# Homeschool Resource Guide — Canada & USA

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This guide points homeschool families in Canada and the United States to trusted places for answers. It is a map, not advice: always confirm the rules with your own province or state.

## 1. Legal rules in your province or state

Homeschooling is legal everywhere in both countries, but each province and state sets its own rules. Start with your official education department, then an advocacy group.

**Canada**

- HSLDA Canada — province-by-province laws, registration forms, and legal help when a school board pushes back.
- Your provincial Ministry of Education — the official source for notice dates and forms.
- Quebec: the Direction de l'enseignement à la maison (DEM), under the Ministère de l'Éducation (quebec.ca).

**United States**

- HSLDA (US) — a clickable state-by-state law map.
- Your state Department of Education — the official source for that state.
- Your statewide homeschool association — most states have one that explains local rules in plain language.

## 2. How your child learns

Most children learn through a blend of styles, not just one. A short quiz can help you choose materials and get unstuck.

- **VARK model** — Visual, Auditory, Read/Write, Kinesthetic. vark-learn.com has a free questionnaire, including a version for younger people.
- **EducationPlanner** — a free online learning-style quiz.
- **HSLDA** — free learning-style resources for homeschool families.

- **Book:** *The Way They Learn* by Cynthia Tobias — helps parents see how their child learns, and how they teach.

If you suspect attention or learning differences, the next step is a proper evaluation through your family doctor or a qualified professional (see section 10).

## 3. Curriculum — online, print, free, and Christian

**Where to browse**

- The Canadian Homeschooler — a big list of Canadian curriculum, plus free planners and worksheets.
- Homeschool.com Curriculum Finder — filter by teaching style and method.
- Teachers Pay Teachers — free and low-cost printables for every subject, including Canadian content.
- Schoolio (Canada) — curriculum aligned with provincial standards.

**Free or low-cost Christian options**

- Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool — a complete free Christian curriculum, online or printable.
- The Good and the Beautiful — free or low-cost printable language arts at early levels.
- Master Books — affordable, openly Christian materials.

**Free general options**

- Khan Academy — free math, science, and more.
- Your public library — books, e-books, and often free online learning platforms.

## 4. Funding and rebates

Money for homeschooling depends heavily on where you live, and programs change often.

Always check the current rules with your state or province.

**United States**

- **Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)** — several states deposit money for approved education costs. As of 2026, programs open to homeschoolers include Arizona, Florida, Utah, West Virginia, Arkansas, and Texas (starting 2026–27). Amounts and eligibility vary.

- **State tax credits or deductions** — a handful of states offer smaller savings on your tax return.
- **529 plans** — can be used for some K–12 education expenses; check what counts for homeschooling in your state.

**Canada**

- **Alberta** — the main province that reimburses part of homeschool costs through registration with a school board.
- Most other provinces, including Quebec, offer little or no direct funding. Check with your ministry.

**Where to check:** your state Department of Education or provincial ministry, and HSLDA's funding updates.

## 5. Travel and resort deals for homeschool families

Some resorts and attractions give special rates to homeschool families, often on weekdays during the school year. Most are in the United States.

- **Homeschool Travel Club** — deals at Great Wolf Lodge, Kalahari, Wilderness at the Smokies, Margaritaville, Westgate, and Disney resort hotels.
- **Homeschool Travel Deals** — free discount codes (no fees or club to join) to book directly with resorts across the US, plus Ontario in Canada. Look for their owl logo to make sure it's the real site.
- **Dollywood** (Tennessee) — Homeschool Days with special rates for the park and its resorts; book ahead by phone.
- **Colonial Williamsburg** (Virginia) — Homeschool Days with discounted rates at select hotels.
- **LEGOLAND Florida** and the **Titanic Museum** (Pigeon Forge) — homeschool ticket rates.

**More homeschool deals like these**

- **Midwest Parent Educators (MPE)** — organizes Great Wolf Lodge Homeschool Weeks with big room discounts and waived fees; their deals are open to homeschool families.
- **Great Wolf Lodge** — many locations run homeschool weeks or rates on weeknights. Call the lodge near you and ask (this includes Niagara Falls, Ontario).
- **Wilderness at the Smokies** (Tennessee) — discounted homeschool days several times a year.

