



# PATHWAYS ACADEMY

## 2019-2020 Admission Application

**Please return application to the:**

**RESOURCE CENTER OFFICE**

410 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Gadsden, AL 35901

**Office Hours: Thursdays, 12-4 pm**

*(except during the months of June and December and posted holidays)*

**OR**

**Mail application to:**

**PATHWAYS ACADEMY**

Attention: Admissions Application

P.O. Box 411

Gadsden, AL 35902

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

(256) 494-1600

[www.pathways-academy.org](http://www.pathways-academy.org)

[pathwaysacademy@hotmail.com](mailto:pathwaysacademy@hotmail.com)

# Making the Decision to Homeschool

Homeschooling is a very rewarding experience, but can also be very trying and stressful. We believe the rewards far outweigh the negatives, but you'll need to look at your own life when making the decision to homeschool or not.

- **Your Schedule:** You'll need to look closely at your schedule and maybe clear a few things out if you're already overbooked. In addition to the daily lessons, homeschooling also requires time for planning, record keeping and outside activities. It's not difficult to make homeschooling a part of your daily routine, but it does need to be a priority.
- **Your Finances:** Most homeschool families live on one income or an income and a half. It is possible to homeschool with both parents working full time, but usually requires creative scheduling and/or the help of other family members.
- **Your Household:** Homeschooling will add a whole new dimension to your household. You'll need space for books and supplies, as well as a desk or table to work at. The dining room table generally works fine. If you're a stickler for a spotless house, you might be in for a surprise. Homeschooling can create messes and clutter in itself. But, household chores can be worked into the schedule, either before or after school work is done. The best news is that, as a homeschooler, chores can be counted towards a Home Ec./Life Skills grade.
- **Your Commitment:** It is best if the whole family is in agreement on homeschooling and some might need time to get used to the idea. Don't feel like it's an all or nothing decision. You can commit to it for a year and then reevaluate. Having said that, the first year is the most difficult, so the second year will probably go smoother. It is perfectly okay to put your children back in school or in school for the first time after homeschooling them. Keep good records and the transition should be fine.
- **Socialization** - More attention will need to be given to getting your children together with others. The beauty of homeschooling is being able to have more control of the social contacts your child makes. Club participation (JR & SR Beta Club, Key Club, 4-H, American Heritage Girls, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Kiwanis Clubs) field trips, homeschool park days, & co-op classes are excellent socialization opportunities.
- **Both parents need to be in agreement** - It is important that both parents agree to try homeschooling. It is very difficult to homeschool if one parent is against it. If your spouse is against it at this time, try doing more research and talking to more people about their student's successes.
- **Is your child willing?** - A willing student is always helpful. Ultimately, the decision is the parents to make, but if your child is dead against it, you might have a hard time of it.
- **One year at a time** - It isn't a lifetime commitment - most families take one year at a time
- **Intimidated by the teaching?** - If you can read and write, you should be able to teach your children. The curriculum and teacher materials will help through the planning and teaching. But, if you and your child(ren) get involved in the homeschool community, you'll be able to get help from others if you get stuck. You might also consider co-op classes or hiring tutors for the more difficult subjects.

# PATHWAYS ACADEMY INFORMATION AND SERVICES

## FINDING YOUR HOMESCHOOL PATH...

Thank you for considering Pathways Academy for your family's educational needs. Pathways Academy is a state-wide homeschool covering for families living in Alabama. At Pathways, we believe the paths to education begin at home and that parents should have a choice in educating their children. We welcome and accept students from all over the state of Alabama regardless of religion, culture, or race.

Pathways Academy is the largest cover school in the Etowah County area. We have been dedicated to assisting homeschool families for over 19 years. Each of our administrators has at least one child who has graduated with a homeschool diploma and is successfully navigating college and work. Over the years, multitudes of students have been equipped to face the challenges of life because of the opportunities available through enrollment with Pathways. We would love to offer your student(s) the same opportunity!

We invite you to explore our school website, [www.pathways-academy@hotmail.org](http://www.pathways-academy@hotmail.org), for more information about our school. If you still have questions or concerns, please feel free to email us any time, [pathwaysacademy@hotmail.com](mailto:pathwaysacademy@hotmail.com), call our Resource Center, 256-494-1600, or drop by to visit us during Thursday office hours from noon-4pm.

The Pathways Academy Resource Center is located in the downtown Gadsden area near Riverview Hospital.

<b>PHYSICAL ADDRESS:</b> 410 South 3rd Street Gadsden, AL 35901	<b>MAILING ADDRESS :</b> P.O. Box 411 Gadsden, AL 35902
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**2019-2020 NEW FAMILY ENROLLMENT OPENS THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019.**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE PATHWAYS ACADEMY SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSSES FOR SUMMER BREAK during the month of June. The office will close at 4pm on May 30, 2019.** Office hours will resume when the office **re-opens at NOON ON THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019.** The Resource Center office is always closed during the months of June & December and during posted holidays & scheduled school events. (Please check the calendar on the school website).

## ADMISSION POLICIES & SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

**Please read and fill out the forms in this admission packet very carefully. The admission paperwork may be submitted via mail or can be returned to the Resource Center office during open office hours. A \$25 non-refundable application fee should be submitted with your family's application. The office can accept cash, check, credit card, PayPal, & money orders.**

**Each family is required to have an email address prior to admission** as we communicate primarily through email, our school website and blog, our Cheddar Up Activities website, and our Facebook page. This email will be used to register with homeschool reporting and to keep families updated in regards to events, deadlines, and other valuable information.

**High School Seniors WILL NOT BE admitted after September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year in which they plan to graduate.**

*Students who have been suspended or expelled from school may not be eligible for admission, except by special arrangement and under probationary conditions which may include additional requirements at the High School Administrator's or Academic Advisor's discretion.*

**Withdrawing your child(ren) from their previous school before receiving notice of acceptance for enrollment is NOT RECOMMENDED. Please do not withdraw your child(ren) until your family has been told to do so by a Pathways Academy administrator.**

Instructions for withdrawing your child(ren) from the previous school will be given in your acceptance notification or during your family's orientation meeting. **Pathways Academy Administrators and Staff are NOT RESPONSIBLE for TRUANCY CHARGES** which can arise prior to admission with our school and may continue despite your enrollment.

**Any Parent-Educator / Guardian providing false information during the application and admission process will cause a family's file to be dismissed and enrollment will be terminated immediately. No refunds will be provided.**

## **OUR SCHOOL SERVICES**

Pathways Academy exists to support the long-term commitment of dedicated home educating families. Education is not only a wonderful gift to give our children, but a responsibility. Established policies and requirements are designed to promote integrity, honesty, and excellence in learning.

Enrolled families are contracting for enrollment in order to satisfy the compulsory attendance requirement of our state. This is the service provided for the contractual tuition price. This contract is renewed annually, and either party may choose not to renew the contract. Other services and/or activities may be provided by the school as a benefit of enrollment, but these services are not guaranteed unless they are recorded in the teacher contract.

