

## Feeling Overwhelmed...Where Should I Start?

First off, know that you're not alone in facing these struggles; there's many others who have faced or are facing the same concerns as they take the steps to start homeschooling. Though there are challenges, it really can be a simple process for you to make the transition.

If your child or children are currently attending public school, you'll want to inform the school that your children will no longer be attending. They may have a specific process or forms to fill out that they can assist you with.

Homeschool regulations and laws vary by state, so you'll want to check out the guidelines for your specific state. Some states are more protective of parents' rights to educate at home while other states are more restrictive.

It's also a good idea to check out whether your state offers ESA (Empowerment Scholarship Accounts). The ESA program allocates funds to homeschoolers that otherwise would have gone to the county/public school that the student would have attended. These funds can then be used for approved academic purchases (typically curriculums, educational resources, etc.). The exact regulations for the ESA program will vary by state, so you'll want to see if your state offers it, and if so, what their rules are regarding it.

Once you've taken this step (which is courteous to the public school), you're now ready for the more fun parts of preparing to homeschool!

## **Tips for Practical Application:**

- 1. Call or email the school that your child currently attends. Inform them that you intend to homeschool so your child will no longer be attending that school. Ask if there's any paperwork or process to follow on your end.
- 2. Go online and search “homeschool laws” for your state. Different websites such as the one for your state’s board of education should provide you with information you need to know.
- 3. Go online and search “ESA” or “ESA homeschool” for your state. The department/board of education or other websites should provide you with information so that you know if your state offers it, and if so, how to enroll.