

August 1, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for participating in the [homeschooling webinar](#) this past Thursday. If you feel a bit overwhelmed, you are not alone, but don't let that stop you. You are going to love homeschooling! The rest of us were apprehensive when we started.

We want to make you aware of some of the many great resources to help you begin your homeschooling journey.

Please remember not to register with ANYONE or fill out any papers from the school you will be removing your child from, if they already attend school. Illinois law DOES NOT require you to register your homeschool. You can find sample letters for withdrawing children from public schools [HERE](#).

WE DO NOT REGISTER our homeschools with the state of IL

WE DO NOT REGISTER our homeschools with the ISBE

WE DO NOT REGISTER our homeschools with the local school

WE DO NOT REGISTER our homeschools with the ROE

Remember, your homeschool is considered a private school. We encourage you to give your homeschool a name.

Listen to this YouTube [video](#) to hear an explanation of Illinois law as it pertains to homeschooling and your rights as parents. **Kirk Smith** is the executive director of Illinois Christian Home Educators, a great organization to get to know and trust. And here's a [great link](#) to information on getting started (from the ICHE website).

Some asked for the webinar slide we used regarding the subjects Illinois law requires we cover:

Illinois requires instruction in these subject areas:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Biological and Physical Science
- Social Science (Social Studies)
- Fine Arts
- Physical Development and Health

You must offer education that is "at least commensurate with the standards prescribed for the public schools." (*People vs. Levisen*)

If your child requires special education, please know that the Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) [offers legal help](#).

Illinois allows for tax credits for home education. Download this document to learn more: [Homeschool Tax Credit Publication 119](#)

Here are the various resources we mentioned during the webinar, and some additional links we thought of later!

[ABEKA.com](#) -- A great resource for all subject areas required by Illinois law.

[Khan Academy](#) -- Search for the particular topic your child is struggling with and it will offer videos on that subject.

[Saxon Math Placement Test](#) -- This is great tool to gauge any gaps in learning. Have your child complete it even if they don't know some of the answers.

[Saxon Math for Homeschool](#) -- This ChristianBook.com site is used by virtually all Christian homeschoolers, but they also have many non-Christian materials. Join their email list for free shipping codes and discounts.

[Virtual Homeschool Group](#) -- This site has FREE videos that compliment Saxon Math & Apologia Science. They are not boring and they are available anytime.

[Lee Binz High School Transcripts, College, and Scholarships](#) -- We recommend that you do not buy her program, but use her freebies! Her free webinars are worth their weight in gold!

[The Homeschool Magazine](#) -- This is great resource for news and ideas.

Groups to join on Facebook: Join to find out about homeschooling activities, field trips, discounts, buy/sell materials, co-ops etc. We recommend joining a bunch of groups. You don't have to go to all the activities, but feel free to pick and choose what works for your family.

[Illinois Christian Home Educators](#) -- state homeschool group, they are Christian, but they help all homeschoolers in the state.

[Illinois Homeschooling](#) -- great resource and they also offer individualized phone consultations/coaching for a small fee if you feel you need help getting started homeschooling, questions on college and homeschooling etc.

[ICHE Discussion Group](#) - a great place to ask questions and news.

[Mompossible Mentoring by HSLDA](#)

[Homeschoolers Encouraging Loving Parents \(H.E.L.P.\)](#)

[Illinois Homeschooling Families](#)

Other webinar mentions:

Ruth Hoskins' blog: [Homeschooling As A Lifestyle](#)

Maureen Bruns' blog: [The Homeschool Gal](#)

[Homeschool Legal Defense Association](#) (HSLDA)

[IEP info from HSLDA*](#)

[Drivers Education info from HSLDA](#)

[Teaching Textbooks](#)

[Excellence in Writing](#)

[Charlotte Mason](#) (recommended to use library for these resources)

[Nicole the Math Lady](#) (recommended just for her free Saxon math placement tests)

Lee Binz ([The Home Scholar](#)) (Use her FREEBIES and free webinars)

[Rainbow Resources](#)

[Christian Book Store](#)

[Apologia](#)

[Covenant Home Curriculum](#)

[Virtual Homeschooling Group](#)

[Johnsburg Public Library](#)

[Sonlight Placement Tests](#)

[Placement Tests](#) – The panel recommended to use library for these resources

*IEP information from HSLDA:

IEP help Northern IL Family Matters Community Service/Non-Profit
7731 N Marshfield Ave, Chicago, IL 60626
(773) 465-6011

IEP help Central & Southern IL Family Matters Effingham Human Services
2502 South Veterans Drive Effingham, IL 62401
(217) 347-0880

I hope these resources and notes will help you along the way. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
David E. Smith
s.david@illinoisfamily.org