Pathways Academy submits a church school enrollment form for each child on the parent-educator/guardian's behalf, satisfying the requirements of Alabama legal code 16-28-7. The original is submitted to the superintendent's office for the school district in which the student would attend public school. A copy is given to parents for their record storage and a copy is retained in the family's file at the school office.

Pathways Academy strives to maintain a record of each child's academic work, as submitted by the parent-educator/guardian on each student's SEP (student Education Plan.) When grades are submitted in accordance with the school's reporting requirements, a transcript will be constructed representing each year of study for which the student has been enrolled with Pathways Academy. Transcript Request Forms are required and a 10 day advance notice must be provided.

## **PATHWAYS ACADEMY REQUIREMENTS:**

- ✓ 140 days of instruction for K-8; 180 days of instruction for grades 9-12
- ✓ An SEP (Student Education Plan) should be submitted for each enrolled student by September 15 or within 30 days of orientation for late year enrollments
- ✓ Two progress reports submitted annually (1 per semester / per student).
- ✓ All homeschool methods & curriculum are allowed.
- ✓ Working and single parents are welcomed.
- ✓ All faiths accepted; statement of faith is not required. But we are a Christian-based homeschool covering.

### **WE OFFER 3 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OPTIONS\* -**

**Standard, Academic, & Advanced Academic, plus a Life Skills Diploma for students with Special Needs.**

An approved graduation exam and 2 credits of Biblical studies are required for high school graduation. \*

\*Please see the Pathways High School Handbook for credit requirements for each diploma and course suggestions.

## **STUDENT EDUCATION PLAN/PROGRESS REPORTS REQUIRED**

Alabama state regulations require Parent-Educators to keep attendance. Therefore, parents must maintain attendance records and record each student's total attendance on his/her Progress Report each semester by the reporting deadline.

While state law does not require grades to be kept, Pathways Academy does require grades for the purpose of transcript and scholarship preparation. Parent-educators are required to submit a Student Education Plan (SEP) listing the goals & materials to be used to complete coursework per subject. An SEP for each enrolled student is due the week of September 15 of each academic year or if enrollment is later, within 30 days of completing new family orientation.

**A PROGRESS REPORT** (grades & attendance) is required for each student twice a year during the weeks of December 1 and May 31 of each academic calendar year. The progress report consists of information concerning the grades or progress made in each selected course of study as outlined on the student's education plan (SEP). Furthermore, all 9-11<sup>th</sup> grade students should have an updated Diploma Evaluation Worksheet (DEW) filed by May 31 of each school year.

Parent-Educators are responsible for the submission and storage of their child(ren)'s SEP, Progress Reports, and Diploma Evaluation Worksheets (these are for high school). These Reports should be submitted to the school office by the scheduled reporting dates. It is the teaching parent/guardian's duty to store grades & attendance records.

Parent/Guardians should be aware that Pathways Academy is not responsible for, nor should our office be considered, as the primary storage method for your child(ren)'s permanent records. All Parent/Guardians are required to keep records for their own family.

# **PATHWAYS ACADEMY FEE AND TUITION POLICIES**

- Enrollment Fees are established annually by the Pathways Academy leadership board.
- Enrollment Fees are per family, not per student.
- An application fee of \$25 is due at the time the application for admission is submitted. The application paperwork for admission will not be considered complete, and therefore, not eligible for admission to be determined, until the application fee is paid. The application fee is not refundable.
- A registration fee (paid in the first year only) of \$50 and tuition of \$125 (to be paid annually) will be required when your family's enrollment application is accepted. Upon notice of acceptance for enrollment, families are asked to pay the registration fee and tuition fee to complete the enrollment process. Payment will be expected by the New Family orientation meeting. Registration and Tuition fees are not refundable.
- The cost of books, activities, field trips, educational materials, standardized testing, the graduation exam, diploma fees, and participation in the graduation and awards ceremony are NOT COVERED by tuition fees.
- Tuition is not prorated. The Pathways Administrators and office staff spend the same amount of time, paperwork, and effort assisting every family regardless of the date of their enrollment.
- Enrolling families enter into an agreement for services which extend until the following May 31 of each school year. Families who breach this agreement and terminate their homeschooling contract early are not entitled to a return of any application, registration, or tuition fees.

## **RE-ENROLLMENT and PAYMENT of TUITION FEES are REQUIRED EACH YEAR.**

The Pathways Academy re-enrollment period always begins the first full week of May. The Re-Enrollment and Tuition Deadline is always set for the 3rd Thursday in August.

WARNING: Families who DO NOT COMPLETE their Enrollment or SUBMIT Re-Enrollment in a timely manner may risk TRUANCY CHARGES with their local Board of Education. Our school is required by law to report all non-enrollments to the Board of Education at the beginning of each academic year and whenever a student's enrollment has ceased.

However, we do promise that your family's annual tuition rate is guaranteed not to increase as long as your family's enrollment remains concurrent and in good standing, which means submitting SEPs and re-enrolling by the deadlines.

## **ENROLLMENT CHECKLIST**

**An application for admission requires the following items to be submitted:**

1. Relationship to Public School Statement form
2. New Family Enrollment Form (only one form per family)
3. Teacher Application & Teacher Contract Signed  
*(Note: The contract is page 3 of the teacher application)*
4. Student Registration Form (Please fill out one per student; make copies if necessary.)
5. A Reference Request form
6. A Background Check form
7. Liability Release Form (both parents sign; notarized signature for Joint custody/non-custodial parent)
8. Payment of the Application Fee (\$25) should be submitted with enrollment application.

All applications for admission will be reviewed within 7 days (except during the months of June and December when the Resource Center is closed.) A staff member will E-MAIL the teaching parent a letter of acceptance or denial via the email address provided in your admission paperwork. If admission is denied, all copies of personal documentation you may have provided to the school office (birth certificate, transcript, & driver's license) will be shredded for security purposes.

### **Upon notice of acceptance, each family needs to provide the following items to complete enrollment:**

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each student enrolling with Pathways Academy
2. A copy of the teaching parent's driver's license, or other state issued picture ID will be required for each family's file. (I.D. can be copied in Pathways Academy school office, if necessary.)
3. A Transcript of all school work (required of all new high school students)
4. After notification of acceptance for admission, payment of the registration fee **(\$50)** & tuition payment **(\$125)** are required to complete enrollment. *Full payment should be made on or before New Family Orientation.*
5. Any divorced parent seeking enrollment with Pathways Academy will need to supply the school office with a copy of the custody agreement for any child(ren) enrolled with Pathways Academy. Furthermore, any parent/guardian who shares joint custody with a non-custodial parent will need to have the Liability Release form signed and notarized by the non-custodial parent before the enrollment process can be completed.
6. Enrollment is not complete until all required paperwork has been submitted, full payment has been made, and the Church School Enrollment Form, the required notification to the Board of Education, has been signed by the parent-teacher/guardian. The Church School Enrollment Form will not be sent to your local Board of Education until ALL PAPERWORK and FEES have been received in the school office and ORIENTATION has been completed.

