

Frequently Asked Questions: Home-School

Q: How do I home-school my child in Wyoming?

A: Home-schooling in Wyoming is governed by state statute. A parent who wishes to home-school must contact the superintendent's office of the district where they live. Every parent must turn in to their district a list of the sequentially progressive curriculum they will be using to teach their child during that academic year in the seven subjects required by law (reading, writing, mathematics, civics, history, literature and science). If a child is of the age of compulsory school attendance (ages 7-16) and a parent fails to file the necessary paperwork, the child will be considered truant under state law and the parents may be prosecuted. The choice of curriculum is the parents' responsibility and will not be supplied by the district.

Q: My family has strong religious beliefs. Are we required to teach things that are in violation of our beliefs?

A: Wyoming Statute 21-4-102(a)(vi) states: "...These curriculum requirements do not require any private school or home-based educational program to include in its curriculum any concept, topic or practice in conflict with its religious doctrines..."

Q: Where can I read Wyoming's home-school statutes?

A: All current Wyoming statutes are available on the internet. To read any Wyoming statute visit: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.aspx> Click on Title 21 Education to access all education statutes. Home schools are defined under Chapter 4, Article 1 – Compulsory Attendance.

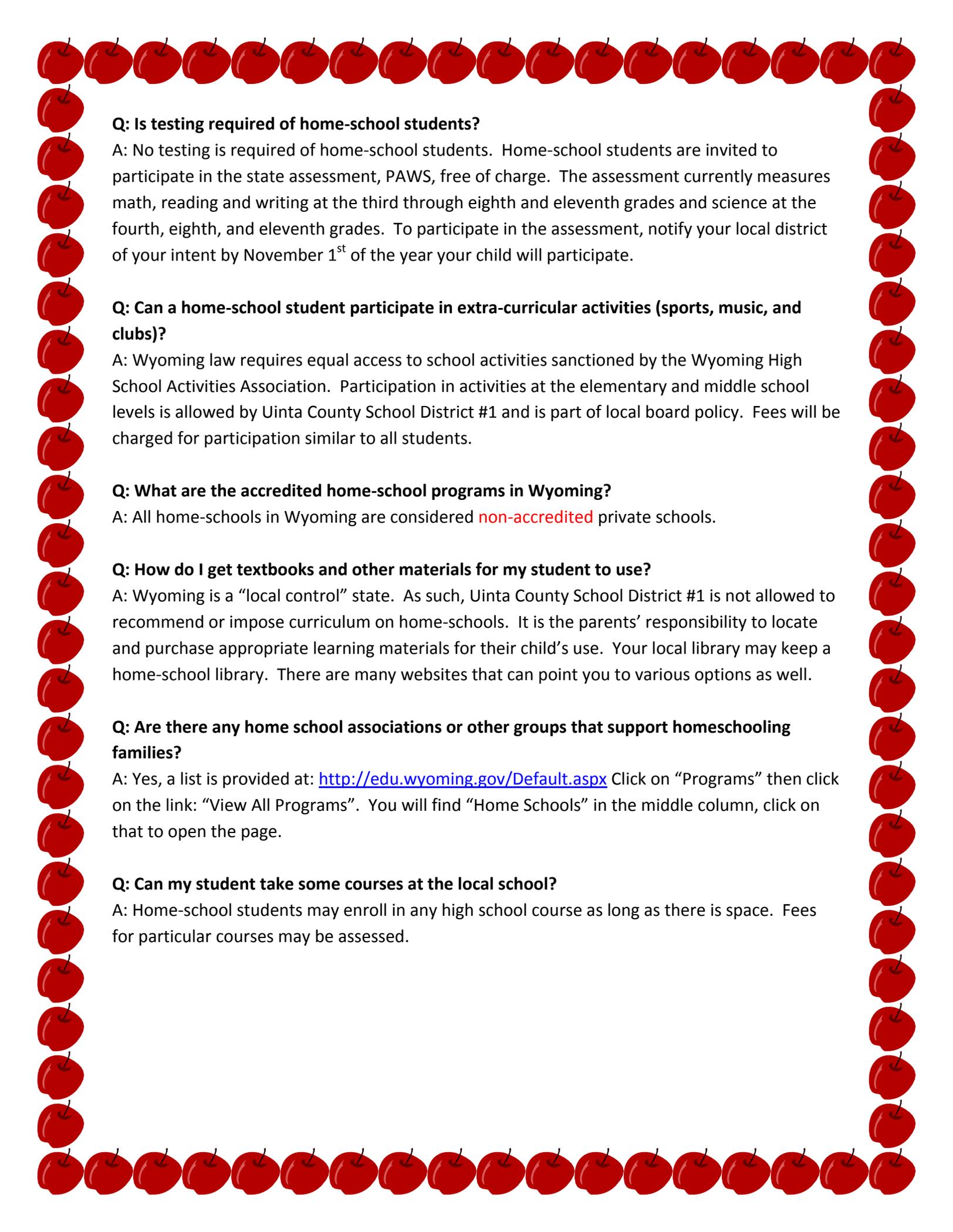
Q: What are standards? How can I read the education standards for Wyoming?

