PSA filing

If you’d like to homeschool for fall of 2020, the optimum way to do it this coming year because charters are not funded for additional students due to SB98 and AB77, and not many are taking new students, is to establish your home as a small private school.

Here are the steps to become a small private school!

First, make sure your child is unenrolled from any other previous school (an email will suffice, and if they request a copy of your PSA, you may provide that to them after you file it). If you get any pushback from your previous school, utilize either or both of the letters on the legality of homeschooling from the lawyers at HSC, here: [https://www.hsc.org/legal-101](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hsc.org%2Flegal-101%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3ileikHmeTlD-qWoRDS21ShAroH_H60dnaOAS-XiYyYgJvkgzDN8OIRJY&h=AT3A0XfnG11s-tXkwQU-ml8AyQbBRbf1blw-8AQOtynC7dtqRIe7OyhhANHBPogjLirYk4S3vAI96Mr-tgRxRY2iqZ7KE-1tBCHUV26SUEMTTdj66f_h2sas_RYdK1xCp7EHCyIu6jisoI5GSFtjyj0bBCln)

Second, you simply decide to become a small private school. Your youngest child should be 6 as of September 1. If not, don’t include them this year.

Third, you will keep a few things on file which makes you compliant with the requirements to be a private school. You’ll keep attendance records (could be a cheap wall calendar, only mark when absent), you’ll keep a record of whatever vaccinations your child has whether they are complete or not, or you have a waiver, you will keep a list of subjects that your school offers (not necessarily doing, just what you offer, the list should have typical subjects offered- see the board of education website for more info), and you will keep a record of your teacher qualifications, which could be a piece of paper that says you graduated high school or it could be a resume. Only one parent need file the form, even if both are involved with homeschooling, and choose a name for your school that your child would be proud to see on a diploma someday. (Not your last name, street name, or a frivolous name!) Line by line Instructions can be found here: [https://www.hsc.org/legal-101](https://www.hsc.org/legal-101?fbclid=IwAR0jJPKvwRZlYQSJ8lZYGD3kU1B3Lg6btHPVq-xwUJGhOaLwkkoN3ESsDP8)

That’s it, you keep all of that on file, and you are now a private school. There are no reporting requirements, no testing, no tax benefits or funding, and no requirements with regard to days or hours taught. You are now the teacher, administrator, and record keeper of your school. You decide what qualifies your child for promotion and graduation.

Finally, in October, when the PSA form becomes available from the board of education for the coming school year, between the 1st and 15th of October, you will file your private school affidavit, and that’s the final piece. The PSA is simply a notification to the state that you “already” exist. It’s not an approval of your school or accreditation. Your school already exists, now you’re telling the state. Your form goes into an electronic database with 20K others and you’ll get an email confirmation. No one looks at it, it’s for your records to prove you’re legally compliant as a private school.

Yes, between starting homeschooling and October 1, you will not have a PSA to show anyone, and that’s ok, you “can’t” get one until October, so anyone asking to see it will have to wait until then, and you are completely legal and compliant is the meantime. Use the “on the legality of homeschooling” letter(s) if you need to.

And, if you happen to come to homeschooling and need to create a home based private school after October, you will take all of the previous steps mentioned and file the PSA right away. The form is up all year long and PSA schools can be formed at any time you pull your child from their previous school.