## **NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION SESSION REQUIRED**

Newly enrolling families are required to attend a New Family Orientation session. Orientation sessions are 1 ½ hours & scheduled regularly as long as enrollment is open. Teaching parent is required to attend. Other family members are welcome, provided adequate space is available. This is the only meeting required for ENROLLMENT.

## **CHOOSING SCHOOL CURRICULUM, CORE COURSES, and ELECTIVES**

Families are responsible for the selection and purchase of necessary curriculum, the cost of which is NOT included in the family's tuition. Please consult the Pathways Academy website for more information on curriculum choices. Upon request, our staff is always willing to provide suggestions and recommendations based on curriculum choices they have made or are familiar with. Parents of High School students are encouraged to make an appointment with our High School Advisor. The Curriculum Corner sells used homeschool books & learning materials on a consignment basis. It is open from 1-3pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month during regularly scheduled office hours at the Resource Center.

## **NSF AND LATE FEES NOTICE**

Failure to satisfy outstanding financial obligations in the prescribed manner is a violation of school policy.

Pathways Academy levies a charge for all returned checks. **The current charge for a returned check is \$35.00**, which is the fee our bank charges the school. Families will be given 30 days to submit payment and pay NSF charge. Non-payment will result in dismissal. Student transcripts will not be issued until re-payment & NSF fee have been paid in full.

**A late fee of \$25.00 will be accessed during the 10 day grace period for re-enrollment.** Notice will be made by email and phone contact. If we have not heard from the parent-educator within 10 days of the re-enrollment deadline, your family's file will be closed. Notice will be given to your local Board of Education, as is required by the church school law.

If your family chooses to re-enroll after your file has been closed, you will be required to re-enroll as a new family. Re-admittance is at the discretion of the Pathways Academy School Board. If a family is allowed to re-enroll, the current new family registration fee and tuition rate will apply.

Student records will not be transferred to a new school until all outstanding financial obligations have been resolved.

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*Pathways Academy is not responsible for the educational achievement of enrolled students. Parent-Educators are considered to be teachers in satellite classrooms and as such, they are solely responsible for selecting curriculum; instructing and testing; providing adequate socialization opportunities; and maintaining attendance record & grades for any child(ren) they have enrolled with Pathways Academy. Parent-Educators assume full, total, and absolute responsibility for their child(ren)'s education, which is the definition of home education.*

## HOW TO HOMESCHOOL LEGALLY IN ALABAMA

Pathways Academy is an Alabama church school offering our enrolled families a legal covering, educational guidance, a strong support system, and the accountability necessary for promoting a thorough, Christ-centered education. It is our sincere prayer that Pathways Academy will provide an atmosphere in which families will seek God's glory in all of their endeavors. The Pathways Academy Administrators and Board of Directors firmly believe the responsibility for a child's education and the direction of his/her mental, emotional, social, spiritual, and physical growth is given by God to the parents of the child. Therefore, we think parent-teachers should be allowed to determine what their child(ren) learn, the best teaching method to fit their child(ren)'s learning styles, and how best to help their child(ren) pursue individual academic goals. As such, we provide the following information to help parents understand the homeschool options under Alabama law. *As of July 1, 2014 there are 3 options to legally homeschool in Alabama.*

**1. ENROLL IN A CHURCH SCHOOL-** Families may enroll their children in a Church School located within the state of Alabama. This is the most popular and easiest option to homeschool legally in Alabama. Depending on which church school covering your family chooses to enroll, this option can allow families the most freedom.

*According to Ala. Code § 16-28-1, "A church school includes only schools that offer instruction in grades K-12, or any combination thereof, including preschool, through on-site or home programs, and are operated as a ministry of a local church, group of churches, denomination, and/or association of churches which do not receive any state or federal funding." Every child attending a church school is exempt from the requirements of this [compulsory attendance] section provided the child complies with the procedure in Ala. Code § 16-28-7 which requires a parent or guardian to file a church school enrollment form and report attendance to the church school in which their child is enrolled according to Ala. Code § 16-28-8.*

**By Alabama law, Church Cover School Administrators are required to:**

*Keep records of attendance for each enrolled student*

*Notify the local Board of Education when a student withdraws or fails to re-enroll with the church school*

Most Alabama church schools provide many more services and all church cover schools are allowed to set their own requirements for the good of the students enrolled. Please remember that enrolling in a church school IS a legal option under Alabama State Law. The Church School Enrollment form (CSEF) is filed with the local Board of Education in which your family resides. This is the only form that is required by law. The principals, secretary, counselors, teachers, and employees of your previous school are NOT legally entitled to any documentation regarding education in your home. While you should always be respectful to public and private school officials, you are not required to give them any paperwork other than the request for school records.

**By law, parents of students enrolled in a church cover school are required to:**

*Submit a signed and validated enrollment form to their local Board of Education superintendent upon enrollment with a church school. This form must be resubmitted if the family or student moves to a new address. The church school is permitted to do this on your behalf, but the parent/guardian is responsible for making sure the Church School Enrollment Form has been submitted properly.*

*Parents are required to submit attendance records to the church school administrator.*

**2. PRIVATE SCHOOL OPTION** – Alabama law states that a private school is established, conducted, and supported by a nongovernmental entity or agency offering educational instruction in grades K–12 or any combination thereof, including preschool, through onsite or home programs. A home may be the location where a child receives instruction as a student attending a private school. A parent may establish a private school in the home, or the home may be an extension of an existing private school. Please contact your local Board of Education for proper documentation. Before taking on this task, it is recommended that parents consider the time and energy necessary to establish a private school correctly and balance the roles of administrator, teacher, and parent. Assuming the role of administrator means you will be responsible for keeping accurate records, submitting reports (as required) to your local and state authorities, and fulfilling any requirements of the Alabama State Board of Education. You will be responsible for establishing guidelines for your students, signing and sending out all forms, transcripts and diplomas, and keeping permanent files on record for future requests from colleges and employers. You will need to stay aware of any changes occurring in the homeschool laws as the Alabama State School Superintendent can interpret the private school requirements differently at his/her discretion. Because this is a new option, there is a potential for challenges to be made and responsibility for failing to enroll your child(ren) correctly will fall on the parents, not the State. As such, we recommend families read and review HSLDA's opinion of the private homeschool law thoroughly before undertaking this option.

**3. UNDER INSTRUCTION OF A PRIVATE TUTOR** – This option allows parents who are certified teachers or families wishing to hire a state certified teacher to serve as a tutor for their children. Teachers must report to the local Board of Education and provide instruction for at least three hours per day (between the hours of 8am & 4pm) for 140 days per year. Tutors are required to file an education plan with the county superintendent, keep a register of each student's work including hours completed and attendance, as well as provide reports to the student's local Board of Education and the Alabama State Board of Education (ALSDE). All requirements must be followed thoroughly according to ALSDE standards for the student to remain in compliance with Alabama law.