A: Standards specify what students should know (mathematics computation, writing a paragraph, etc.) and to what depth they should know it (i.e. memorization, application, transfer). The standards are written at the fourth, eighth and eleventh grade levels for each content area except mathematics and language arts. Mathematics and language arts standards are written at Kindergarten through eighth grade and eleventh grade levels. Standards should not be confused with curriculum. Standards are *what* should be learned. Curriculum is *how* the instruction is delivered. Wyoming's standards can be found at:

www.k12.wy.us/SA/standards.asp

For more information on Wyoming Standards contact Tom Collins, 307-777-3493 or

tcolli@educ.state.wy.us .



Q: Is testing required of home-school students?

A: No testing is required of home-school students. Home-school students are invited to participate in the state assessment, PAWS, free of charge. The assessment currently measures math, reading and writing at the third through eighth and eleventh grades and science at the fourth, eighth, and eleventh grades. To participate in the assessment, notify your local district of your intent by November 1st of the year your child will participate.

Q: Can a home-school student participate in extra-curricular activities (sports, music, and clubs)?

A: Wyoming law requires equal access to school activities sanctioned by the Wyoming High School Activities Association. Participation in activities at the elementary and middle school levels is allowed by Uinta County School District #1 and is part of local board policy. Fees will be charged for participation similar to all students.

Q: What are the accredited home-school programs in Wyoming?

A: All home-schools in Wyoming are considered **non-accredited** private schools.

Q: How do I get textbooks and other materials for my student to use?

