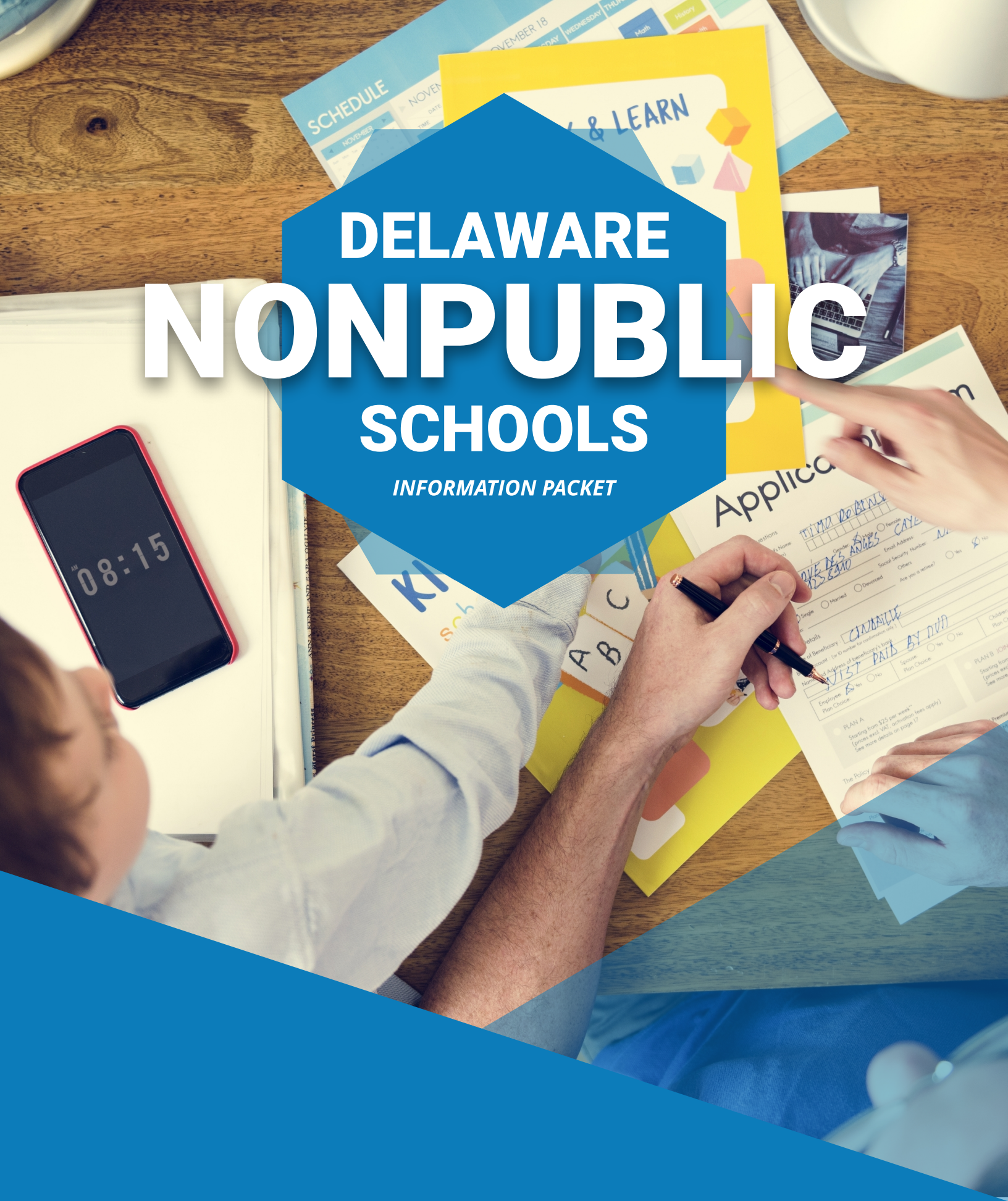
DELAWARE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

INFORMATION PACKET



https://education.delaware.gov/nps

WELCOME!

The options to homeschool or attend private school in Delaware provide the parents and/or guardians of school-age children alternatives to public schools.

Explanation of Schools and Services

Nonpublic Schools (NPS) in Delaware include homeschools and private schools. There are two main types of homeschool; single-family and multi-family.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMESCHOOL means the education of one's own child(ren) primarily by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of such child(ren) mainly in their own residence.

MULTI-FAMILY HOMESCHOOLS means the education of children, primarily by the parents(s) or legal guardian(s) of such children mainly in one or several residences, or other facilities, when such children are not all related to each other as brother or sister. A person shall act as a liaison to the Delaware Department of Education for reporting enrollment and attendance information for all families involved.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS means a school having any or all of grades kindergarten through twelve, operating under a board of trustees and maintaining a faculty and plant which are properly supervised.