## **ALABAMA STATE LAWS CONCERNING CHURCH SCHOOL REGULATION**

**Teacher Qualifications:** *No qualifications are required to teach in a church or private school. A private tutor must be a state-certified teacher. Ala. Code § 16-28-5.*

**Standardized Tests:** *Not required by Alabama statute.*

**Freedom from State Regulation:** *"Nonpublic schools, including private, church, parochial, and religious schools, offering educational instruction in grades K-12, as well as home-schooled students, are not subject to licensure or regulation by the state or any political subdivision of the state, including the State Department of Education." Sec. 2(b), Act 2014-245.*

**College Anti-Discrimination Provisions:** *"Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, no public two-year or four-year institution of higher education in the state may deny admission to or otherwise discriminate against an otherwise qualified student based on the consideration, whether in whole or in part, that the student attended, graduated from, or is enrolled in a nonpublic school, including private, church, parochial, and religious schools, or was home schooled." Sec. 6, Act 2014-245.*

**Religious Freedom Act:** *Alabama Constitutional Amendment No. 622*

*The Religious Freedom Restoration Amendment (RFRA) gives religious home educators another legal means to protect their right to home school. If the parents' free exercise of religion is substantially burdened by having to comply with the homeschool law, the parents may use the RFRA as a defense or file suit against the state. Under this statute, the burden is on the state to prove that its requirement "furthers a compelling state interest" and is the "least restrictive means" of fulfilling its interest that children be educated. This Act restores the highest protection of the individual's right to freely exercise his religious beliefs taken away by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1997 City of Boerne decision. 521 U.S. 507*

**This link contains the full text of Alabama SB 38:** <http://openbama.org/bill/9156/text>

**HSLDA's summary of Alabama Homeschool Law can be read here:**

[https://www.hslda.org/hs101/AL.aspx?utm\\_source=HSLDA%20email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter](https://www.hslda.org/hs101/AL.aspx?utm_source=HSLDA%20email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter)

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL INCLUSION IN SPORTS**

**Alabama homeschoolers are allowed to participate in public school sports:**

In 2016, the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) amended its bylaws to allow homeschool students and other "non-traditional students" to participate in interscholastic athletics with public schools.

The following pdf is from AHSAA concerning homeschool participation in public school sports as of 4/2016 -

<http://www.ahsaa.com/Portals/0/PDF's/AHSAA/Home%20School/Memo-%20for%20link%20to%20Non-traditional%20school%20laws%20changes.pdf?ver=2016-04-12-170214-927>

There are numerous requirements for homeschool participation in public school sports. These requirements are subject to change as AHSAA deems it necessary. Therefore, we recommend homeschool families contact personnel at their local school for clarification as they consider this option for their child(ren).

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Children enrolled in virtual school, charter school, public on-line school, or a public school independent study are not considered to be "homeschooled." The Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) defines homeschoolers as students whose education is primarily administered and controlled by parents privately. Enrollment in secular programs is enrollment in public school, which gives the public school authority over the student to impose state assessment, approval of curriculum, and supervision by a certified teacher. HSLDA membership and legal protection extends to traditional homeschoolers only.*



# HOW TO TEACH WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

You do not have to be an expert in reading, writing, arithmetic, history, literature, science, or art in order to teach your children in grades one through seven. You simply have to be willing to learn. Learning before you teach – even the night before you teach – is not as difficult or as disorganized as it might sound. But there's another mode of learning that pays double dividends: learning as you teach. I don't recommend it for all subjects, or for all topics in any given subject, but it does work and even provides some distinct advantages.

## THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER

First, let me give you two reassuring truths. One: God will equip you to do what he calls you to do. And Two: You, the parents, are the world's leading experts on your children.

No one knows your children as well as you do. No one loves your children more than you do. This gives you unique advantages over all other potential teachers in regard to teaching your children. Other teachers may have more subject matter knowledge than you do, but you will have a much better sense than anyone else about what topics will delight your child and how best to present new information to your child.

## THE ADVANTAGES

There are many advantages, as well, to a family setting versus an institutional setting for instruction. Families have more flexibility than institutions. Families are more comfortable and relaxed. Families can adapt and adjust much more easily.

The family is God's natural schoolroom and means for education. From the command in Deuteronomy to fathers, instructing them to teach their children, to the imagery in Proverbs of a mother's (and father's) wisdom being imparted to a child, it is clear that God's design for the family and calling to parents is to instruct children. Above all, families are the natural setting in which God intends for children to learn wisdom and faith. Sunday school, private school, and public school are all inferior substitutes for parents as a source of instruction in wisdom and faith.

Wisdom comes from the Lord as we study the Scriptures, pray and listen to God, and reflect upon the experiences of our own lives. Blessed is the husband who has a wise wife. And blessed is the wife who has a wise husband. And doubly blessed are the children who have wise parents.

For knowledge, no less than for wisdom, the family is the natural structure for teaching and learning – and offers many advantages over any of the alternatives.

Knowledge comes by experience, practice, instruction, and study.

But, the objection is often raised: "You cannot teach what you don't know." This is true, but there is a companion truth which is equally important: "You CAN teach anything that you are willing to learn along with your child." You will never know the subjects that you are unwilling to invest the time and discipline to study. This is as true for us as it is for our children.

Don't remember the outline of events or key figures from American history? You can still teach your child that subject, IF you are willing to learn along with them. Don't remember how to find common denominators and add fractions? You can still teach that skill to your children, IF you are willing to learn it with them.

## **In fact, there is a triple extra blessing for those who are willing to learn a subject with their children.**

- It communicates that learning is important, important enough that mom or dad is willing to work and study to learn something for themselves. Learning with and in front of your children demonstrates to them the great value of learning.
- It models the learning process for children, helping children understand that their parents were not born with brains stuffed full of facts. What we know had to be studied and worked for.
- It teaches children the skill of finding answers to their own questions. Some of the best learning moments occur when a child asks a question that you don't know the answer to. This is the "teachable moment" in which you can say to your child, "I don't know the answer to that. What do you think we could do to find the answer? What book might have the answer? Who could we call (or go visit)? What website might have the answer? And how will we decide if that website is trustworthy?" These are tremendously important questions. And they arise naturally when a child asks a question that parents don't know the answer to.

Never be afraid to honestly answer a question with, "I don't know." And always be prepared to spend some time with your children in those moments on the adventure of learning together.

