

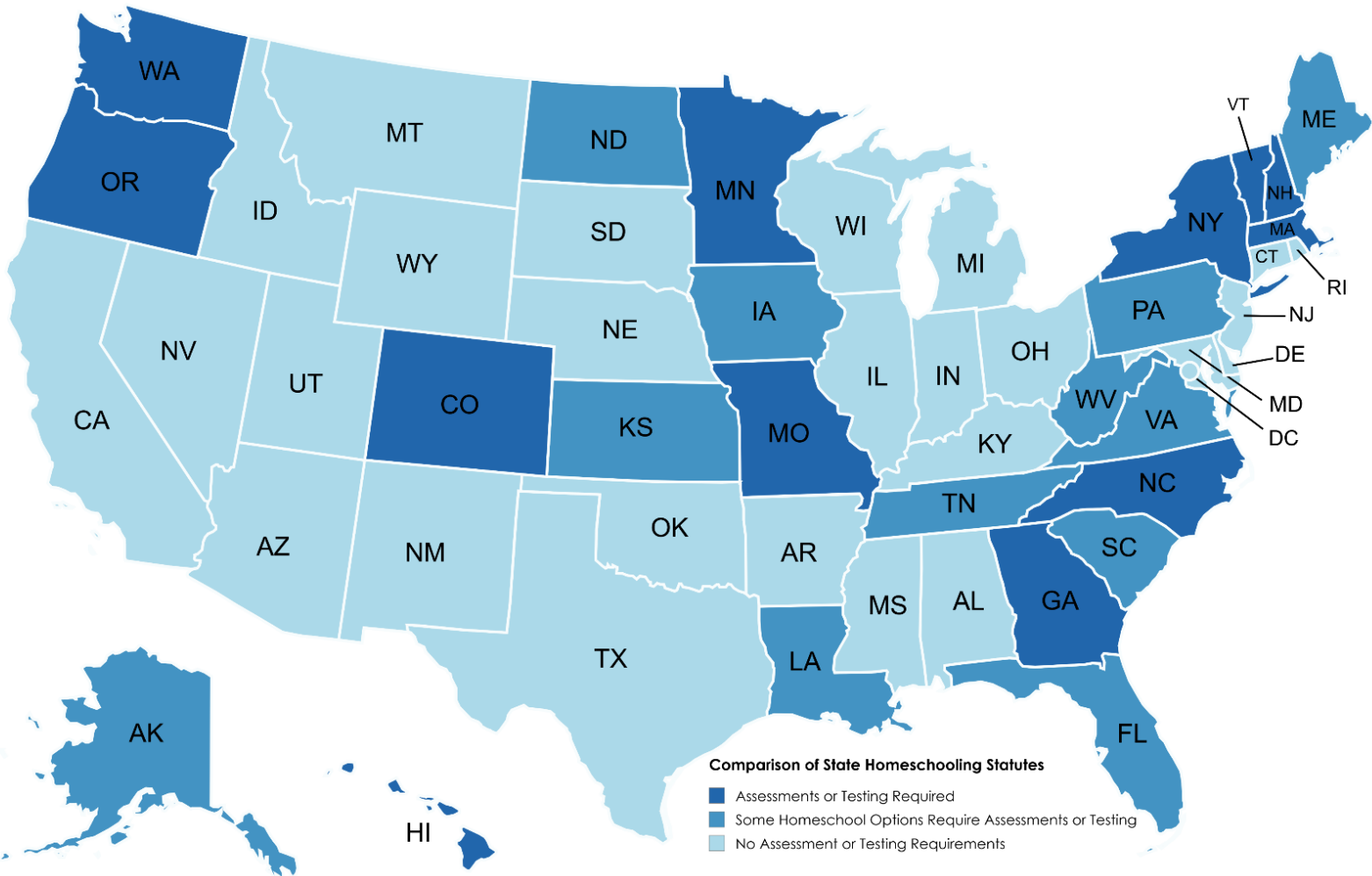


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Executive Summary

As of December 2025, 13 states – including Georgia, Missouri, and North Carolina in the South – require any homeschooling option to include a regularly reported or annual assessment or test submitted to the state or local school board to verify student progress. Contrastingly, most states in the U.S. – and across the South – do not require homeschooling families to conduct any testing or assessments, with only a small percentage requiring testing in specific circumstances (such as microschoools or nonpublic part-time school options).¹ This CSG South Research Memo examines the varying standards across the 15-state Southern region.



Findings and Analysis

¹ "Homeschool Laws by State," Home School Legal Defense Association, 2026, <https://hslida.org/legal>.



Currently, five states – Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas – in the South do not require any family electing to homeschool their children to submit any test or assessment results. The remaining 10 states in the region all require testing or assessment results to be submitted in some or all homeschooling circumstances.

Florida

Students who are part of a home study program using a private tutor or a nonpublic “microschool” option are not required to be evaluated annually using assessments. For students taught at home by parents or family members, each year the student's educational progress must be evaluated by one of the following methods:

- 1) Evaluation of the student’s learning portfolio and an interview by a licensed teacher, selected by the family;
- 2) Administration of a nationally recognized, normed test by a certified teacher;
- 3) Administration of the state standard test used by the local school district under testing conditions approved by the district;
- 4) Evaluation by a licensed psychologist or school psychologist; or
- 5) Evaluation by any other valid measurement tool agreed upon by the family and the school district.²

Georgia

The Peach State requires all homeschooling options to include regular testing or assessments of student progress. In addition to annual progress reports and maintaining an academic portfolio, families must test their homeschooled child every 3 years after third grade. While tests and portfolios do not have to be submitted to a local school district, these records must be kept for at least 3 years, and the parent or another adult may administer testing if the person is trained in the administration and interpretation of norm-referenced, nationally recognized standardized testing.³

Louisiana

If using a non-public or microschool option, homeschooled children are not required to undergo any specific testing or assessments. However, a self-homeschooling option must submit a portfolio that includes the specific curriculum, learning materials, copies of student work, and copies of assessments.⁴

Alternatively, parents can have their children complete the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) exam, the California Achievement Test (CAT), or another standardized test approved by the State Board of Education, provided the child earns a passing score.⁵

Missouri

Children enrolled in a homeschool program must have a record that includes the planning book, written subject, and/or teaching records, portfolio or samples of student work, and a record of evaluations of the child’s academic progress – including testing, whether standardized or otherwise.⁶ However, state law leaves it to the discretion of the parent/teacher to determine which specific testing or assessment is used and how often it is administered, although at least once per year is recommended for best practices.

² Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.41(1)(f), https://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1002/Sections/1002.41.html.

³ O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690(C)(7), <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-20/chapter-2/article-16/part-1/subpart-2/section-20-2-690/>.

⁴ “BESE-Approved Home Study Program,” Louisiana Department of Education, <https://doe.louisiana.gov/topic-pages/louisiana-school-choice/home-study>.

⁵ La. Rev. Stat. 17 § 236.1, <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=80346>.

⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 167.012, <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=167.012&bid=57174&hl=>



North Carolina

In the Tarheel State, homeschoolers must be administered a standardized test each year using an assessment that is a national norm-referenced or otherwise nationally recognized equivalent. The test must measure English language and grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics. For up to one year after completion, the homeschooling instructor must keep the test results available for inspection by any duly authorized representative of the state.⁷ While this language appears in the statutory guidance for private and other nonpublic schools, [North Carolina General Statute 115C-564](#) – which explicitly governs homeschoolers – states that the same annual testing requirements for nonpublic and private schools also apply to homeschoolers.