- **Ripley's attractions and WonderWorks** (Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg) — homeschool rates for students and teaching parents.
- **Wonders of Wildlife** (Missouri) — homeschool days four times a year at lower prices.
- **Pigeon Forge Chamber of Commerce** — keeps a list of local homeschool discounts in the Smokies.
- **Attractions Ontario** (Canada) — coupons and discounts for family attractions and museums across Ontario. Not homeschool-only, but great for outings.

**Best tip of all:** ask your local homeschool group. Groups often book blocks of rooms or tickets at special rates.

**Tip:** when booking any hotel near an educational site, ask whether they have homeschool or educational rates.

## 6. Local outings

Museums, zoos, science centres, and aquariums often run homeschool days with steep discounts, sometimes free.

- **Check local websites** — look for "homeschool day" or "school group" rates at your nearby museums and zoos.
- **Reciprocal memberships** — one membership can open doors at hundreds of places:
  - ASTC Travel Passport (science centres, Canada and US)
  - NARM (art, history, and cultural museums)
  - ROAM (museums across North America)
- **Smithsonian museums** (Washington, DC) — free admission, with homeschool programs.
- **Parks** — national, provincial, and state parks often have free nature programs and junior ranger activities.

## 7. Groups and co-ops

A co-op is a group of families who learn together — sports, art, history, music, science — with parents sharing the teaching. Support groups focus on meetups, field trips, and friendship.

- **HSLDA group search** — free tool to find co-ops, support groups, and sport leagues near you.

- Homeschool.com and TheHomeSchoolMom — state-by-state group directories.
- The Canadian Homeschooler — guides to finding or starting a co-op in Canada.
- **Wild + Free** — a directory of local nature-and-learning groups.
- **Meetup.com, Facebook groups, and your public library** — search "homeschool" plus your town.

## 8. Record-keeping

Good records show your child's progress if a school board or ministry asks. What you must keep depends on your province or state (see section 1).

- **HSLDA record-keeping guides** — what to keep and what you don't need, for Canada and the US.
- **Simple tools** — a binder or portfolio with work samples, reading lists, attendance, and photos of projects.
- **Software** — Homeschool Tracker and similar apps for online planning and records.
- **Keep permanently:** report cards, transcripts, test scores, and health and immunization records.

## 9. High school transcripts and diplomas

Every homeschool graduate needs a transcript, whether or not they go to college. A diploma is a separate document stating they finished their studies.

- **HSLDA Transcript Service** — create, store, and print a transcript with automatic GPA.
- **BJU Press** — free transcript template and guidance.
- **Statewide homeschool associations** — many offer transcript services and diplomas.
- **Canada:** colleges and universities each set their own rules for homeschool applicants. Ask the admissions office early, and check your province's options for a provincial diploma or equivalent.

## 10. Special needs support

Many families homeschool children who learn differently, including children with attention or learning challenges.

- **HSLDA Special Needs Consultants** — guidance on diagnosis questions, curriculum, teaching techniques, and access to therapy (US and Canada members).
- **Evaluation** — your family doctor, pediatrician, or a licensed psychologist can assess for learning or attention differences.
- **Raising Lifelong Learners** — resources for gifted and "outside-the-box" kids.
- **Local support groups** — many areas have groups specifically for special-needs homeschool families.

## 11. Coaches and mentors for parents

A homeschool coach is an experienced homeschooler or educator who helps the parent build a plan, pick materials, and get unstuck.

- **HSLDA** — educational consultants available to members.
- **7 Sisters Homeschool** — one-on-one coaching, especially for high school.
- **Homeschool Connections** — personalized coaching sessions.
- **HomeSchool ThinkTank** — coaching from a licensed educator and certified life coach.
- **Raising Lifelong Learners** — coaching for parents of gifted and neurodivergent kids.

## A note before you start

This guide is a starting point, not legal or educational advice. Rules, prices, and programs change, so confirm details with the official source for your province or state before you act.

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