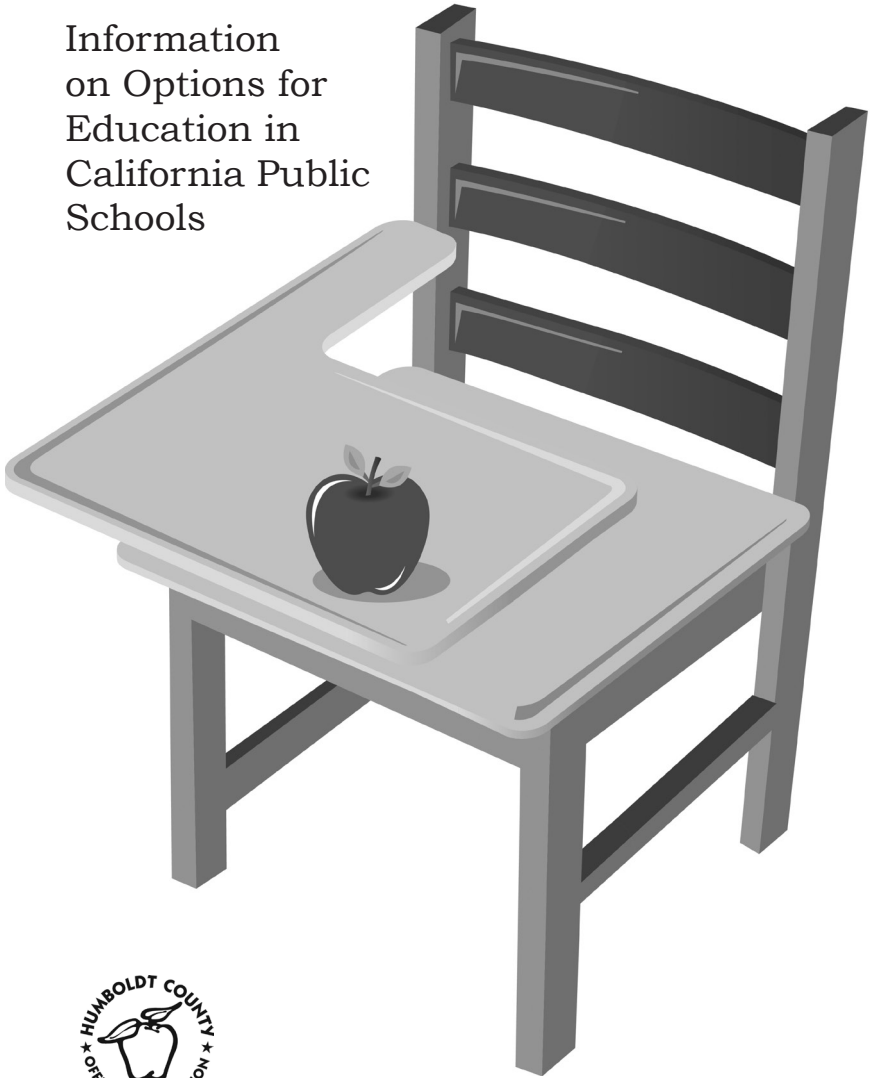


Your Child's Education

Information
on Options for
Education in
California Public
Schools



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What Does California Law Say About A Child's Education?

The Compulsory Education Law in California: All children ages 6 through 18 are subject to compulsory school attendance.

- a) Children between the ages of 6 and 16 years not exempted by law are subject to compulsory full-time education. (Education Code §48200)
- b) Persons 16 years of age or older and under 18 years who are not regularly employed shall attend continuation education classes for not less than 15 hours per week, and those persons who are regularly employed are required to attend such classes for not less than four 60 minutes periods per week unless otherwise exempted. (Education Code §48400, 48402)

There are several education options which meet the Compulsory Education Law.

