-based educational program to submit a curriculum to the local board of trustees each year showing that the program complies with the requirements of this subsection. Failure to submit a curriculum showing compliance is prima facie evidence that the home-based educational program does not meet the requirements of this article.**

21-4-103 Enforcement of article; appointment and compensation of attendance officers.

The primary responsibility for the enforcement of this article shall be upon the board of trustees of the school district, which shall appoint an attendance officer or officers to carry out the provisions of this article. Said office shall be paid out of the district treasury such sum as may be provided in the order of appointment.



**DATE:** April 25, 2022  
**TO:** Home-Based School Families  
**FROM:** Kristie Garriffa, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Assessment  
**RE:** **Participation in Wyoming High School Activities as Outlined in the WHSAA 2021-2022 Handbook**

If your home school student(s) are interested in participating in any of the WHSAA sanctioned activities, please contact the WHSAA office at the address and phone number below. If you have further questions, I can be reached at 674-7405, ext. 5104.

**Wyoming High School Activities Association**  
**6571 East 2nd Street**  
**Casper, WY 82609**  
**Phone: 307-577-0614**  
**Fax: 307-577-0637**

**WHSAA Good Sport Code**  
**“Rally Around Good Sportsmanship”**

Show respect for all opponents by treating them as guests.

Show respect for the officials.

Understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.

Maintain self control at all times.

Applaud opponents’ performances.

Cheer for your team.

When you see a good sport in action, follow their lead and then thank them..





**DATE:** April 25, 2022  
**TO:** Home School Parents  
**FROM:** Kristie Garriffa, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Assessment  
**RE:** **Home Schooling Clarifications on Curriculum Approval, Transfer Credits, and Standards Mastery**

State law requires each district to acknowledge receipt of parents' plans to home school their children (State Law, Wyoming Education Codes Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 21-4-102, subsection (b)). In Sheridan County School District No. 2, we provide such a form as part of our Home School Information packet. While we indeed check the parent's intent to cover the subjects required by law, we do not review the proposed curriculum for quality, rigor, or alignment to national, state, and district standards. Our letter of acknowledgement should not be taken as approval of the curriculum. In fact, we are prohibited from commenting on the quality of the proposed curriculum. In this way, we honor the right of parents to teach children using whatever curriculum they prefer.

As a consequence, we have no way to evaluate the status of the curriculum if a student later chooses to enter one of our schools. This may be problematic if a student attempts to enter during the high school years (grades 9 – 12) when transfer of credit is a necessity. The Sheridan High School Handbook (as approved by our Board of Trustees) lists the conditions for transfer into Sheridan High School. Essentially, students need to study approved curriculum from accredited institutions.

Our recommendation, if there is any possibility that a student may wish to attend our schools, is to use materials from accredited institutions. Our district, based on advice from the Wyoming Department of Education, recognizes seven accreditation agencies, including:

- Cognia (formerly known as AdvancEd and NCA)
- Southern Association of Schools and Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges
- Commission on Transregional and International Accreditation (CITA)

There are virtual and correspondence courses from a number of institutions of higher education that meet these criteria that are used by students admitted to Sheridan High School. This district does not enroll students that intend to take all coursework through virtual or correspondence courses.



### **REQUIRED CREDITS FOR GRADUATION**

English	4.0	Electives	9.5
Mathematics	3.0	Wellness	0.5
Science	3.0	P.E.	1.0
Social Studies	3.0	Total	24

It is important to know that we respect the right and intention to homeschool children and we do not wish to create barriers to participation for students who wish to attend our schools. But the transfer process becomes quite complicated for children from non-accredited programs, especially late in their academic career.

If you have any questions or comments about this memo, please don't hesitate to call 674-7405, ext. 5104 or e-mail me at [kristie.garriffa@scsd2.com](mailto:kristie.garriffa@scsd2.com).



**DATE:** April 25, 2022

**TO:** Home Schooling Parents

**FROM:** Kristie Garriffa, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment

**SUBJECT: Resources for Finding Home School Materials**

For parents who are having a difficult time finding homeschool teaching materials, there are now local sources to help. There is information about a variety of source materials available through one of the local homeschooling associations listed below. And, of course, there are many options available through a simple Internet search. But if you would like a more personal touch, you might contact one of the following:

The Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library has agreed to help parents find home-schooling resources from their collection as well as online resources. Although they cannot provide homeschool curriculum, they have many offerings in literature, science and history. You can reach them by telephone at (674-8585) or drop by the Library at 335 West Alger.

National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI) – [www.nheri.org](http://www.nheri.org). This organization is dedicated to researching homeschooling issues and provides numerous studies and statistics on homeschooling. Many resources for getting started and finding curriculum can be found here as well.

Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)– [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org). This organization provides a wealth of information on homeschooling including but not limited to: curriculum, socialization and academic statistics, legal issues, how to get started and numerous resources and links to assist homeschoolers in reaching their highest potential.

Homeschoolers of Wyoming (HOW) – [www.homeschoolersofwy.org](http://www.homeschoolersofwy.org) or write to 118 E. Sunset Drive, Riverton, WY 82501. HOW is the state homeschool organization for Wyoming. HOW provides information and resources on homeschooling and serves as a legislative liaison for the homeschool community. HOW also conducts an annual state homeschool convention. This homeschool convention offers nationally known speakers and a variety of workshops and seminars to help you get started or to provide continuing education as a home educator. The vendor hall is an excellent place to view curriculum and to speak personally with curriculum vendors. HOW also offers a newsletter, full of helpful information and resources.

The WyomingPBS Education Collection - [wyoming.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/wyoming-pbs-education-collection/](http://wyoming.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/wyoming-pbs-education-collection/) PBS LearningMedia is a FREE resource available to all educators and learners. All resources



have been curated and written by Wyoming Educators and aligned to state and national standards. WyomingPBS launched its first digital educational series this year titled "*Nature WY*". Nature Wy is a five-part series focused on outdoor science and nature to help bring discovery moments to young learners. Each episode has an activity guide for use at home and a lesson plan aligned to state and national standards. "*Nature WY*" can be found in the WyomingPBS Education Collection.