

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-37—sHB 5468

Education Committee

Appropriations Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF PARENT-MANAGED
LEARNING**

SUMMARY: Starting with the 2027-28 school year, this act requires parents or guardians (“parents”) seeking to withdraw their child from public school to go, in person, to the school district’s office and sign a withdrawal form. It also prohibits parents from withdrawing their child for parent-managed learning (such as homeschooling) if any adult living with the child is on the state’s child abuse and neglect registry or currently under investigation for child abuse or neglect. The act requires the district’s superintendent to conduct a records check with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to determine whether a child may be withdrawn for parent-managed learning.

Starting with the 2028-29 school year, the act requires parents of school-age children to annually complete (or cause to be completed) an intent to educate form indicating whether their child will (1) enroll in a public school, (2) attend a nonpublic school, or (3) be instructed through parent-managed learning (such as homeschooling). The forms must be submitted to the school district where the parent resides by October 1 and may be submitted electronically. The act deems parents in compliance with this requirement if their child attends a public school or if the nonpublic school the child attends files the required annual attendance report.

The act also requires:

1. the State Department of Education (SDE) to create the intent to educate and withdrawal forms and make them available to school districts (§ 2) and
2. school boards to report to SDE the number of children being instructed through parent-managed learning for whom an intent to educate form was completed (§ 4).

Lastly, the act makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, except the requirement for SDE to create the forms and the conforming changes to laws on DCF records’ confidentiality and private school attendance reports are effective July 1, 2026.

PARENT-MANAGED LEARNING

Under the state’s compulsory school attendance law, parents were required to either send their children to public school or show they are otherwise receiving instruction equivalent to the one provided in public school (with certain exceptions, such as parents opting to delay school for a five- or six-year-old).

The act modifies this law to specifically require parents to (1) send their child to public or nonpublic school or (2) instruct them in the studies taught in public

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school through “parent-managed learning” (education managed by a child’s parent or guardian in a setting other than a public or nonpublic school). By law and unchanged by the act, children must, regardless of educational setting, receive instruction in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, and United States history and citizenship (including town, state, and federal governments).

INTENT TO EDUCATE FORM

Submission Requirement

Starting with the 2028-29 school year, the act requires certain parents to annually complete (or cause to be completed) an intent to educate form indicating whether their child will (1) enroll in a public school, (2) attend a nonpublic school, or (3) be instructed through parent-managed learning. It applies to parents of children:

1. enrolled in public school;
2. attending a nonpublic school (defined as a school, other than a public school, that is approved by SDE after receiving accreditation and files the required annual attendance report);
3. instructed through parent-managed learning (a) who are newly eligible for kindergarten (by turning five before September 1 of the school year) or (b) for whom an intent to educate or a withdrawal form (as described below) was submitted the prior school year (this effectively grandfathered most children who began instruction through parent-managed learning prior to the 2028-29 school year);
4. for whom an option form was signed (because the parent opted to defer their five- or six-year-old from starting school, as allowed by law); and
5. who move to a different school district or withdraw from a nonpublic school during the school year.

Under the act, a parent is deemed in compliance with the requirement to submit the intent to educate form if the (1) child attends a public school or (2) nonpublic school the child attends files the annual attendance report it must submit by law.

Submission Procedure

Under the act, intent to educate forms must be submitted by October 1, to the school district office for the town where the parent resides, and they may be completed and submitted electronically. Parents who move into a district have 14 days to complete the form.

Nonpublic Schools

The act requires parents of children who will attend a nonpublic school to submit evidence of that fact. It also requires parents of children who withdraw from a nonpublic school to attend a different one to complete an updated form and

provide this evidence.

Procedure When Forms Are Not Submitted

Under the act, if a school board does not receive an intent to educate form from a parent required to submit one by November 1 (and the parent is not deemed compliant as described above), the board must make at least three attempts to contact the parent to tell them they must submit the form. If the board cannot make contact by November 1, the act requires the school board to notify SDE that it has not received the form.

WITHDRAWALS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL

Starting with the 2027-28 school year, the act requires parents seeking to withdraw their child from public school to go, in person, to the school district's office and sign a withdrawal form.

Withdrawals for Nonpublic School

If the child is withdrawing to attend a nonpublic school, the parent must show evidence that the child will attend the school. The child's withdrawal is complete when the school district receives this evidence.

Withdrawals for Parent-Managed Learning

If a child is withdrawing for parent-managed learning, the withdrawal is not effective until the superintendent completes a records check with DCF. The act specifies that this check does not constitute a report of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Under the act, within two business days after receiving a withdrawal form, the superintendent (or his or her designee) must conduct a records check with DCF for each person ages 18 or older who lives with the child. The act specifically allows DCF to release information from its records to school boards in order to complete the act's requirement.

The records check must identify whether any of the adults living with the child are (1) on the state child abuse and neglect registry or (2) currently under DCF investigation for child abuse or neglect. If so, the child may not be withdrawn. Within five business days after starting the records check, the superintendent must notify the parent whether the withdrawal is effective. If it is not, the superintendent must tell the parent (1) the reason the withdrawal is not effective and (2) how he or she may challenge the records check findings, including appropriate DCF contact information.

DCF as a State Educational Authority

The act also deems DCF to be a state educational authority under the federal

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Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for the records check and allows it to receive the educational records of any child for whom a withdrawal form is signed.