FolioKid

FREE GUIDE · PENNSYLVANIA

The PA Homeschool Portfolio Checklist

The key steps in Pennsylvania's homeschool law, in the order you'll need them. Check them off as you go and walk into your evaluation ready.

1

BEFORE YOU START · BY AUGUST 1 EACH YEAR

File your affidavit with the district superintendent

- [ ] Notarized affidavit **or** unsworn declaration
- [ ] Outline of your education objectives, by subject
- [ ] Proof of immunizations (or your exemption)
- [ ] Health and medical records required for your child's age or grade
- [ ] Signed statement that no adult in the home has certain criminal convictions in the past 5 years
- [ ] You, the supervising parent, need a high school diploma or equivalent

2

ALL YEAR LONG

Build the portfolio as you go

- [ ] Keep a log **written at the time of instruction**, not filled in at the end of the year
- [ ] List reading materials **by title** in the log
- [ ] Save samples of writing, worksheets, workbooks and creative projects
- [ ] Track 180 days or 900 hours (elementary) / 990 hours (secondary)
- [ ] Cover every required subject (see page 2)

3

GRADES 3, 5 AND 8 ONLY

Add standardized test results

- [ ] Reading/language arts **and** math scores
- [ ] PSSA or a nationally normed test from the state's approved list (e.g. CAT, Iowa, Stanford, TerraNova, MAP)
- [ ] The test can't be given by a parent or guardian

4

SPRING

Meet with a qualified evaluator

- [ ] Book early. Many evaluators fill up in May and June
- [ ] Must be a PA-certified teacher, a licensed clinical or school psychologist, or a nonpublic school teacher or administrator
- [ ] Teacher and administrator evaluators need 2+ years of relevant teaching experience
- [ ] Can't be you or your spouse
- [ ] Bring the full portfolio. Expect a short interview with your child

5

BY JUNE 30

Turn in the evaluator's certification

- [ ] Submit the evaluator's written certification to your superintendent
- [ ] Keep the portfolio yourself. The district normally receives only the certification

FolioKid

REQUIRED SUBJECTS

What your portfolio needs to show

Pennsylvania lists these subjects in the law. Your log and samples should show each one somewhere in the year.

Elementary

180 days or 900 hours

- [ ] English: spelling, reading, writing
- [ ] Arithmetic
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Geography
- [ ] History of the U.S. and Pennsylvania
- [ ] Civics
- [ ] Safety education, including fire prevention
- [ ] Health and physiology
- [ ] Physical education
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Art

Secondary

990 hours

- [ ] English: language, literature, speech, composition
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Geography
- [ ] Social studies: civics, world history, U.S. and PA history
- [ ] Math: general math, algebra, geometry
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Physical education
- [ ] Health
- [ ] Safety education, including fire prevention

Helpful tips

- **Date everything.** The log has to be made at the time of instruction, not rebuilt in June. A dated photo of each day's work is an easy way to keep up.
- **Samples beat volume.** The law doesn't set a minimum number of samples. A few pieces per subject that show growth over the year usually work well. Ask your evaluator what they like to see.
- **Field trips and life count.** Museum visits, 4-H, baking and sports can go in the log under the right subject.

Or let FolioKid build it for you

Snap a photo of today's work, tag the subject, log the hours. At the end of the year FolioKid exports a Pennsylvania-formatted portfolio PDF you can hand your evaluator.

Dated entries, automatically | PA subjects built in | Hours toward 900 / 990 | Print-ready PDF

foliokid.com

Source: Pennsylvania Home Education Program law, 24 P.S. § 13-1327.1. FolioKid is not affiliated with the Pennsylvania Department of Education or any school district.