

New York State Resources

New York State Education Department

<http://www.nysed.gov/>

The New York State Education Department is part of the University of the State of New York (USNY), one of the most complete, interconnected systems of educational services in the United States.

Our mission is to raise the knowledge, skill, and opportunity of all the people in New York. Our vision is to provide leadership for a system that yields the best educated people in the world.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/>

Resources for pre-K through grade 12 education in New York State

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/10010.html>

Requirements for homeschooling in New York State

NYSED Office of Special Education

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/>

The Office of Special Education works to promote educational equity and excellence for students with disabilities through its roles and responsibilities to:

- Oversee the implementation of federal and State laws and policy for students with disabilities.
- Provide general supervision and monitoring of all public and private schools serving New York State preschool and school-age students with disabilities.
- Establish a broad network of technical assistance centers and providers to work directly with parents and school districts to provide current information and high quality professional development and technical assistance to improve results for students with disabilities.
- Ensure a system of due process, including special education mediation and impartial hearings.
- Meet with stakeholders through the Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education Services.

New York Home Educators' Network

<http://www.nyhen.org/LocalGroups.htm>

We are New York State homeschoolers past, present, and future, from seasoned veterans to newcomers. We are a diverse group with different views, and we accept members regardless of their approaches to homeschooling. We welcome all members who believe in our mission:

- To support the freedom of families to educate their children at home;
- To improve and strengthen connections and communication among home educating families;
- To advocate for freedom from restrictions and for increased opportunities for home educating families;
- To increase public awareness, acceptance and support of home education;
- To provide an association that takes no position on religion, partisan politics, and non-homeschooling issues; and
- To protect from accidental or deliberate infringement by government parents' rights to teach their own children.

Homeschool Buyer's Co-op Conference List

<https://www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org/homeschool-conferences/>

Welcome to the Co-op's compilation of Homeschool Conferences and Conventions, sorted by date. Users can identify New York State based conventions and conferences they may want to attend.

(this website sells curriculum, but provides access to a number of free resources as well)

Finger Lakes Area Resources

TST BOCES Homeschool Office

The Office of Home Instruction is responsible for coordinating all documentation related to home-instructed students on behalf of the following school districts: Candor, Dryden, Groton, Ithaca, Lansing, Trumansburg and South Seneca.

homeinstruction@tstboces.org

(607) 257-1555 ext. 7203

You are encouraged to maintain copies of ALL paperwork sent to this office.

- Letters of Intent are due on July 1 or as soon as the decision to home school has been made.

- Individualized Home Instruction Plans (IHIP's) are due generally within four weeks of the letter of intent, or by August 15th.
- Quarterly Reports are due every 10 weeks. Dates are stated on the IHIP. If no dates are submitted, we will expect to receive your quarterly reports on the following schedule:
 - November 15
 - February 1
 - April 15
 - June 15
- Year-End Assessments and Standardized Test Results are sent in with the fourth quarterly report or immediately after receiving the test results.

Please be cognizant of the deadlines so you can remain in compliance with the home school instruction requirements.

Finger Lakes Homeschool Organizations

Fingerlakes Unschooling Network (FUN)

www.unschooling.org

The Family Unschoolers Network provides support for unschooling, homeschooling, and self-directed learning. If you are an unschooler, homeschooler, self-directed learner, or just learning in general, then this is the site for you! You will find newsletter articles, reviews, resources, web sites, books and lots of other information to help your homeschooling or unschooling efforts.

Loving Education at Home (LEAH)

<https://ithacaleah.org/>

We work to support and encourage one another in our calling to homeschool our children in the Ithaca area through group activities, support meetings for the parents, teen council, and field trips. Look through our site to see who we are and what we do and see if joining Ithaca LEAH can benefit you and your family!

Northern Light Learning Center (NLLC)

www.nllchs.org

Northern Light Learning Center (NLLC) is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization. Our primary purpose is to build a cooperative learning community that expands the educational and social opportunities for homeschoolers and homeschooling families in the Ithaca area. We coordinate a regular schedule of classes and events and organize shared homeschool resources.

