# SNAPSHOT

# Home Schooling in Tennessee

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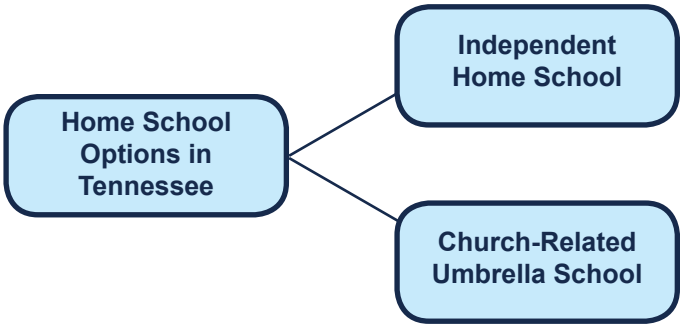
**Tennessee law allows parents to home school their children in grades K-12 using one of two options:** an independent home school or a church-related umbrella school. For both types of home school, the parent is the teacher and bears responsibility for selecting and following a curriculum; neither type of home school is required to follow state academic standards or any particular curriculum.



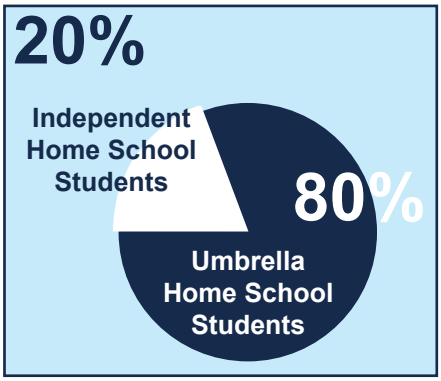

**There are a number of differences between the two types of home schooling in Tennessee.** In general, independent home schools are subject to more state regulations than church-related umbrella schools, though both types are less regulated by the state than public schools and some private schools.

**Independent home school students are required by state law to take standardized tests in grades 5,7, and 9 and report test results to their local district.** The law for church-related umbrella school students refers to standardized testing, but it is unclear if standardized testing is required. There are no reporting requirements for test results.

**Both types of home school students are generally eligible for the same scholarship opportunities as public and non-public school students, including the Tennessee Promise.**

**The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) allows both types of home school students to participate in their athletic programs (including middle school programs) provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.**

**The exact number of home school students in Tennessee is not known.** OREA estimates the total for school year 2016-17 at approximately 37,000 to 42,000 students, with roughly 80 percent of those enrolled in umbrella home school programs.




**The legislative brief takes a closer look at home schooling in Tennessee and includes:**

1. an explanation of the two different types of home schooling,
2. a comparison of the two types regarding testing requirements, sports participation, high school diplomas, and other issues, and
3. an estimate of the number of home school students.

View the full report at: http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/