*Robert G. Shearer is the husband of Cyndy Shearer, the proud father of 11 children, an Elder at Abundant Life Church, Director of the Francis Schaeffer Study Center, Publisher of Greenleaf Press, and vice president of the Tennessee Association of Church-Related Schools. He has been a college professor, a marketing VP, a demographer, a healthcare planner, a publisher, an author, and a small business owner. He has been reading, writing about, pondering, musing, and reflecting on the lessons of history (Ancient, Medieval, & Modern) for over thirty years. You can find Rob on the internet at [GreenLeafPress.com](http://GreenLeafPress.com) and [RedHatRob.com](http://RedHatRob.com).*

## **SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR PROSPECTIVE HOMESCHOOL PARENTS**

*The books listed below are just a small selection of books available for homeschool information. Most of these books are available through public libraries or via Inter-Library Loan. They can also be purchased through homeschool catalogs, online bookstores, and e-books. You might also consider requesting to borrow from a homeschool parent.*

### **HOMESCHOOL 101**

The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling - Debra Bell  
The Busy Homeschool Mom's Guide to Daylight - Heidi St. John  
Called Home: Finding Joy in Letting God Lead Your Homeschool - Karen DeBeus  
Lies Homeschooling Moms Believe - Todd Wilson  
7 Tools for Cultivating Your Child's Potential - Zan Tyler  
How to Get Your Child Off the Refrigerator and Onto Learning - Carol Barnier  
Blueprint Homeschooling - Amy Knepper  
For the Children's Sake - Susan Schaeffer Macaulay  
Educating the WholeHearted Child - Clay Clarkson  
Home Education - Charlotte Mason  
A Charlotte Mason Education - Catherine Levison  
The Well Trained Mind - Susan Wise Bauer  
Teaching the Trivium - Harvey & Laurie Bluedorn  
Home Schooling for Excellence - David & Micki Colfax  
Survivor's Guide to Home Schooling - L. Shackelford & S. White  
Better Late Than Early - Raymond & Dorothy Moore  
Home Grown Kids - Raymond & Dorothy Moore  
Home Style Teaching - Raymond & Dorothy Moore  
You Can Teach Your Child Successfully, (Grades 4-8) - Ruth Beechick  
Homeschool Mom's Bible - Zondervan

### **HELP WITH CURRICULUM DECISIONS**

102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum - Cathy Duffy  
Easy Start in Arithmetic - Ruth Beechick  
Home Start in Reading - Ruth Beechick  
Strong Start in Language - Ruth Beechick  
How To Write a Low-Cost/No-Cost Curriculum for Your Home School Child - Borg Hendrickson  
Teaching Children - Diane Lopez  
Discover Your Child's Learning Style - Mariaemma Willis and Victoria Kindle Hodson  
The Big What Now Book of Learning Styles: A Fresh and Demystifying Approach Paperback – Carol Barnier

### **HOMESCHOOLING HIGH SCHOOL**

And What About College? - Café Cohen  
Homeschooler's College Admissions Handbook - Café Cohen  
The High School Handbook - Mary Schofield  
The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens by Debra Bell  
Homeschooling thru High School - Jeanne Gowen Dennis  
Senior High: A Home-Designed Form+U+La - Barbara Edtl Shelton

### **HOMESCHOOL MAGAZINES (ONLINE AND IN PRINT)**

*The Old Schoolhouse Magazine* - [www.thehomeschoolmagazine.com](http://www.thehomeschoolmagazine.com)  
*Teaching Home*- [www.teachinghome.com](http://www.teachinghome.com)  
*Home School Enrichment* - [homeschoolenrichment.com/](http://homeschoolenrichment.com/)  
*Homeschooling Today* - <http://homeschoolingtoday.com/>  
*Practical Homeschooling* - [www.practicalhomeschooling.com/](http://www.practicalhomeschooling.com/)

## HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS RESOURCE LIST

COMPANY	PHONE	WEBSITE
A Beka Book (textbook and video options)	877-223-5226	<a href="http://www.abeka.com">www.abeka.com</a>
Above Rubies	877-729-9861	<a href="http://www.aboverubies.org">www.aboverubies.org</a>
Alison (Free High School level Online Courses)		<a href="https://alison.com/">https://alison.com/</a>
Alpha Omega Publishers (textbook & online)	800-622-3070	<a href="http://www.aohomeschooling.com">www.aohomeschooling.com</a>
Apologia Online Academy	1-888-524-4724	<a href="http://www.apologiaonlineacademy.com">www.apologiaonlineacademy.com</a>
Art of Problem Solving (Online Courses)		<a href="https://artofproblemsolving.com/school/catalog">https://artofproblemsolving.com/school/catalog</a>
Audio Memory Publishing	800-365-SING	<a href="http://www.audiomemory.com">www.audiomemory.com</a>
Berean Builders (Dr. Jay Wile)	(877)794-3005	<a href="https://bereanbuilders.com">https://bereanbuilders.com</a>
Big River Academy (Live Online Courses)	208-540-1567	<a href="https://www.bigriveracademy.com/">https://www.bigriveracademy.com/</a>
Bob Jones University Press (textbook & video)	800-845-5731	<a href="http://www.bjupress.com">www.bjupress.com</a>
Brave Writer (Curriculum & Online)		<a href="https://bravewriter.com">https://bravewriter.com</a>
Cathy Duffy Homeschool Curriculum Reviews		<a href="https://cathyduffyreviews.com/">https://cathyduffyreviews.com/</a>
Carolina Bio Supplies (lab equipment, specimens)	800.334.5551	<a href="https://www.carolina.com">https://www.carolina.com</a>
Christian Book Distributors	800-Christian	<a href="http://www.christianbook.com">www.christianbook.com</a>
Christian Liberty Press	800-348-0899	<a href="http://www.christianlibertypress.com">www.christianlibertypress.com</a>
Coursera (High School & College Level Online)		<a href="https://www.coursera.org/">https://www.coursera.org/</a>
CTC Math (online)		<a href="https://www.ctcmath.com/">https://www.ctcmath.com/</a>
Doorposts	888-433-4749	<a href="http://www.doorposts.com">www.doorposts.com</a>
Duo Lingo (Free Online Foreign Language)		<a href="https://www.duolingo.com/">https://www.duolingo.com/</a>
Easy Peasy All in One K-12 (Free computer-based)		<a href="https://allinonehomeschool.com/">https://allinonehomeschool.com/</a>
Institute for Excellence in Writing	800.856.5815	<a href="https://iew.com/">https://iew.com/</a>
EdX (Online High School & College level courses)		<a href="https://www.edx.org/">https://www.edx.org/</a>
Game Ed Academy (learning with Minecraft)		<a href="http://www.gamedacademy.com/">http://www.gamedacademy.com/</a>
God's World Book Club	800-951-BOOK	<a href="http://www.gwbc.com">www.gwbc.com</a>
Great Christian Books	800-775-5422	<a href="http://www.greatchristianbooks.com">www.greatchristianbooks.com</a>
Hillsdale Online Courses		<a href="https://online.hillsdale.edu/dashboard/courses">https://online.hillsdale.edu/dashboard/courses</a>
Homeschool Buyer's Co-Op (Driver's Ed)		<a href="https://www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org">https://www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org</a>
I XL		<a href="https://www.ixl.com/">https://www.ixl.com/</a>

## HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS RESOURCE LIST

KONOS (unit studies)	972-924-2712	<a href="http://www.konos.com">www.konos.com</a>
Math-U-See	888-253-1784	<a href="http://mathusee.com/">http://mathusee.com/</a>
Modern Curriculum Press	410-647-2033	<a href="http://www.greathomeschoolbooks.com">www.greathomeschoolbooks.com</a>
Monarch (Alpha Omega Online Courses)		<a href="https://www.aop.com/curriculum/monarch">https://www.aop.com/curriculum/monarch</a>
My Father's World	573-202-2000	<a href="https://www.mfwbooks.com/">https://www.mfwbooks.com/</a>
Nasco Dissection Materials	800-558-9595	<a href="https://www.enasco.com/">https://www.enasco.com/</a>
Nathhan (special need children)	208-267-6246	<a href="http://www.nathhan.com">www.nathhan.com</a>
Out School (Live Online Courses for K-12)		<a href="https://outschool.com">https://outschool.com</a>
Power Homeschool (Full Online Program)		<a href="http://www.powerhomeschool.org">www.powerhomeschool.org</a>
Progeny Press Literature Study Guides	877-progeny	<a href="http://www.progenypress.com">www.progenypress.com</a>
The Old Schoolhouse Magazine (Free & Online)		<a href="https://www.theoldschoolhouse.com/">https://www.theoldschoolhouse.com/</a>
Spanish Dict (Free Online Spanish Course)		<a href="https://www.spanishdict.com/learn/courses">https://www.spanishdict.com/learn/courses</a>
Teaching Home		<a href="http://www.teachinghome.com">www.teachinghome.com</a>
Teaching Textbooks (textbook, computer, & online)	866-867-6284	<a href="http://www.teachingtextbooks.com">www.teachingtextbooks.com</a>
The Old Schoolhouse (Online Classes)		<a href="https://schoolhouseteachers.com/">https://schoolhouseteachers.com/</a>
The Mystery of History		<a href="https://themysteryofhistory.com/">https://themysteryofhistory.com/</a>
The Notgrass Company	800-211-8793	<a href="http://www.notgrass.com">www.notgrass.com</a>
Titus 2		<a href="http://www.titus2.com">www.titus2.com</a>
Rainbow Resource Center, Inc.	888-841-3456	<a href="http://www.rainbowresource.com">www.rainbowresource.com</a>
Rod & Staff	800-761-0234	<a href="http://www.rodandstaffbooks.com">www.rodandstaffbooks.com</a>
Saxon	800-225-5425	<a href="http://www.saxonhomeschool.hmhco.com">www.saxonhomeschool.hmhco.com</a>
Sing 'n Learn	800-460-1973	<a href="http://www.singnlearn.com">www.singnlearn.com</a>
Sonlight	303-730-6292	<a href="http://www.sonlight.com">www.sonlight.com</a>
Timberdoodle	800-478-0672	<a href="http://www.timberdoodle.com">www.timberdoodle.com</a>
Veritas Press	800-922-5082	<a href="http://www.VeritasPress.com">www.VeritasPress.com</a>
Virtual Homeschool Group (Free live online classes)		<a href="http://www.virtualhomeschoolgroup.org/">www.virtualhomeschoolgroup.org/</a>
What Your Child Needs to Know (Core Knowledge)		<a href="https://www.coreknowledge.org/">https://www.coreknowledge.org/</a>
Whole Heart Ministries	800-311-2146	<a href="http://www.wholeheart.org">www.wholeheart.org</a>



# PATHWAYS ACADEMY

## NEW FAMILY INFORMATION FORM

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**  
 Application Fee Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration Fee Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tuition Fee Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CSEF completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Orientation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Forms provided: \_\_\_\_\_

*This form should only be used by families who are seeking to enroll with Pathways Academy. Please read the form carefully and fill out all areas. This form may be returned to the Pathways Academy Resource Center during office hours on Thursdays from 12-4 p.m. or mailed to P.O. Box 411, Gadsden, AL 35902. The return of this form does not constitute enrollment in Pathways Academy. Please do not withdraw your child(ren) from the public school before being advised to do so by the Pathways Academy Administrators. Thank you!*

**Name of Teaching Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession (*present or former*): \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

Profession (*present or former*): \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Students must be enrolled by a legal parent/guardian.** Are the parents of any child(ren) to be enrolled divorced or legally separated? **YES/NO?**  
 If YES, the enrolling parent will need to provide proof of custody prior to enrollment. Please consult with a staff member for further information.  
**Non-Custodial Parent's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Instructor** (*If not a parent/guardian*): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**School District that your family currently resides in:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Church your family attends:** \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT INFORMATION

*(Please note that you cannot enroll new students simply by adding them to this form. A Church School Enrollment Form is required.)*

FULL NAME OF ALL STUDENT(S) TO BE ENROLLED	AGE	BIRTHDATE	GRADE

**PLEASE READ AND COMPLETE BEFORE RETURNING FORM TO SCHOOL OFFICE:**

It is your responsibility to notify Pathways Academy of any changes in address and/or phone number in a timely manner. Pathways Academy cannot assume the burden for tracking down new information. It is the responsibility of the enrolled family to ensure that correct information is supplied for the receipt of school correspondence throughout the year. If your mail is returned, every effort will be made to contact you. However, if you cannot be reached, your file will be closed and the Board of Education will be notified that you are no longer enrolled with Pathways Academy. To avoid such action being taken, please notify us if any of your contact information changes.

*Please note: A new Church School Enrollment Form (CSEF) is required if your family moves from the current address listed above. Families must supply the school office with a new address within 5 days of moving & make an appointment with office to fill out an updated CSEF.*

**New Enrollment Checklist--please read carefully and initial in the blanks before returning form:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I must pay a **\$25** non-refundable application fee with my enrollment paperwork. A **\$50** (one time) registration fee & annual tuition fee of **\$125** will be due upon enrollment for a total of \$200. All fees are non-refundable & will not be prorated at any time, regardless of date of enrollment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that curriculum/textbooks are not included in the fees. Furthermore, parents are responsible for purchasing curriculum, providing lessons and instruction, keeping attendance, and reporting grades.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand I will be required to file a student education plan (SEP) and a progress report each semester.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will read the guidelines and policies in the Pathways Academy Handbook and abide by them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will keep Pathways Academy informed of any changes to phone number, home address, or email address.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will re-enroll or give notice of withdrawal to Pathways Academy by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August of each year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will not hold Pathways Academy, nor its affiliates, staff, or volunteers responsible for the education of my child(ren) including, but not limited to; curriculum choice, method of education, grades and/or attendance.

*By my signature, I acknowledge that I have read this form in its entirety, understand its contents, and have filled it out truthfully to the best of my knowledge. I agree to abide by the policies stated herein.*

Teaching Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# PATHWAYS ACADEMY

## LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

### PRIMARY TEACHING PARENT/GUARDIAN -

Teaching Parent/Guardian's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

### As the Parent/Legal Guardian of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please list full legal names of all children currently enrolled with Pathways Academy)

As the teaching parent/guardian of the child(ren) listed above, I do hereby agree to assume full responsibility for the education of my child(ren) including planning curriculum, preparing lessons, and purchasing materials and supplies as necessary to meet my child(ren)'s educational needs. I understand that as the parent/guardian of the child(ren) listed above, I am fully responsible for the physical, spiritual, social, and educational needs of my child(ren).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teaching Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

As the legal parent/legal guardian of the child(ren) listed above, I understand that Pathways Academy, its Administrators, Pastors, School staff, Coordinators, Instructors, and Club Sponsors, will in no way assume responsibility financially or otherwise for accidents that occur to myself or my child(ren) during any school or club-related activities or at any building or any property related to, associated with, or leased to Pathways Academy.

I also understand that Pathways Academy, its Administrators, Pastors, School staff, Coordinators, Instructors, and Club Sponsors will in no way assume responsibility, financially or otherwise, for legal action that may be taken against any family or child(ren) admitted, enrolled, or otherwise associated with Pathways Academy.

I do hereby release, discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless Pathways Academy, its Administrators, Pastors, School staff, Instructors, and Club Sponsors from all charges, liability, claims, demands, actions, judgments and executions.

### PRIMARY TEACHING PARENT/GUARDIAN -

Parent/Guardian's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teaching Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### SPOUSE OR PARENT/GUARDIAN (MARRIED or WITH FULL or JOINT CUSTODY)

Parent/Guardian's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPOUSE OR Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**A NOTARIZED SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED FOR ANY PARENT LEGALLY SEPARATED OR DIVORCED FROM THE ENROLLING PARENT-TEACHER WHO SHARES JOINT CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) LISTED ABOVE.**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_  
I, \_\_\_\_\_, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, before me, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ and is known to be the person who executed the foregoing release and acknowledged that he/she signed same as his/her free act and deed.

In witness hereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public

Notary Public, State of \_\_\_\_\_  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**PATHWAYS ACADEMY**  
**2019-20 TEACHER APPLICATION**

**IDENTIFICATION OF TEACHING PARENT / GUARDIAN:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's license: \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
(You must present original driver's license or state-issued ID.)

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

Highest level of education achieved: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_ Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE'S FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Profession (*present or former*): \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE: All children must be enrolled by a legal parent/guardian.** If a parent is divorced or legally separated, the enrolling parent will need to provide proof of custody for his/her child prior to enrollment. Questions? Please consult with an administrator.

**Name of Non-Custodial Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PREPARATION TO FACILITATE LEARNING:**

Have you homeschooled before? **YES** or **NO**? If yes, for how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, why are you changing cover schools? \_\_\_\_\_

How have you prepared for your role as a homeschool educator? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to train for this important task? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find Pathways Academy? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been referred by anyone? \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT:**

Would your home be considered healthy and habitable by the average person? **YES** or **NO**?

Is there adequate room to devote to learning activities and storage of materials? **YES** or **NO**?

Are you willing to spend money on educational materials and learning activities? **YES** or **NO**?

Does anyone live in your home who is not a legal or biological member of your immediate family?

If so, please explain and give their relationship to your child(ren). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND:**

Have you made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ? **YES** or **NO**?

Has your spouse made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ? **YES** or **NO**?

Are you currently active in a church? **YES** or **NO**?

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**LEGAL SITUATION:**

Are you a citizen of the United States or a legal resident herein? **YES** or **NO**?

Do you have the legal standing to make educational decisions for student(s)? **YES** or **NO**?

Do you have a case open with DHR, health department, or the juvenile justice system? **YES** or **NO**?

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there truancy/attendance issues with the former school? **YES** or **NO**? If yes, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there pending judicial decisions for anyone in the home? **YES** or **NO**? If yes, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any drug and alcohol problems in the home? **YES** or **NO**? If yes, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any mental health issues in the home which might affect your ability to homeschool?

**YES** or **NO**? If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- \* The parents of children enrolled in Pathways Academy are considered to be teachers in satellite classrooms. As such, **Parent Teachers** are solely responsible for selecting curriculum; instructing and testing their children; providing adequate socialization opportunities; and maintaining each student's attendance record and grades.
- \* Parent Teachers are required to submit an **SEP (student education plan)** for each enrolled student as follows: A Student Education Plan (SEP) is due on **September 15 or within 30 days of enrollment**. A 1<sup>st</sup> semester **Progress Report** (record of attendance & grades) should be submitted the week of **December 1** for each student enrolled. **2<sup>nd</sup> semester progress reports** are due the week of **May 31**. (*Deadline changes for Seniors*).
- \* Failure to submit SEPs and Progress Reports to the School office in a timely manner may lead to issues with your child(ren)'s transcripts, and could also result in termination of enrollment with Pathways Academy.
- \* Parent Teachers must notify the School office promptly of any contact by public school officials, and any change of address, phone, or email contact. Failure to notify the School of changes to contact information may result in truancy issues with the local Board of Education and may result in termination of enrollment.
- \* **Parent Teachers must re-enroll and pay tuition by the enrollment deadline each year** (which is the third Thursday in August). Families failing to do so will be given notice and a \$25 late fee will be added to tuition. After 2 weeks' notice, any further delay in enrollment will result in notification to the local Board of Education, as required by the Alabama Church School Law. Please note: Notification to the Board of Education may result in truancy charges for any child(ren) between the ages of 6-17 years old who are not enrolled in a school.

*By my signature below, I attest that all the information given on this form is true and accurate, without intent to deceive by either misinformation or omission, and is provided in a good faith effort to establish a relationship of trust and confidence in my ability to instruct my children with diligence and responsibility. I understand that if I have provided dishonest information, it will result in my family's immediate dismissal from association with Pathways Academy.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Teaching Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## PATHWAYS ACADEMY TEACHER CONTRACT

I affirm that I have been **honest** and forthright with Pathways Academy in all the areas of information I have provided – including physical information, legal status, spiritual background, academic background, living environment, and social/criminal history. I have neither provided misinformation nor been dishonest by omission. I understand that failure to be honest will result in immediate dismissal from Pathways Academy, and disassociation of my status as a teacher with Pathways Academy.

**I commit to home educating for the entirety of the academic year of 2019-2020.** I understand that no transcript will be provided for a portion of this school year. The teaching parent will be solely responsible for providing another school with information for enrollment if made prior to the completion of this academic year. Furthermore, a request for transcript **MAY TAKE UP TO 30 DAYS TO FULFILL**, and that I am responsible for requesting the transcript far enough in advance and for providing the full mailing address of the school to which the transcript is to be sent. I understand that a **transcript fee of \$10.00** is required for transcripts requested upon enrollment with another school.

