



Fort Cherry School District

110 Fort Cherry Road
McDonald, PA 15057
724.796.1551 (phone) / 724.796.6500 (fax)
www.fortcherry.org

Alternative Educational Options

Compulsory Education Age: 6 years old through 18 years old
Compulsory Attendance: 180 Days / 900 Hours Elem / 990 Hours Secondary
School Levels: Elementary (K-6) / Secondary (7-12)

❖ Public School

- Public School District, Public School Cyber Vocational, Charter, Cyber/Charter
- Free through public school tax system
- Public School Enrollment: FCSD Registrar, Carol Staley, cstaley@fortcherry.org
- Public Cyber/Charter Enrollment through school's website / phone number

❖ Private School

- Recognized by the state, but not licensed by state
- Tuition based; paid by attendee
- Private School Enrollment through school's website / phone number

❖ Private Cyber

- Recognized by the state, but not licensed by state
- Tuition based; paid by attendee
- Private Cyber Enrollment through school's website

❖ Home Education/Homeschooling

- Education by parent/guardian/legal custody; parent must have high school diploma/GED
- May employ Umbrella Schools include homeschool coop, correspondence course, private cyber, private distance learning
- Enrollment through Public School District: FCSD Superintendent Administrative Assistant, Pam Staley, pstaley@fortcherry.org

❖ Private Tutoring (single family)

- Parent/Guardian hire private tutor with PA certified teacher; parent pays for tutoring services
- Paid by Parent/Guardian
- Enrollment through Public School District: FCSD Superintendent Administrative Assistant, Pam Staley, pstaley@fortcherry.org

❖ **Instruction in the Home**

- Restricted to students whose needs require full-time special education services and programs outside the school setting for the entire day
- IEP/MDE team decision
- Free through school taxation system
- Enrollment through Public School District: FCSD Pupil Service Director, Dawn Smith, dsmith@fortcherry.org

❖ **Homebound**

- Temporarily education of a student due to illness or other urgent reasons
- Medical Excuse required
- Free through school taxation system
- Enrollment through Public School District: FCSD Pupil Service Director, Dawn Smith, dsmith@fortcherry.org

Homeschooling Protocols

Parent/Guardian instruct their child/ren through education process

Parent/Guardian must have HS diploma or equivalent

School Year July 1 - June 30

→ Submissions to FCSD through District Superintendent Office:

1. Beginning of School Year (submitted by July 1 for early start; August 1 for regular start)

Affidavit including:

- a. Name of child/ren
- b. Age of child/ren
- c. Name of supervisor of the home education program (Parent/Guardian Name)
- d. Resident Address
- e. Phone Number
- f. Statement that the mandatory subjects will be taught
- g. Evidence of immunizations, health, and medical services
- h. Assurance that the home education program will comply with the law
- i. Certification that the supervisor (parent/guardian), all adults living in the home and persons having legal custody of the student have not been convicted of the criminal offenses enumerated within five years immediately preceding the date of the affidavit

Outline of Proposed Education Objectives by Subject Area

Additional Assurances if child is identified under IDEA needing Special Education Services

2. End of the School Year

Instructional evaluation by certified PA evaluator (licensed clinical psychologist, school psychologist, PA certified teacher, non public teacher/administrator, or persons with other qualifications)

- a. Interview of student
- b. Portfolio review
- c. PA evaluator credentials

Evaluation letter set to District Superintendent by June 30

Standardized testing (Grades 3, 5, 8 without exception)

Administration of free PSSA/Keystone testing within FCSD (must notify district of intent by October 1); PDE provided list of nationally normed standardized test

3. May be dual enrolled at District with permission from District Superintendent

4. May participate in District extra/intra-curricular activities with permission from District Superintendent

→ Curriculum

Elementary school level (grades K-6), mandatory courses: English, to include spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires; health and physiology; physical education; music; and art.

Secondary school level (grades 7-12), mandatory courses: English, to include language, literature, speech and composition; science; geography; social studies, to include civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra and geometry; art; music; physical education; health; and safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires. Such courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor of the home education program, economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age-appropriate courses as contained in Chapter 5 (Curriculum Requirements) of the State Board of Education.

