



**Smoky Mountain  
Home Education Association**

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## Getting a Quick Start: A Step-By-Step Guide

**Step 1** Determine if your desire to home educate is a conviction. Are you willing to commit to home education for at least one year? If so, follow the steps below.

**Step 2** Read over and familiarize yourself with the Tennessee home education law.

**Step 3** Register with either the local School Superintendent by August 1, or with a Church-Related School (CRS). For a list of local Church Related Schools see the "Umbrella Schools" section on our home page. If you are teaching 9-12 without holding a baccalaureate degree, consult with a church-related school. Most CRS's require only a high school diploma to teach grades K-12.

If you are removing your child from public or private school, be sure you register with a CRS first. If you would rather not discuss home education with the teacher or principal at your child's current school, mail a letter on your child's last day of school stating that your child will not be returning and that the new school will be writing for permanent records.

(Remember: Correspondence schools, such as Christian Liberty Academy and Calvert School, may not qualify as a Church-Related School and may not be considered legal covering in Tennessee. Although you may use their materials, you also may need to register with the local school superintendent's office or a Church-Related School. Contact SMHEA using the email address listed in the "Contact Us" section of our home page for additional assistance if you are choosing this option.)

**Step 4** Contact a veteran home educator or support group for personal assistance (See the support group list on our home page).

**Step 5** Attend the next available home education workshop. (See the "Events" section on the home page.)

**Step 6** Organize and plan your daily schedule. You will be adding four or more hours of additional work to your day. The more organized you are, the less you will agonize.

**Step 7** Select teaching materials and curriculum according to your child's learning style. It is very helpful for your child to work with you in your home education preparation. Let your child choose some items in his or her areas of interest.

**Step 8** Since home education involves preparing your child for life, you will want to check out the child training materials listed on [smhea.org](http://smhea.org).