



Information

about the
CPI Form A

from  **homeschool iowa** and  **HSLDA**

The Department of Education released an updated Competent Private Instruction (CPI) Form A in mid-August of 2022. After Homeschool Iowa communicated concerns about the form, the DE announced it was working on a revision.

A revised CPI Form A was published on August 19th, 2022, and remains as the available version.

While the revised version does contain many corrective changes, Homeschool Iowa still does not view it as fully compliant with the Iowa Code or Iowa Administrative Rules, and we are continuing to work toward further revision.

*Protecting the freedoms of homeschooling families in Iowa
is one of Homeschool Iowa's top priorities.*

As our Advocacy Team monitors the Department of Education's revision processes, we are also working to provide you with the tools you need to meet the challenges presented on the currently available CPI Form A.

On the following page, you will find a detailed, item-by-item presentation by Home School Legal Defense Association Attorney, Scott Woodruff, to help you navigate through the form.

Here, we would like to highlight the item that generates the most inquiries and confusion: Item #5.

Item #5, entitled Instructional Program Information, includes a fillable table and an incorrect directive stating that all form filers must provide additional instructional plan information within 30 days.

(More details about the incorrect 30-day follow-up directive are available on the following page.)

It is, however, the fillable table and its instructions that have generated the most questions and concerns.

In response, **Homeschool Iowa has created a special form** that can be used to supply all of the information that Item #5 attempts to gather to meet Iowa law and regulations.

We suggest that you write "See Attached Sheet" in the Item #5 table area and then fully complete and attach our form, "Outline of Course of Study and Texts or Other Resources Used," available on our website [Iowa Homeschool Forms](#) page.

This, of course, is not legal advice, but this procedure and form have been carefully crafted by Homeschool Iowa and HSLDA to meet the requirements for Item #5 that are detailed in the Iowa law and rules.

Please note that you can choose to fully complete and submit the currently published CPI Form A as is. We do not recommend that, but it is an option. Using a form from a government agency that is overreaching and seeks information to which it is not entitled under the law sets a bad precedent for yourself and everyone else.

Additional information is available on the Homeschool Iowa website, including details on the [Iowa Homeschool Legal Options](#) and which of them require the filing of CPI Form A.

Find the forms you need on our [Iowa Homeschool Forms](#) website page.

Please consider becoming a Homeschool Iowa member partner to support our advocacy efforts!



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The Iowa Department of Education has created a revised Form A that does not fully comply with Iowa law. This creates a challenging situation for those homeschooling families who are home educating under three of Iowa's five homeschool options—(1) the supervising teacher option, (2) the year-end assessment option, or (3) the homeschool assistance program (HSAP) option—and must therefore file Form A.

If you wish to be protected from disclosing information you are not required to provide, here are our recommendations.

Item 1 on the form calls for “current school year.” Iowa law does not require parents to identify a school year. The date by your signature at the bottom of the form is sufficient.

Item 2 seeks your child's birth date and grade. Birth date is not required under Iowa statutes but is required by an Iowa regulation. HSLDA believes this regulation is not legitimate and that parents are not required to disclose birthdates. You are required to disclose your child's age, however. If you do not wish to disclose the birth date, an option would be to write in, “age ____ as of September 15” and insert your child's age as of September 15 in the blank space. Iowa statutes do not require families using the annual assessment option or HSAP option to provide their child's grade level.

Item 5 concludes with a confusing sentence: “Please note that further instructional plan detail must be provided within 30 days of filing Form A.” Just for clarification, no law or regulation requires families to submit a thing called an “instructional plan” with or without “additional details” within 30 days or ever. This sentence may be an attempt, though poorly worded, to refer to the fact that a family starting homeschooling using any of the options above after school opens locally must file at least a partial Form A within 14 days and complete the form within 30 days.

Item 6. Families operating under the year-end assessment option no longer need to provide 148 days of instruction. An appropriate response in that case is to write in, “NA—operating under Iowa Code 299A.1.2(a)(2).”

Item 7. Only families using the supervising teacher option need to fill out item 7. If so, draw a line through the word “enroll” and write “instruct” above it (the concept of “enrolling” does not apply). “Teacher signature” and “phone” are optional (no asterisk). If you wish to operate under the HSAP option, check “yes” on item 11, and the school will choose a teacher for you if a HSAP program is available.

Item 8 is optional (no asterisk by that item). If you do not desire the services mentioned there, leave the item blank. You are not required to check the “no” box. Item 8 gives a false instruction, however. If a family wants their child to dual enroll for classes or extracurriculars—and not special education services—they do not need to fill out item 9 (which asks if the student is “identified” as requiring special services).

Item 9 is optional, but the second question, 9.2, seeks information that cannot be lawfully obtained in this setting. Iowa Regulation 281-31.2(1) lists what questions are allowed on Form A. Asking whether a parent consents to an initial evaluation or reevaluation is not permitted. There is a proper way to seek consent, but it is not through Form A.

While the form mentions dual enrollment, it does not mention open enrollment (which means your family would be treated as if your student lived in a different school district). Formerly, a family seeking to open enroll was required to file a request by March 1 of the prior school year. That deadline was repealed recently and was not replaced by another general deadline.

Historically, the department's changes to Form A have generated some controversy. While this year's controversy is unwelcome, it is not unprecedented. Homeschool Iowa and HSLDA are in the process of working with the department in hopes of eventually having a Form A that is 100% compliant with Iowa law.


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