GETTING-STARTED CHECKLIST

New Homeschooler Checklist

A general step-by-step checklist for families beginning homeschooling. Pair this with the Table or Map view to confirm your own state's specific rules.

Before You Start

- [ ] Look up your state's regulation tier and notification type in the Compliance Table.
- [ ] Decide on a start date, and confirm whether you must formally withdraw your child from their current school.
- [ ] Research curriculum options that cover your state's required subjects, if any are specified.

Notification & Paperwork

- [ ] Submit your Letter of Intent, Affidavit, or Prior Approval request by your state's deadline.
- [ ] Keep a signed copy of everything you submit — states can request proof of filing later.
- [ ] Note whether your state requires this notice every year or only once.
- [ ] Mark your renewal date on a calendar if annual renewal is required.

Once You're Homeschooling

- [ ] Set up a simple record-keeping system: attendance log, work samples, reading list, grades.
- [ ] Check whether your state requires standardized testing, a portfolio review, or a professional evaluation — and note the deadline.
- [ ] Look into local homeschool support groups or co-ops for community and shared resources.
- [ ] If your child has an IEP or 504 plan, ask your district how those accommodations carry over.
- [ ] If you're approaching high school, research your state's diploma requirements and how colleges evaluate homeschool transcripts.

Note: Requirements vary significantly by state. This checklist covers the steps most families encounter, but always confirm exact deadlines, forms, and required subjects with your state education agency. See the FAQ and Table views in this dashboard for state-specific detail.

General reference only, not legal advice. Verify current requirements with your state education agency or an education attorney before acting.
Sources: HSLDA — State Homeschool Laws. Compiled September 2026.