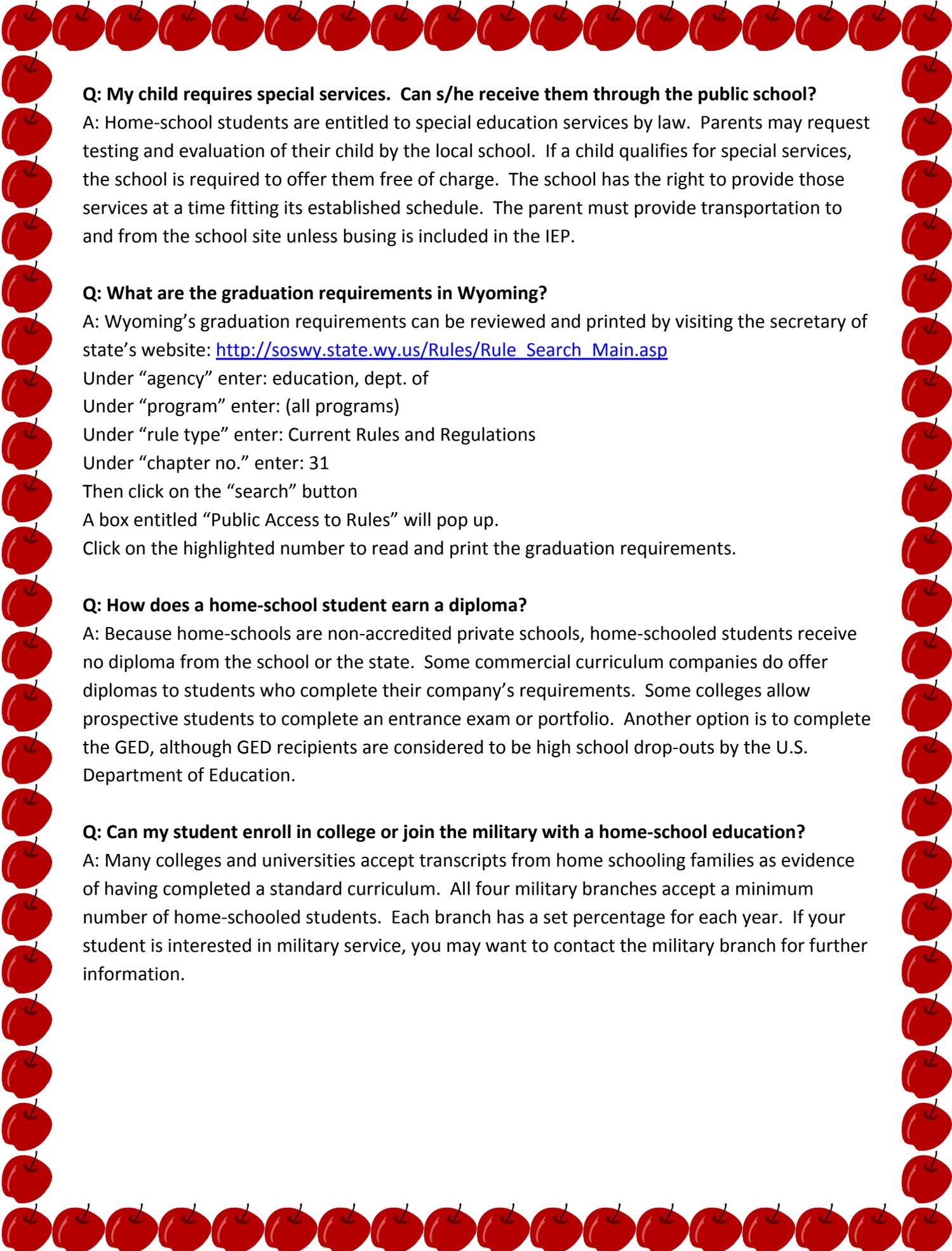
A: Wyoming is a “local control” state. As such, Uinta County School District #1 is not allowed to recommend or impose curriculum on home-schools. It is the parents’ responsibility to locate and purchase appropriate learning materials for their child’s use. Your local library may keep a home-school library. There are many websites that can point you to various options as well.

Q: Are there any home school associations or other groups that support homeschooling families?

A: Yes, a list is provided at: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/Default.aspx> Click on “Programs” then click on the link: “View All Programs”. You will find “Home Schools” in the middle column, click on that to open the page.

Q: Can my student take some courses at the local school?

A: Home-school students may enroll in any high school course as long as there is space. Fees for particular courses may be assessed.



Q: My child requires special services. Can s/he receive them through the public school?

A: Home-school students are entitled to special education services by law. Parents may request testing and evaluation of their child by the local school. If a child qualifies for special services, the school is required to offer them free of charge. The school has the right to provide those services at a time fitting its established schedule. The parent must provide transportation to and from the school site unless busing is included in the IEP.

Q: What are the graduation requirements in Wyoming?

A: Wyoming's graduation requirements can be reviewed and printed by visiting the secretary of state's website: http://sos.wy.state.wy.us/Rules/Rule_Search_Main.asp

Under "agency" enter: education, dept. of

Under "program" enter: (all programs)

Under "rule type" enter: Current Rules and Regulations

Under "chapter no." enter: 31

Then click on the "search" button

A box entitled "Public Access to Rules" will pop up.

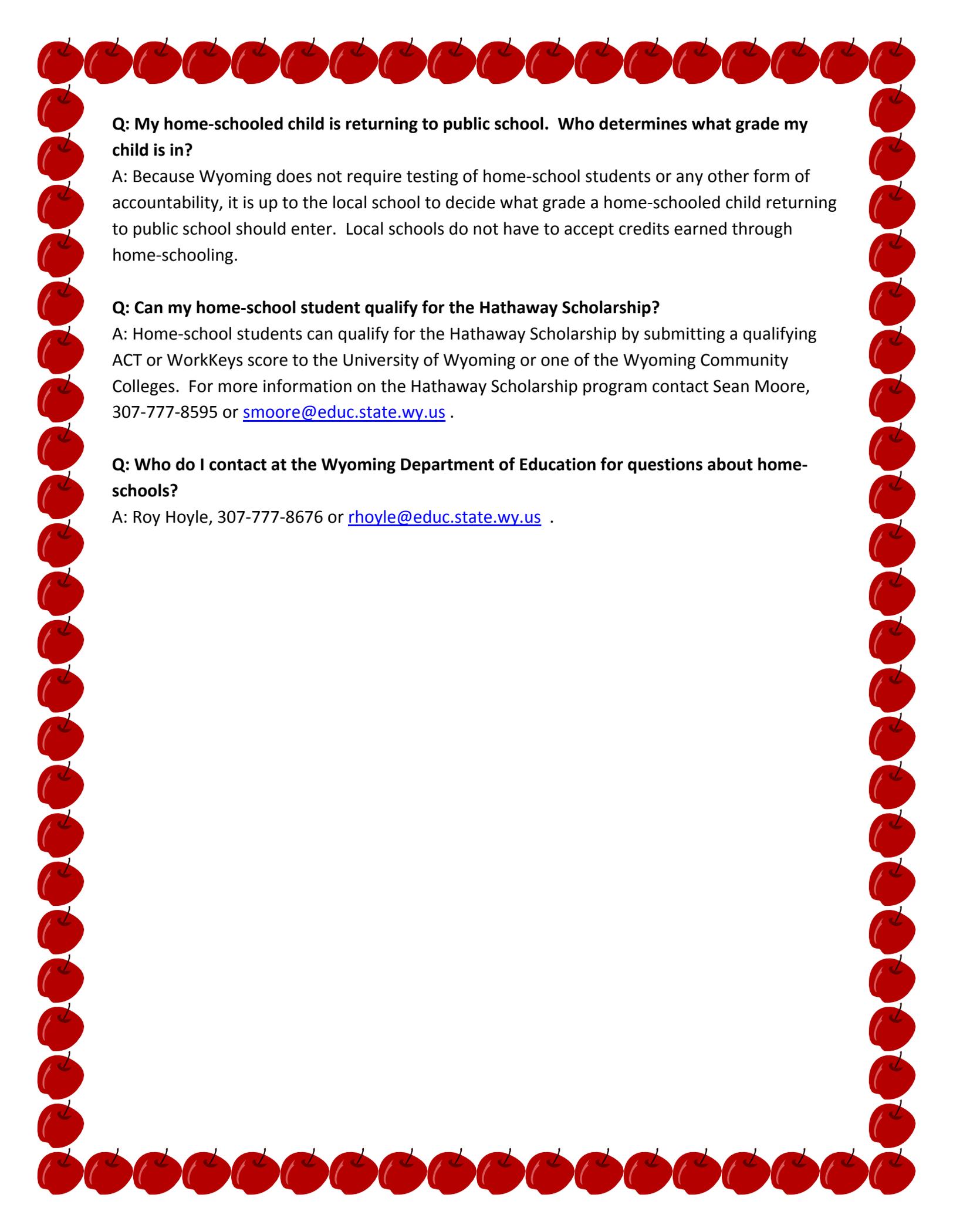
Click on the highlighted number to read and print the graduation requirements.

Q: How does a home-school student earn a diploma?

A: Because home-schools are non-accredited private schools, home-schooled students receive no diploma from the school or the state. Some commercial curriculum companies do offer diplomas to students who complete their company's requirements. Some colleges allow prospective students to complete an entrance exam or portfolio. Another option is to complete the GED, although GED recipients are considered to be high school drop-outs by the U.S. Department of Education.

Q: Can my student enroll in college or join the military with a home-school education?

A: Many colleges and universities accept transcripts from home schooling families as evidence of having completed a standard curriculum. All four military branches accept a minimum number of home-schooled students. Each branch has a set percentage for each year. If your student is interested in military service, you may want to contact the military branch for further information.



Q: My home-schooled child is returning to public school. Who determines what grade my child is in?

A: Because Wyoming does not require testing of home-school students or any other form of accountability, it is up to the local school to decide what grade a home-schooled child returning to public school should enter. Local schools do not have to accept credits earned through home-schooling.

Q: Can my home-school student qualify for the Hathaway Scholarship?

A: Home-school students can qualify for the Hathaway Scholarship by submitting a qualifying ACT or WorkKeys score to the University of Wyoming or one of the Wyoming Community Colleges. For more information on the Hathaway Scholarship program contact Sean Moore, 307-777-8595 or smoore@educ.state.wy.us.

Q: Who do I contact at the Wyoming Department of Education for questions about home-schools?

A: Roy Hoyle, 307-777-8676 or rhoyle@educ.state.wy.us.