

## Home School FAQ\* for Grades K-12\*\*

*\*Also applicable to other situations in which a student does not attend a DPS school (in person or through a virtual program), such as attending a private school or moving out of state.*

*\*\*Only applicable to students who reside within the Denver Public Schools district boundary.*

**Last Updated:** Aug. 24, 2020

If you are here, you may be considering home schooling your student for some or all of the 2020-21 school year. Before you make a decision about home schooling, please read all the information below. We encourage you to also consider your school's Virtual Program before selecting home schooling or in conjunction with home schooling. The most up-to-date information about the DPS programs for 2020-21 can be found [here](#). Attending your school's 100% virtual option keeps your student connected and ensures an in-person seat at your school for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years (as long as the student attends by Aug. 31, 2021)

If you elect to teach your student at home as a home school program, please review the frequently asked questions below about home schooling, and relevant DPS enrollment policy.

### What is Home Schooling?

Home Schooling is when parents or guardians educate their student at home in accordance with Colorado specific rules. Colorado law states that home school programs must include, but are not limited to, the subjects of communication skills of reading, writing, and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States. The selection of curriculum is at the discretion of the parent who is overseeing the home schooling program. Home school programs must have no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging 4 instructional contact hours per day. Students that are participating in a home school program must have academic progress evaluated in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. The results of the evaluation, whether by assessment or qualified person, must be submitted to the school district that received the written notification. The parent who oversees the home school program is taking on the responsibility of obtaining books, supplies, tests, and is responsible for any costs associated. Because home schooling is considered nonpublic education, home school is not accredited by the Colorado Department of Education or by a local school district. To ensure compliance with Colorado's Home-based learning law please see C.R.S. § 22-33-104.5.

### How Do I Choose Home Schooling?

If you choose to home school your student at any time during the school year, you must complete a [Notification of Intent to Home School](#) or submit a letter of Intent to Home School. Home school is a parental choice and parents are responsible for educating their child with the curriculum of their choice. You can find home school guidelines [here](#). Additional details about the requirements of home schooling in Colorado can be found on the Department of Education website [here](#).

If you have any questions please call Kristy O'Bryan at 720-423-3222 or email [Kristy\\_obryan@dpsk12.org](mailto:Kristy_obryan@dpsk12.org).

### Are There Part-Time Enrollment Opportunities with DPS?

Depending on available space, high school students have an option of home schooling **and** being a part-time student at Denver Online High School. This may be a good way for your student to take a challenging or unique course. If you are interested in this option, the first step is to complete an Interest Application for

Denver Online High School at <http://online.dpsk12.org> and choose the “part-time” option. That will trigger the enrollment process. Additional information on the part-time option is available [here](#).

## Can You Retain Your Seat at Your In-Person School ...

### ...If Your Student Attends **before Aug. 31, 2020** and then withdraws?

The policy currently states that a student must attend (in-person or virtually) at least one day in August in the 2020-21 school year to retain their seat at their school of choice<sup>1</sup> for the remainder of the school year, and until the end of August of the 2021-22 school year. Please note that if your student does not attend the school on October Count Day, DPS will not receive state funding for your student even if you change your mind and decide to return in the 2020-21 school year. For planning purposes, we ask that you complete a SchoolChoice application during Round 1 to indicate your intent to return for the 2020-21 school year. Also, please keep in mind that any incoming siblings participating in SchoolChoice for the 2020-21 school year will be eligible for the sibling priority **only if their sibling is enrolled at the school at the time of the SchoolChoice application process.**

### ...If Your Student Does **NOT Attend before Aug. 31, 2020?**

If you decide to home school your student for all of the 2020-21 school year and your student does not attend for at least one day in August 2020, your student will be unenrolled at the school they previously attended or were scheduled to attend and will not retain their seat. Instead, the seat may be filled with a student from the school's waitlist.

In order for your student to return to a DPS school for 2020-21 or future school years, you will need to go through the SchoolChoice process. Here are a few scenarios:

**Scenario 1<sup>2</sup>:** Student lives in a DPS neighborhood boundary and wants to attend the neighborhood boundary school.

Students who reside within the Denver Public Schools district are guaranteed a seat at their neighborhood boundary school or a school that serves their enrollment zone. Find your neighborhood school here: <https://dps.schoolmint.net/school-finder/home>

**Scenario 2<sup>2</sup>:** Student lives in a DPS enrollment zone and wants to attend a school in the enrollment zone.

Students who reside within the Denver Public Schools district are guaranteed a school that serves their enrollment zone, but not at any one particular school. Find your neighborhood school here: <https://dps.schoolmint.net/school-finder/home>

**Scenario 3:** Student wants to attend a school other than their neighborhood boundary or enrollment zone school.

You will need to go through the SchoolChoice process.

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<sup>1</sup> School of choice refers to any school other than the student's neighborhood boundary school. School of choice also refers to any schools within an enrollment zone.



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<sup>2</sup> If a classroom is over its enrollment cap, the district has the right to “overflow” any additional students over the cap to a school that has seats available. Assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis.