

Types of Homeschooling (All Legal in PA)

Type	Description
Unschooling	A legal and valid approach in PA. Learning is child-led and experience-based rather than curriculum-driven. Families must still document subjects covered and meet portfolio requirements; many use journals, photos, and project logs to show progress.
Traditional Homeschooling	Parent-directed learning, often with a structured curriculum and scheduled lessons. Easier to align with state requirements.
Cyber/Charter Homeschooling	Online programs are overseen by public charter schools. They provide curriculum, teachers, and progress tracking, while still learning from home.
Umbrella Schools	Private or nonprofit organizations that oversee your homeschool, offering structure, recordkeeping, and sometimes graduation diplomas.
"Freehand" Schooling	Loosely structured or eclectic learning styles may appear unstructured. Legal in PA, but families must still meet subject and documentation requirements, such as portfolios, which must show educational activity. This approach can work well with careful planning and reflection, but insufficient documentation may raise compliance issues.

Of these types of Homeschooling, the preferred options are Cyber/Charter and Umbrella Schools due to how difficult-sounding the methods of Unschooling and Traditional Homeschooling sound. An increasingly favorite form is Freehand, which is never encouraged or recommended due to how unsafe it can be. Of these options, it is actually Unschooling and Traditional Homeschooling with the most benefits for an individual.