South Carolina

South Carolina does not have testing or assessment requirements for homeschoolers who are enrolled in a state association of independent homeschools or a homeschool network with at least 50 members. However, traditional family-based homeschooling does fall under state testing laws.⁸

Under the homeschooling statutes, families must test their children annually using the statewide standardized testing and Basic Skills Assessment programs. Further, the assessments must be administered by a certified employee of the local school district, and the district must review the results. Failing grades may lead to additional educational support for the homeschooled child at the family's expense to achieve satisfactory progress.⁹

Tennessee

The Volunteer State requires families who enroll their children in certain non-public, church-affiliated school programs or who homeschool to meet specific testing requirements.¹⁰

Instead of annual assessments, homeschoolers must test their child in Grades 5, 7, and 9 using a standardized test administered by the Commissioner of Education or their designee, or a professional testing service approved by the local school district. Parents are permitted to be present during the testing for students taking the Grade 5 assessment, but not for the Grades 7 and 9 examinations.

Additionally, like in the Palmetto State, if the student's score is six to nine months behind the appropriate grade level in reading, language arts, math, or science, the homeschooling parent must submit a remediation plan to the local school superintendent. The remediation plan must be designed, in part, by a state-certified teacher endorsed in the grade level and/or subjects that need additional support.¹¹

Virginia

The Commonwealth does not require testing for homeschoolers unless they are self-homeschooled by parents, enrolled in a microschool or other program with a certified tutor or educator, or subject to a religious exemption.¹²

⁷ N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-549 and -557, https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_115C.html.

⁸ "Home Schooling," Office of Federal and State Accountability, South Carolina Department of Education, <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/state-accountability/home-schooling>.

⁹ S.C. Code § 59-65-40(A)(6), <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c065.php>.

¹⁰ "Home School," Tennessee Department of Education, <https://www.tn.gov/education/families/school-options/home-schooling-in-tn.html>.

¹¹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(b)(5) and (6), <https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/title-49/chapter-6/part-30/section-49-6-3050>.

¹² "Home Instruction," Virginia Department of Education, <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/parents-students/for-parents/home-instruction>.



No later than August 1 of each year, the homeschooling parent must submit an evaluation to the local school superintendent demonstrating the child's adequate academic growth and progress using one of four types of methods:

- 1) Composite score at or above the 23rd percentile in any norm-referenced nationally recognized standardized test – such as the ACT, SAT, or PSAT;
- 2) Evaluation certified by a licensed teacher – licensed in any state, not just Virginia – or an individual with a master's degree or higher in an academic discipline who has demonstrable knowledge of the child's experience and progress;
- 3) Report card or transcript from a college or community college, home-education correspondence program, or other distance learning program; and/or
- 4) Any other type of assessment or evaluation that the superintendent deems adequate to evaluate and determine the student's growth and progress.¹³

West Virginia

Homeschoolers who seek and receive local school board approval are exempt from testing requirements, but those who self-homeschool by filing a Notice of Intent to Homeschool or participate in a "learning pod" must follow assessment laws. Assessment results must be kept on file for at least three years in case an audit or review is requested.¹⁴

Specifically, they must annually assess their child by one of the following methods:

- 1) Testing using a nationally recognized, norm-referenced standardized test, which may not have been published more than 10 years ago, and administered by an individual qualified by the test publisher that covers reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The homeschooler must score at the 23rd percentile or above or demonstrate improvement since the prior year's assessment;
- 2) Participation in the statewide public school testing program administered by the local school district;
- 3) Written evaluation by a certified teacher who has reviewed the student's academic portfolio and attests satisfactory progress and growth; and/or
- 4) Completion of an alternative assessment of academic proficiency approved by the local school superintendent and the homeschooler's parents.¹⁵

Additionally, the child's assessments must be submitted to the local school superintendent for Grades 3, 5, 8, and 11. Failure to demonstrate acceptable progress or achievement on the test score may lead to required remediation.¹⁶

¹³ Va. Code § 22.1-254.1(C), <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254.1>.

¹⁴ "Homeschool State Code," West Virginia Department of Education, <https://wvde.us/academics/school-choice/homeschool-state-code>.

¹⁵ W.Va. Code § 18-8-1(C)(i) through (iv), <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/18-8-1/>.

¹⁶ W.Va. Code § 18-8-1(E), <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/18-8-1/>.