



## Home School Legal Defense Association

PRESIDENT	James R. Mason III, Esq. DC, OR
LEGAL DIRECTOR	Scott A. Woodruff, Esq. MO, VA
LITIGATION COUNSEL	Peter K. Kamakawiwoole, Esq. MO, VA
SENIOR COUNSEL	Darren A. Jones, Esq. CA, DC
	Thomas J. Schmidt, Esq. CA
	William A. Estrada, Esq. CA, DC
ATTORNEY	Amy R. Buchmeyer, Esq. WI
	Kevin M. Boden, Esq. WA
PRESIDENT EMERITUS	J. Michael Smith, Esq. VA
OF COUNSEL	Tom Sanders, Esq. TX

August 6, 2025

**SENT VIA U.S. MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL ([regulatoryreview.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:regulatoryreview.msde@maryland.gov))**

Policy Analyst  
Office of Government Affairs  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

### ***Re: Regulatory Review of COMAR Regulations Pertaining to Homeschooling***

Dear official:

By way of introduction, the Home School Legal Defense Association (“HSLDA”) was founded in 1983 to defend, advance, and promote homeschooling. As a public interest advocacy organization, HSLDA works to encourage state and local agencies and school districts to align their activities with the requirements of state homeschool laws, as well as federal anti-discrimination statutes, for the general benefit of homeschool families nationwide. We currently have almost 100,000 families who are members of our association across the nation. These families have chosen to stand with us in this work as we seek to advocate for homeschool freedom and related Constitutional rights.

I write to you today regarding a recent publication in the Maryland Register stating that the Department is conducting its regular review and evaluation of certain Maryland Regulations. I write to you specifically regarding Subtitle 10, Home Instruction, Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A, § 10.01.01 to .05.

These sections of the Maryland Regulations were first adopted by the Department in 1987, and they have worked for families, children, and the public schools in Maryland since then. We respectfully request that the Department make no changes to these sections.



Homeschooling is thriving and growing in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> It is diverse and pluralistic, and particularly growing in communities of color.<sup>2</sup> And it has been established by the Maryland Legislature as a legal alternative to satisfy Maryland's compulsory attendance statute. *See* Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301(a).

Thank you for your kind attention, and for all that you and the Maryland Department of Education do to serve the people and students of Maryland. If you wish to discuss this with me, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached via phone at (540) 338-5600, or via email at [will.estrada@hsllda.org](mailto:will.estrada@hsllda.org).

Sincerely Yours,



William A. Estrada  
Senior Counsel

cc: HSLDA Member Families in Maryland

---

<sup>1</sup> *See, e.g.*, National Home Education Research Institute, *Homeschooling in Maryland*, available online at <https://nheri.org/stateinfo/maryland/> (accessed August 6, 2025); Johns Hopkins University, *Maryland State Data*, available online at <https://education.jhu.edu/edpolicy/policy-research-initiatives/homeschool-hub/states/maryland/> (accessed August 6, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> *See, e.g.*, Alanna Bjorklund-Young & Angela R. Watson, *The Changing Face of American Homeschool: A 25-Year Comparison of Race and Ethnicity*, *Journal of School Choice*, 18:4, 540-553 (Nov. 12, 2024), available online at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15582159.2024.2422743>.