In order to have an open nonpublic school, you must register with the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). To remain open, a nonpublic school must report annual enrollment and attendance.

The DDOE does not provide, endorse, accredit, approve or monitor curriculum for any nonpublic school (private or homeschool), or validate any type of credential provided by those schools. Students and parents/guardians must investigate the school themselves and ask if they are accredited. Students and parents/guardians may wish to contact a college, university, training program, licensing entities, or employer to determine if they will accept the diploma from the nonpublic school under consideration.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

- The DDOE does not provide or recommend a curriculum
- The DDOE does not keep any student records. We recommend you keep an academic portfolio for your student that includes information such as grades, attendance, test scores, etc.
- The DDOE cannot ensure that your student's next step (college, employer, etc.) will acknowledge records and/or diploma information from your NPS. We recommend you contact the next step to identify requirements so they can be met

Academic Information

The DDOE does not issue, maintain, or retain any academic records for nonpublic (homeschool or private) students. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Curriculum
- Report cards and promotion
- Diplomas
- State Assessments

The DDOE encourages all nonpublic schools to maintain and retain a portfolio and records for their student(s). This academic portfolio may be required by the student's next step (i.e. college admissions, employer, etc.) or for a special circumstance (i.e. re-entry to a Delaware public school).

Please note, if a student returns to public school in Delaware, it is the public school's decision which grade level a student is placed when re-enrolled into a public school.

Diplomas

The DDOE does not issue diplomas for any nonpublic school or validate any type of credential provided by those schools. The DDOE does not retain copies of any diplomas for nonpublic students.

The diploma will be issued by the nonpublic school.

Curriculum

The DDOE does not provide or recommend the curriculum of any nonpublic school. After opening a nonpublic school, you will be responsible for the courses, course work, materials and supplies needed. This means once you open the school, you are the administrator of that school and you are responsible for curriculum selection, attendance records, etc.

The DDOE does not charge anything to open a homeschool; however, the curriculum that you select may have fees associated with it.

ONLINE SCHOOLS, PROGRAMS, AND/OR CURRICULUMS are not considered a nonpublic school by the DDOE. Online schools, programs, and/or curriculums do not report student enrollment and attendance to the DDOE. As such, your student must be enrolled into an open Delaware nonpublic school. You may then choose to participate in an online school, program, and/or curriculum as long as the nonpublic school remains in an open status with the DDOE.

Report Cards and Promotion to the Next Grade

The DDOE does not issue report cards for any nonpublic school. The DDOE does not determine whether a student is qualified for promotion to the next grade level. Both grading and promotion are determined by the primary contact/administrator of the school. This information is not reported to the DOE. As such, report cards will come from the nonpublic school. Any requests for transcripts cannot be met by the DDOE.

It is up to the nonpublic school to determine promotion criteria and promotion is reported to the DDOE during annual enrollment submission, no later than October 5.

Records Retention

The DDOE does not retain nonpublic school records for open or closed schools. We strongly encourage all nonpublic schools to maintain and retain a portfolio and records for their student(s). We also recommend that parents/guardians ensure they retain this information for their student(s) as a student may find they need this information years down the road.

REGISTRATION

If you plan to homeschool children in Delaware, you must open a nonpublic school (NPS) with the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and enroll your children

The use of an online school, program, or curriculum is acceptable, but you are still required to open a homeschool. You do not have to open a homeschool with the DDOE if your child is 16 or older; however, we welcome and encourage you to do so.

Once your student is enrolled into a homeschool, you must withdraw from public school or your previous nonpublic school.

Application Steps

The DDOE will review your submitted application and open or deny the school. If needed, DDOE will call for any additional information. Please be aware we do our best to review the information as quickly as possible. The DDOE will deny a NPS application and/or student registration if an active truancy case exists.

Whether you are opening a Private School or Homeschool, the process contains three steps:

- **Step One:** Apply for an DDOE EdAccess account at https://ssoapply.doe.k12.de.us/#home An email confirmation will be sent to you containing your username and password. You will be required to set up a Multi-Factor Authentication
- **Step Two:** Register your homeschool via the Nonpublic School Application contained in your EdAccess homepage. Click on the Nonpublic school icon and complete the application. Once the application is complete, the pending application will be sent to DDOE for approval.
- **Step Three:** Once the application has been approved**,** print or obtain a copy of the Acknowledgment Letter indicating that your NPS has been opened and your student(s) is/are enrolled. Public schools will not withdraw your child(ren) to a NPS without this Acknowledgment Letter

The fastest way to complete registration is on the web.

Please visit *https://education.delaware.gov/npsapply* for more information.

If you would like to register in person, please call 302.241.2820 to schedule an appointment.

The information found is this document provides an overview of Nonpublic Schools in Delaware. For more information, please visit

https://education.delaware.gov/nps

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Email: nps@doe.k12.de.us

Phone: 302.241.2820

Delaware
Department of Education