OPTION 1

Public School Attendance

Participation can be of two types:

1. Regular Education, Regular Education Alternatives and/or Charter Schools (Education Code §48200)

Requires:

- Child be officially enrolled
- Daily school attendance

2. Independent Study Program (Education Code §51745-51749.5)

Requires:

- Independent study to be approved by local public school district board
- Child to be officially enrolled in district's independent study program
- Meeting with teacher a minimum of one hour per week
- Child to Complete and turn in a specified amount of work (normally not less than 20 hours of schoolwork each week for most grades)

OPTION 2

Home Tutoring

Participation can be of two types:

1. Private Tutoring (Education Code §48224)

Requires:

- Private tutor hold a valid California teaching credential for the grade(s) taught

- Instruction be at least three hours a day for no less than 175 days in each calendar year
- Documentation that instruction is in accordance with all required subjects that are taught in public schools and in the English Language per Education Code §48224, 51210, and 51220
- Instruction offered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

2. Parent Tutor/Home Schooling (Education Code §48224)

Requires:

- Parent hold a valid California teaching credential for the grade(s) taught
- Instruction be at least three hours a day for no less than 175 days in each calendar year
- Documentation that instruction is in accordance with all required subjects that are taught in public schools and in the English Language per Education Code §48224, 51210, and 51220
- Instruction offered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

OPTION 3

Private School

1. Private School (i.e., an established church sponsored program or community private school) meeting the requirements of Education Code §48222

Requires:

- Private School Affidavit on file with the California Department of Education
- Evidence that school instruction is conducted daily, full-time, by persons capable of teaching
- Documentation that instruction is in accordance with all required subjects that are taught in public schools and in the English Language per Education Code §48222, 51210, and 51220
- Maintaining the attendance of all pupils in a register, clearly recording every absence of the pupil(s) from school for a half a day or more during each day that school is maintained during the year
- Verifying compliance with all city, county or local ordinances with respect to licensing, health, safety and fire standards applicable to nonpublic schools per Education Code §32000-32066, 39160-39176, 44237; Health & Safety Code §3450-3456.

For further information or an opportunity to discuss these options, parents are encouraged to contact the Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs & Services at (707) 445-7043.

Areas of Study – Adapted from Education Code

Grades 1 to 6 (inclusive)

- a) English, literature and the language, as well as speaking, reading, listening, spelling, handwriting, and composition
- b) Mathematics, including concepts, operation skills, and problem-solving
- c) Social sciences, disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology designed to fit the maturity of the pupils, history resources, development, and government of California and the United States of America, development of the American economic system
- d) Science, biological and physical aspects
- e) Visual and performing arts
- f) Health, principles and practices of individual, family and community health
- g) Physical education, with emphasis upon the physical activities for the pupils that may be conducive to health and vigor of body and mind
- h) Other studies that may be prescribed by the governing board (Education Code §51210)

Grades 7 to 12 (inclusive)

- a) English, literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading, listening, and speaking
- b) Social sciences, disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology designed to fit the maturity of the pupils, history resources, development, and government of California and the United States of America.
- c) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than grade 7
- d) Physical education
- e) Science, physical and biological aspects
- f) Mathematics
- g) Fine arts; art, music or drama
- h) Applied arts, including consumer and homemaking education, instructional arts, general business education, or general agriculture
- i) Vocational-technical education designed and conducted for the purpose of preparing youth for employment
- j) Automobile driver education
- k) Such other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board (Education Code §51210)

What happens if the child is not participating in one of these options?

If a child/student is not actively attending one of the options outlined, the parent is in violation of state law and the child is considered “truant.” The penalty is referral to the District Attorney for prosecution of the parent or legal guardian pursuant to Education Code §48291.

Note: *The local public school retains the authority and the responsibility for making any determination of truancy. (Education Code §48222)*

For further information and/or to file a private school affidavit, visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/privateschools> or request an affidavit by writing to:

California Department of Education
Policy & Program Coordination
1430 N Street, Suite 4309
Sacramento, CA 95814