

Possible Challenges for Private Homeschoolers in CA

Homeschooling privately in California for high school, by enrolling in a Private Satellite Program (PSP) or creating your own private school and filing a Private School Affidavit (PSA) with the state gives lots of freedom while maintaining future college options. Here are a few potential challenges for homeschooling with a PSA/PSP for high school, along with some answers:

Challenge #1 - Your child wants to return to regular high school after homeschooling one or more semesters of high school in a home-based private school. Your local public school won't count any of the homeschool courses. They say your 16 year-old is welcome to enroll, as a first semester freshman. The California Department of Education confirms they can refuse to give credit,

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/psfaq.asp#d14>.

Even if you join HSLDA, they will NOT help you with this, <https://hslida.org/content/about/> "If I stop homeschooling, will HSLDA help me persuade public school officials to accept my child's homeschool credits? It is common for public school districts to disqualify credits of homeschoolers transferring into public high school. Consistent with our mission to conserve our resources for helping parents who continue to homeschool, we are not able to extend our advocacy to situations in which parents are enrolling their students in public school."

Answer #1 - A few high schools have granted credit for courses taken during 9th grade while homeschooling, but it's not guaranteed. Other schools have granted credit once the family got their courses approved by an expensive outside accrediting agency. Most homeschool charters will let you enroll mid-high school, and once they have given credit for your previous coursework, you might be able to then transfer into traditional school. However, IMO one of the most important considerations before you start homeschooling 9th grade is...Do you want the option to return to traditional high school? If so, you can only guarantee this ability by homeschooling with a public ISP or charter after 8th grade, or by confirming with the high school what outside coursework they would recognize.

Challenge #2 - Your child wants to play college sports. Playing high school sports and staying NCAA eligible can be tricky for private homeschoolers. CA does *not* allow PSA students to participate in CIF sanctioned sports.

Answer #2 -Some PSPs are able to allow homeschoolers to play on their high school teams. Some district Independent Study programs allow their enrolled students to play on sports teams. Other homeschooled athletes participate in Club teams. You are encouraged to stay in close communication with NCAA, http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/home-school-students?fbclid=IwAR0IPsGDWPYhHj0mJlG1J-F6KAi5F7I39_r3EVTGU GRYgC5--WAgLuI7YY and you might consider joining the Homeschool and NCAA Eligibility Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/412094025796980/>

Challenge #3 - Your child gets offered a job, they ask him to get a work permit. Students are issued work permits from their school. But parents can't sign the work permit for their own child, even if the parent is the administrator of the school where the child is enrolled.

Answer #3 - 1. You can ask the local public school district to issue a work permit for your kid. They can choose to do it, but they may limit hours, or they might refuse to issue work permits at all for students not enrolled in their school. 2. You can find someone willing to become an Administrator of your school long enough to educate themselves on the relevant codes and complete the paperwork involved.

http://hsc.org/work-permits_1.html 3. Contact Peach Blossom School, peach.blossom.psp@gmail.com. We have assisted other home-based private schools with issuing work permits for their students.

Challenge #4 - You have graduated your 17-year old from your home-based private school, but the local community college will not accept their diploma and transcript because it was issued by an unaccredited entity. They only recognize diplomas from regionally accredited institutions. In April 2018, The Legal Counsel of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office issued "Legal Opinion 2018-01: Diplomas from Unaccredited Entities" which says "California Community Colleges may, but are not required to, accept diplomas from unaccredited private schools." [The link is broken on their website, but I can send you a pdf of the decision if you email me, peach.blossom.psp@gmail.com.] Even for members, HSLDA will NOT help you, "Our litigation team reviewed this and unfortunately, it would not be winnable. The California attorney recommends the students who want to enroll at these community colleges to take the California High School Proficiency Exam: www.chspe.net.

Answer #4 - 1. Use dual enrollment to take classes at the CC until the student is 18; once they are 18 they can enroll as a regular student. You can even enroll in more than one CC if you want to take more units than each allows for DE students 2. Anyone who has passed CHSPE can enroll as a regular college student, regardless of age. The college is required by law to admit them as such, "All persons and institutions subject to California law that require a high school diploma for any purpose must accept the certificate as satisfying the requirement." <https://chspe.net/about/>

Challenge #5 - Your child is looking to take standardized tests like PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject, and AP exams in preparation for college. Their home-based private school cannot offer these tests.

Answer #5 - Homeschoolers can register to take SAT and SAT Subject tests at the College Board website, <https://www.collegeboard.org/>. The high school code (CEEB code) for homeschoolers (PSA/PSP) is 970000. You will need this code to register these exams.

To register for PSAT/NMSQT or AP exams, homeschoolers must locate a school willing to host the student for the desired exam. Some public schools will allow in-district private homeschoolers to take the exams at their local public high school, but not all will. Some private schools have been open to hosting homeschoolers, so you'll need to contact them early to find a willing school. Ask if they allow "outside students" to take the exams. There will likely be a proctoring fee involved.

Challenge #6 - Your child has an IEP and is receiving services through the local school district. If you leave the school district, your child will probably no longer be able to receive services through them.

Answer #6 - Some families find that the more relaxed and flexible nature of homeschooling allows the student to progress academically without the Resource Services they were getting at their public school. The Facebook group CA Homeschooling with an IEP offers a large community of parents sharing strategies and resources. Parent Helping Parents is an organization that may help, <https://www.php.com/> If your child needs therapies, check with your medical insurance provider to see what they can offer. The CA Department of Developmental Services may be able to provide you with programs, resources or referrals, <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/>.