→ Graduation Requirements

The following minimum courses in grades nine through twelve are established as a requirement for graduation in a home education program.

- Four years of English
- Three years of mathematics
- Three years of science
- Three years of social studies
- Two years of arts and humanities

Private Tutoring Protocols (Single Family only)

Parent/Guardian pay for instruction by PA Certified Teacher to instruct their child/ren

→ Submissions to FCSD through District Superintendent Office:

1. Private Tutor responsibilities:
 - a. Register students with District: Student(s) Name(s)/Student(s) Address(es)
 - b. Copy of PA Certificate
 - c. Copies of all required background checks
 - d. Last day of tutoring if ends before end of school year
 - e. Notify District of any child missing three (3) days of school
 - f. End of the school year written assurance that the instructional requirements have been completed
 - g. Portfolio-like documentation must be kept for each year
2. Parent must provide immunizations, health, and medical records
3. May be dual enrolled at District with permission from District Superintendent
4. May participate in District extra/intra-curricular activities with permission from District Superintendent

→ Curriculum

Elementary level students (grades K-6) must include: English, including spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; geography; the history of the United States and Pennsylvania; science; civics, including loyalty to the State and National government; safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires; health, including physical education and physiology; music; and art. Either 180 days or 900 hours of instruction are required.

Secondary school level students (grades 7-12) must include: art; English; health; mathematics; music; physical education; science; and social studies, including civics, world history, United States and Pennsylvania history. Either 180 days or 990 hours of instruction are required.

Secondary school level students (grades 7-12) may include, at the discretion of the tutor: economics, biology, chemistry, foreign languages, trigonometry or other age appropriate planned instruction as contained in Chapter 4 of the regulations (relating to academic standards and assessment).

Diplomas Types

- ❖ Public School - Districts/School Diploma
- ❖ Private School - Private School Diploma
- ❖ Private Cyber - State recognized & not state recognized (depends on school)
- ❖ Home Education/Homeschooling - Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma (CCSD/GED)
- ❖ Private Tutoring - GED
- ❖ Instruction in the Home - Districts/School Diploma
- ❖ Homebound - Districts/School Diploma

Resources

- ❖ PDE Private Schools
 - <https://www.education.pa.gov/Postsecondary-Adult/CollegeCareer/Pages/Private-Licensed-Schools.aspx>
- ❖ PDE Cyber/Charter
 - <https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Charter%20Schools/Pages/default.aspx>
- ❖ PDE Homeschooling / Private Tutor
 - <https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Home%20Education%20and%20Private%20Tutoring/Pages/default.aspx>
- ❖ PDE Instruction in the Home
 - <https://www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/BECS/FederalCode/Pages/InstructionConductedHome.aspx>
- ❖ PDE Homebound
 - <https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Homebound%20Instruction/Pages/default.aspx>
- ❖ Education Law Conference
 - https://www.elc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ELC_FactSheet_HomeschoolingPA_5_2_08.pdf



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Alternative Educational Options

District Responsibilities

- Home Education Programs
 - Affidavit (by August 1)
 - Name, age
 - Evaluator
 - Address
 - Immunization, health, and medical services
 - Outline of Proposed Education Objectives by Subject Area
 - Additional Assurances if child is identified under IDEA needing Special Education Services
 - Evaluations (by June 30)
 - Evaluation letter
 - Standardized Test Completion (Grades 3, 5, 8)
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Extra/Intra Curricular
- Private Tutoring Program
 - List of Student provided by Tutor
 - Tutor Certificate
 - Tutor Clearances
 - Written Assurance of legal instructional requirements, immunizations, and medical services
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Extra/Intra Curricular
- Residency of Students
- PIMS Reporting of Home Education / Private Tutoring (October 1)
- PIMS Graduation and PHEAA Form
- Work Permits (age 14 - 17)
- Letter of Transfer (family moves from one District to another in PA)
- Maintenance of Records (99 years)