

BLOOD LEVEL TEST REQUIREMENTS IN IOWA FOR STUDENTS UNDER COMPETENT PRIVATE INSTRUCTION



Prepared by Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators

Legislation enacted by the 2007 Iowa General Assembly requires the parents of all children under the age of 6 who enroll their children in public or accredited nonpublic schools (or those who file CPI forms for students under age 6) to provide evidence that their children's blood lead level has been tested.

BECAUSE CPI FORMS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS UNDER AGE 6, THIS REQUIREMENT WILL NOT APPLY TO MOST IOWA HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES.

Follow this flow chart to determine what the requirements for your child are:

STEP 1
DOES YOUR CURRENT SITUATION REQUIRE YOU TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF BLOOD LEAD LEVEL TESTING?

Are you filing a Competent Private Instruction Form A for a child who is under age 6?

Please note that this would be an unusual situation, as Iowa's compulsory school attendance age is 6-16, and Competent Private Instruction forms are not required for students under age 6.

An example of such an uncommon case:
Parents might file a Competent Private Instruction Form A for their 5 year old in order to dual enroll and access the public school kindergarten's music program for their child.

So, again, the question is:

Are you filing a Competent Private Instruction Form A for a child who is under age 6?

**If NO, you do not have to provide evidence of blood level testing.
If YES, continue to Step 2.**

STEP 2
IF YOUR CURRENT SITUATION
REQUIRES YOU TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF BLOOD LEAD LEVEL TESTING,
WHAT CHOICES DO YOU HAVE?

If you are filing a Competent Private Instruction Form A
for a child who is under age 6,
determine which of the following three choices you will pursue:

- A. provide evidence of blood lead level testing
- B. request a religious exemption to the requirement, or
- C. request a low-probability of blood lead level poisoning exemption.

If “A,” continue to Step 2A.

If “B,” continue to Step 2B.

If “C,” continue to Step 2C.

STEP 2A
PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF BLOOD LEAD LEVEL TESTING
If you are filing a Competent Private Instruction Form A

for a child who is under age 6,
and you have determined that you will provide evidence of blood lead level testing,
take your child to your family’s health care provider
or other such source
and ask for a blood lead level test for your child.

You will not need to notify the State of the results
because Iowa law since 1992 requires results of all blood lead level tests
to be reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The Iowa Department of Health plans to cross-check its lists of blood lead level test
against lists of children under age 6
who have been enrolled in kindergarten at a public or accredited nonpublic school
(or whose parents have filed a CPI form for that child when he/she was under age 6).

Names of children will not be provided to the Department of Health
if the parents have directed the school accordingly
(e.g. filed a form such as the NICHE FERPA form).

STEP 2B
REQUEST A RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO THE REQUIREMENT
If you are filing a Competent Private Instruction Form A
for a child who is under age 6,
and you have determined that you will request an exemption to the requirement,
download the religious exemption form
and attach it to your Form A when you file it with your resident public school district.

(Please note that the Department of Public Health rules
require that you have this form notarized before submitting it.)

STEP 2C

REQUEST A LOW-PROBABILITY OF BLOOD LEAD LEVEL POISONING EXEMPTION

**If you are filing a Competent Private Instruction Form A
for a child whose age is under 6,
and you have determined that you will request an exemption
based on your belief that your child has a low-probability of lead poisoning,
you are required to contact Rita Gergely at the Department of Public Health.**

800-972-2026 or rgergely@idph.state.ia.us

**Be advised that you will be asked a number of probing questions in order to determine
every address where the child has lived,
every address where the child has visited for any length of time,
every address where the child has received daycare,
every occupation of all adults with whom the child has had significant contact, etc.**

**You will basically have to prove to the Department of Public Health
that your child could not possibly have been exposed to lead
at any time since they were born.**

**If you are able to convince the Department of Public Health of this,
you will be sent a form that you must fill out, sign, have notarized, and return to
the Department of Public Health.**

NOTES:

**If you have any further questions
or if you experience any difficulties when following these steps,
please contact NICHE.**

**Also, please note that
the new dental screening and vision examination requirements
do not apply to home educated students.**