Primitive Pursuits

www.primitivepursuits.com

For over 20 years 4-H Primitive Pursuits educators have offered skills and experiences that foster life-long connections with nature. Thousands of diverse youth from Tompkins County and beyond have reconnected with the natural world through year-round nature immersion and mentorship from our talented and dedicated staff.

The Finnstitute

<https://finnstitute.org/>

We augment and supplement Homeschooling work through an exciting and varied curriculum that meets the many interests of the school age students.

The Lantern Program

<https://earthartsithaca.org/lantern-school-2/>

The Lantern Program offers homeschooled children an opportunity to be a part of a community that emphasizes learning through a connection to the natural world and socialization through play. The class meets in an historic one-room schoolhouse on a campus that includes lots of open play space, nature trails, and outdoor classrooms.

Local Resources

Cayuga Nature Center, the Paleontological Research Institution, and Smith Woods

<https://priweb.org/index.php>

Located on 120 acres of land overlooking Cayuga Lake, the Cayuga Nature Center cultivates awareness, appreciation, and responsibility for the natural world. At the Museum of the Earth explore Earth and its prehistoric past—from the tiniest trilobite to the mighty mastodon—

through engaging displays, hands-on features, stunning fossils, and science-inspired art. Smith Woods is a 32-acre plot that is one of the largest remaining flat tracts of old-growth forest in the area. A walk through this small forested area may be the closest one can get in central New York to experiencing a landscape like the first Europeans encountered across most of the region in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Cornell Center for Materials Research

<https://www.ccmr.cornell.edu/education/educational-resources/>

The Cornell Center for Materials Research Lending Library offers lesson plans and student activity sheets for download on a wide variety of science topics that have been or are being designed to meet the Next Generation Science Standards.

Ithaca Children's Garden

<http://www.ithacachildrengarden.org>

ICG is driven by a mission to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards and has created both a physical environment and a programming menu that facilitates and fosters environmental exploration, learning, and appreciation.

Ithaca Generator

<https://ithacagenerator.org/>

We are Ithaca Generator, a community of inventors, crafters, designers, engineers, and artists. We have a talented pool of instructors and volunteers who are available to create demos and workshops for small and large groups. Topics include 3D Printing, Laser Cutting, Electronics, Welding, Woodworking, Design Software, Design Methods, and more!

TC3 College Now!

<https://www.tompkinscortland.edu/academics/collegenow>

CollegeNow students are high school students who are ready to earn college credit now! Learn more about how CollegeNow can help you get a head start on college through concurrent enrollment courses offered in the high school, online courses, or campus-based courses. Homeschooled students will find a range of credit and non-credit opportunities, including assistance completing their high school equivalency through college credit.

Library Resources (Check the stacks for call numbers starting with “371”)

Databases available for free through the library portal.

Britannica School/Britannica Escolar

Britannica offers three unique sites for children, young adults, and older patrons. It’s easy to choose an age-appropriate level for conducting research, completing homework assignments, and working on special projects in the library or at home.

Driving-tests.org

This free resource provides practice tests and handbooks for cart, motorcycle and commercial NYS driver’s licenses. A frequently asked question section offers detailed answers to 100+ DMV-related questions.

Kids InfoBits

This database for students in kindergarten through grade 5 features a kid-friendly graphic interface with full-text content from elementary reference sources and magazines. Kids InfoBits covers geography, current events, the arts and sciences, people, government, history, and more.

Mango Languages

Mango Languages is an easy to use online language-learning system teaching actual conversation skills for a wide variety of languages, including Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, Greek, German, Chinese, Arabic, and Japanese. Specialized ESL courses are also available.

Novelist K-8 Plus

Novelist K-8 Plus is a trusted source of read-alike recommendations specifically for younger readers. It helps kids find books that are just right for their reading level and interests. They can also enter words that describe the contents of a book they would like to read, and Novelist retrieves titles that contain these words in the book's subject headings field.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context

A comprehensive social issues database providing pro/con viewpoint articles, reference information, statistics, journal and newspaper articles, images, and web links to develop and enhance critical thinking skills for everything from social studies projects to debate preparation.

Research In Context

Created specifically for middle-schoolers, Research In Context combines age-appropriate videos, newspapers, magazines, primary sources, and much more. Students will find outstanding support to complete assignments in core subjects including literature, science, social studies, and history.