BEFORE YOU WITHDRAW.

A sanity-saving checklist.

FIRST: KNOW YOUR STATE'S RULES

- [ ] Look up your state's current homeschool requirements
- [ ] Confirm compulsory attendance ages
- [ ] Find out whether you need a notice of intent, registration, or other filing
- [ ] Check deadlines and required subjects
- [ ] Check attendance / instructional-day requirements
- [ ] Check testing, evaluation, or recordkeeping requirements
- [ ] Confirm whether parent qualifications are required
- [ ] Find out whether umbrella / cover school enrollment is an option

CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE

- [ ] Independent homeschool
- [ ] Umbrella / cover school
- [ ] Hybrid program
- [ ] Virtual public school
- [ ] Private-school partnership / microschool / other legal option
- [ ] Confirm who is legally responsible for records, attendance, and reporting

BEFORE THE LAST DAY

- [ ] Ask your current school what they require for formal withdrawal
- [ ] Submit withdrawal paperwork in writing
- [ ] Keep copies of everything you submit
- [ ] Confirm the effective withdrawal date
- [ ] Make sure your next legal schooling option is in place, if required

GET THE RECORDS

- [ ] Report cards
- [ ] Transcript, if applicable
- [ ] Standardized test scores
- [ ] Attendance records
- [ ] IEP / 504 documents
- [ ] Evaluations and accommodation plans
- [ ] Relevant work samples
- [ ] Any records you may need later

THEN — AND ONLY THEN — WORRY ABOUT CURRICULUM

- [ ] Choose one reasonable place to start
- [ ] Resist the 1:14 a.m. panic purchase
- [ ] Remember you do not need a 12-year master plan by Tuesday

BOTTOM LINE: Handle the legal part first. Build the learning part next.

Note: Homeschool requirements vary by state and can change. Always verify current rules with your state Department of Education or other authoritative source before withdrawing a child.

You do not need a schoolroom, a laminator, or a personality transplant to complete this list.