

Homeschooling in High School

This area is a great place to homeschool your children. There are many homeschooling families who participate together in activities such as sports, choir, debate, field trips, prom, and graduation. Check out our website for a list of local homeschool resources: <https://aggielandhomeschool.com/local-homeschool-resources>.

While homeschooling can be a wonderful adventure for your family, we would be remiss if we did not point out that it is hard work. Homeschooling through high school is definitely something that can be done, but starting the homeschool journey in high school requires more planning than if you begin to homeschool when the student is in elementary school. Over the past four years, AHA has seen an increased interest from high school-aged public school students who want to play basketball in our program. Often, it has not gone well. By thinking through the following information, you can make an informed decision about whether you really want to try to educate your child at home.

1. **Consider your responsibility.** Our community has wonderful resources, but the responsibility of making sure that your children are receiving the benefits of homeschooling and satisfying the legal requirements of the state of Texas are yours alone. You are assuming total responsibility for your child's education. Choosing to educate at home for the first time when your student is in high school requires a tremendous shift in the way education is viewed. It is no longer someone else's responsibility. In theory, a high school student should be responsible for many of the tasks that go with his/her education, but practically speaking, it is up to you to make sure it is done in accordance with Texas Law:
 - The instruction must be bona fide (i.e., not a sham).
 - The curriculum must be in visual form (e.g., books, workbooks, video monitor).
 - The curriculum must include the five basic subjects of reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and good citizenship.

(Resource: <https://www.thsc.org/homeschooling-in-texas/state-requirements/>)

If your student plans to go to college, you need to meet college testing and application deadlines. For those who aspire to be collegiate athletes, their education plans will need to adhere to [NCAA eligibility requirements](#). While AHA will try to provide a current list of resources to help you, it is ultimately up to you to find out the deadlines and get your child's testing scheduled and compliance issues figured out.

2. **Consider your availability and family dynamic.** Do you both work outside the home? If so, who will make sure that your student completes his/her work? If you work outside the home, you must find someone to supervise your younger children, and you must keep your older children accountable to actually do their assignments while you are at work. Are both parents in agreement that home schooling is how they want to educate the child? It is very hard to homeschool with an unsupportive spouse. Along with that, if you have a blended family how does the step-parent feel about homeschooling? Will he/she be supportive? What about the non-custodial parent? Will they sabotage or support the home education process? These things need to be discussed ahead of time, and positions on providing time to get school work completed and consequences for lack of progress need to be agreed upon.
3. **Consider the financial cost.** Homeschooling is not free or cheap. You cannot homeschool on a shoestring budget without the time to dig for free or low cost curriculum. Outside classes run

about \$50/month per class on average, not counting books and supply fees. Sports have fees because there are expenses associated with team sports that are not run by a school.

4. **Consider your student's attitude.** If your student is not on board with homeschooling, it will be very difficult. Even if your student wants to be homeschooled, if he or she is not compliant, trustworthy, self-disciplined and self-motivated, the change to homeschooling during the high school years could very well be a bad choice that will have major negative consequences for their future.
5. **Consider your student's future goals.** If your student wants to attend junior college, there should be little problem. Even if they haven't completed a college prep curriculum, they can still get into the junior college. However, keep in mind that in the event that the student does not do well academically, remedial courses offered at the junior college have a cost and do not count toward college credit. The student needs to take Math and English seriously. If your student wants to go to a four-year school, the course load needs to be planned to meet the college's requirements. Those can be found on the school's website along with minimum SAT/ACT score requirements for admission. The college entrance exams need to be taken seriously and taken in time to retake them if the student wants to better his/her score. The parent and student must be aware of application deadlines for the particular schools the student is interested in. On top of all this, if the student aspires to college athletics, the parent must become familiar with the ever-changing and complicated NCAA eligibility requirements and needs to do it early in the student's academic career, along with monitoring the website for the rule changes that can occur. There are specific courses that must be taken in a defined time frame during the student's high school career.
6. **Consider the possibility of your student returning to public school if homeschooling does not work out.** It can be very hard for a student to return to public school here in B/CS without losing credits and having to retake classes. Pulling a child out of school after the 7th grade would warrant a discussion with the guidance counselor to find out what needs to be done should the student need to re-enroll in public school.

While parent-directed education can be a wonderful adventure, it should not be embarked upon without counting the cost. We want you to be as successful as possible!

Don't forget about the AHA Basketball policy stated in the Handbook:

All high school student athletes who transfer to the AHA Basketball program after being at a public or private school must meet with the AHA Academic Advisor and submit a plan for the student's coursework for the year to the Academic Advisor before they can play games on one of our teams. We will follow the NCHBC transfer policies as stated on their website (nchclive.com/guidelines).

If you have any questions, please contact this year's AHA Academic Advisors, Dan & Linda Hale at danshale@aol.com or 979-739-7562.