


# ILLINOIS HOMESCHOOLING INFORMATION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

In Illinois, registration of home-schooled students **is not required**. Parents **may** choose to notify their regional superintendent of education and/or the State Board of their intention to home-school. There is a Frequently Asked Questions document on the Illinois State Board of Education website that can be found here: https://www.isbe.net/Documents/homeschool-faq.pdf

Home-schooling in Illinois is considered to be a form of private education. Parents who choose to educate their children at home are under a legal obligation to meet the minimum requirements stated in Illinois' Compulsory Attendance Law (Section 26-1 of the Illinois School Code). Parents who choose to educate their children at home are obligated to teach their children "…the branches of education taught to children of corresponding age and grade in the public schools" and they are further obligated to offer instruction in these core courses in the English language. The "branches of education" include language arts; mathematics; biological and physical sciences; social sciences; fine arts; and physical development and health. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) website includes home instruction information for parents, available for download at the following website: https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Homeschool.aspx .

Illinois law allows home school families a tax credit for educational expenses under certain circumstances. For more information see: https://www2.illinois.gov/rev/research/publications/pubs/Documents/pub-119.pdf

There are many groups of families who home school in the local area. Generally, the goal of these groups is to create an environment of encouragement and affirmation for military related families who have chosen to educate their children at home. Here are links to some:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/912347975936275/ O'Fallon, IL Area Homeschoolers
https://www.facebook.com/groups/HEARTsforScott/ HEART(s) (Home Educating All ouR *children* Together)
https://www.home-school.com/groups/detail.php?7157 Metro East Catholic Home Educators (MECHE)
A very active homeschool group is the St Clair County Christian Home Educators. You can find out more information about this group on their web site: https://www.sccche.org
or by contacting Ms Rebecca Phillips (jrphil5@charter.net). She has extensive homeschooling experience having successfully homeschooled three children.

Recently there have been attempts to require more stringent controls on homeschooling families. You can find information about these bills at this website: www.protecthomeschooling.com

**SCOTT AFB SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER** *Helping Families, Students and Educators Succeed*

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