

New Jersey Homeschool Policy and Participation Summary, 2025

Prepared by keturah abdullah

Because New Jersey does not require mandatory homeschool reporting, comprehensive statewide data on homeschoolers is unavailable.
— JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025

Across the nation, an increasing number of families are choosing to homeschool their children. According to the US Census Bureau (2021), “the global COVID-19 pandemic has sparked new interest in homeschooling and the appeal of alternative school arrangements has suddenly exploded.” While the average percentage of students being homeschooled in the United States is around 5%, according to the [Johns Hopkins Homeschool Hub](#), New Jersey’s rate of homeschooled students reached nearly 11% during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since New Jersey does not require mandatory homeschool reporting, we cannot calculate a cross-sector comparison due to the lack of comprehensive data (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

Overview of New Jersey

New Jersey’s Data at a Glance

Since 1967, New Jersey has recognized homeschooling as a legally approved form of education for children between the ages of 6 and 16. New Jersey is one of several states that does not require homeschooling parents and guardians to file information about their homeschool participation, resulting in a lack of existing data on homeschoolers in New Jersey. However, the [U.S. Census estimates](#) indicate that around 4.7% of New Jersey families homeschooled in the spring of 2020, and increased to 10.7% by the fall of 2020. This was close to the national average of 11.1% at that time. Based on [U.S. Census data](#), our calculations indicate that about 3.62% of K-12 students in New Jersey were homeschooled during the 2022-23 school year, and 3.69% during the 2023-24 school year¹.

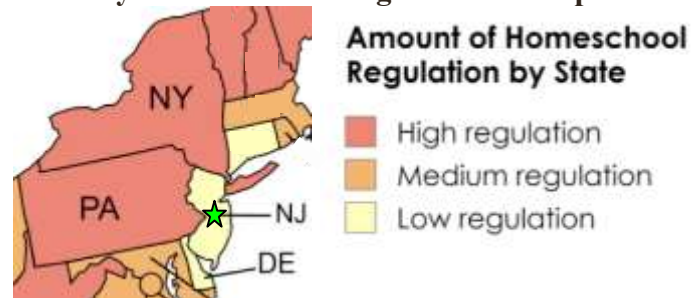
A Snapshot of Homeschooling and Homeschoolers in New Jersey

New Jersey offers homeschooling families a comprehensive [website](#), presenting information in a question-and-answer format. The website outlines the legal requirements for homeschooling in New Jersey, as well as provides some general *recommendations* on the homeschooling process. For example, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, New Jersey requires every parent, guardian, or other person having custody and control of a child between 6 and 16 to enroll them in, or provide them with, an appropriate education. Adults who do not provide adequate educational options will be fined by the state and charged as a “disorderly person.” There are no requirements regarding attendance records, minimum instructional time, subjects, or testing. However, parents are expected to provide an “equivalent education.”

Concerning registration, parents are not required to notify the state or local district of their intent to homeschool. There is one exception: if a high school student leaves a public school for homeschooling, the parents must complete a transfer form. Otherwise, parents are encouraged to notify their local school boards to avoid truancy issues. See [N.J. Legislative Statutes \(state.nj.us\)](#) and navigate to Title 18A for Education Statutes for more information (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

¹ Due to survey changes, the data from 2020 reflects the percentage of households, while the data from following years reflects the percentage of students partaking in homeschooling (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

Beyond State Lines: New Jersey’s Homeschool Regulations Compared to Neighboring States



New Jersey and its bordering states; Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

Compared to nearby states like Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania, New Jersey’s regulatory policies either align with or diverge from those of its neighbors. For example, New York and Pennsylvania are *high-regulation* states, meaning that these states have extensive rules and regulations for families registering in and maintaining homeschooling. Namely, New York and Pennsylvania require families to send a letter of intent to their local district and partake in some standardized testing. Alternatively, New Jersey is most similar to its neighbor, Delaware, which is a *low-regulation* state, meaning that it, along with other low-regulation states, has fewer requirements for homeschooling families. However, even as *low-regulation* states, Delaware and New Jersey vary significantly in terms of what is required. For example, Delaware requires families to submit a notice of intent and collect student data, whereas New Jersey does not. Additionally, neither state requires parents to have specific educational qualifications, nor do they require homeschooled children to participate in standardized testing.

Due to the lack of comprehensive state-reported data, we remain deeply curious about those who are homeschooling in New Jersey, as well as their experiences. For more information on developing homeschool research trends not only in Connecticut but nationwide, please visit The Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy’s [Homeschool Hub](#).

About the Homeschool Research Lab:

The [Homeschool Research Lab](#) was founded by [Angela R. Watson](#), PhD, an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins [School of Education](#) and a senior research fellow at the [Institute for Education Policy](#). She has researched homeschooling for nearly a decade. Dr. Watson also created the Homeschool Hub as a one-stop resource for current information on homeschooling data, regulations, and research across the United States.

Preparer Bio:

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