I understand that, by my voluntary enrollment, **my home becomes a satellite classroom of Pathways Academy** and as such, I must provide pertinent information about the status of that classroom to the school office. **I commit to keeping my contact information - telephone number, physical address, mailing address, and email address – current with the Pathways Academy school office. I will notify the school office of changes within 5 days.**

As the teaching parent, **I assume full responsibility for the education of my child**, and acknowledge that Pathways Academy has provided me a legal opportunity through which to do so. The school is not, however, responsible for the educational progress of my child. Pathways Academy may provide information regarding learning materials, methods, and strategies for success, but I affirm that I am solely responsible for the choice of materials, the strategies employed by our family, and exercising daily diligence in facilitating learning in my child. I realize that Pathways Academy cannot possibly provide everything I need to know about homeschooling, and must not be regarded as my only source of homeschooling information. I know that I will have to read, study, and listen in order to prepare and perform the task of teaching-parent well. I am willing to exert this energy, to whatever extent required to ensure the success of my children. I will exercise due diligence and provide reasonable opportunities for my children to develop socially, morally, physically and academically.

**All tuition and fees are due and payable upon enrollment.** They are non-refundable because the school staff does all the same amount of work whether a family remains enrolled for a few days or for an entire year. **A service charge of \$35 will be assessed for checks returned for insufficient funds.** No school records will be released, nor will renewal be allowed, for a family whose account is not current. Tuition and fees cover enrollment and academic records keeping. All school activities, newsletters, websites, and the school resource center/office are benefits of enrollment and as such should not be considered as contracted services. Tuition will not be prorated or refunded because these benefits are unavailable or a family fails to utilize or avail themselves of the benefits provided by Pathways Academy.

I am aware that **Pathways Academy is a Christian ministry.** Although I am not required to subscribe to the beliefs of another, I will expect and not object to Christian comments, displays, and observances at school and club events and activities, which may include Bible verses, group prayer, Christian speakers, Christian hymns, and Christian music.

I understand that while we are all imperfect human beings, Pathways Academy seeks to cultivate a wholesome atmosphere in which all of our children can confidently interact. I will bring matters of offense to the attention of the Pathways Academy staff. Both my child(ren) and I will behave in a manner which exhibits appropriate maturity and control, treating others with respect and kindness, and adhering to the Pathways Academy policies. In an effort to foster this environment, matters of offense will be brought to my attention for correction. Failing such correction, my child(ren)'s or my participation in future activities may be restricted, or my family's enrollment may be terminated.

**Enrollment is voluntary, and may be terminated by either party.** If Pathways Academy terminates my enrollment for violation of policies, I will be given 10 days' notice. I understand that a refund of tuition and fees will not be provided to me. A record of my child(ren)'s enrollment will be provided for admission to another school or covering upon request. A Transcript request can be made if all fees are current and student is not withdrawing mid-year. My family may also choose to terminate enrollment by filling out a withdrawal form to notify the school office, or by failing to renew enrollment for a subsequent academic year. Failure to submit an education plan or progress report will be considered as notice of termination of enrollment at the end of the school year. Immediately upon termination, I understand that the local Board of Education will be notified according to the Alabama church school law.

***I have read the policies stated above and agree to abide by them.***

---

Signature of Teaching Parent/Guardian

---

Date

**PATHWAYS ACADEMY**  
**STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM**

**STUDENT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

Student's Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Called: \_\_\_\_\_ Is student a citizen of the US or legal resident? \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Teaching Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

Are this child's parents still married to each other? **YES** or **NO**?

Does the enrolling parent have SOLE or JOINT custody? **(please circle one)**

If the enrolling parent does not have sole custody or the right to make all educational choices, is the non-custodial parent in agreement with your decision to enroll with Pathways Academy? **YES** or **NO**?

Divorced parents must submit a copy of their custody agreement to Pathways Academy.

**Non-custodial Parent's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the non-custodial parent state he/she is in agreement with and supports custodial parent's decision to home educate child(ren) (regardless of custody situation)? **YES** or **NO**?

*If no, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED LEARNING SITUATION FOR STUDENT:**

Does this student want to homeschool? **YES** or **NO**?

Who will be the Primary Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of Instructor to student: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT'S ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:**

Describe student's prior academic performance (average grades): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the student's prior school conduct (attitude): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the student's prior school attendance record: \_\_\_\_\_

Has this child (*prior to today or expected in the near future*), ever been suspended, attended or requested to attend an alternative school, expelled, forced or given the choice to withdraw from school rather than be expelled at any time, for any reason? **YES** or **NO**? *If yes, please explain:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Previous School(s)	City/State	Grades/Years attended
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**PATHWAYS ACADEMY**  
**STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM**

**STUDENT'S BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Does this student respectfully obey his/her parents/guardians? **YES** or **NO?**

Do you believe this student will respectfully obey other adults? **YES** or **NO?**

Are there any health issues? **YES** or **NO?** *If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_

Are there special educational or physical needs? **YES** or **NO?** *If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_

Describe student's personality and characteristics: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe student's hobbies and interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Has student ever been committed to an institution for behavior or substance abuse? **YES** or **NO?**

*If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_

Has this student been accused or convicted of a crime? **YES** or **NO?** *If yes, please explain:*

**STUDENT'S SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND:**

Has the student made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ? **YES** or **NO?**

Is he/she involved in a church? **YES** or **NO?** Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Involved in Any Activities? \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that while we are all imperfect human beings, Pathways Academy seeks to cultivate a wholesome atmosphere in which all students can confidently interact. Both my child(ren) and I will behave in a manner which exhibits appropriate maturity and control, treating others with respect and kindness. In an effort to foster this environment, matters of offense will be brought to my attention for correction. Failing such correction, I understand that participation in future activities may be restricted or my family's enrollment may be terminated after review by the Pathways Academy Board of Directors. I understand that Pathways Academy places all responsibility for the education of my child(ren) on me, as the teaching parent/guardian. By my signature, I acknowledge that the information I have provided on my application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand the content of this form, and agree that my child(ren) and I will abide by the Pathways Academy school policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Teaching Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

# PATHWAYS ACADEMY

## REFERENCE REQUEST FORM

I authorize Pathways Academy, and any such person as they might designate, to contact the References listed below to ascertain information about my family. I understand that the questions will be similar to these:

1. How do you know \_\_\_\_\_ family and for how long have you known this family?
2. Tell me about \_\_\_\_\_ as a parent.
3. Tell me what you think about \_\_\_\_\_'s decision to home educate?
4. Are there any reasons that you feel we should be concerned or any special circumstances of which you think we should be aware before we accept this family for enrollment?

I will make these persons aware that I have submitted their name and contact information for this purpose, and if any of them express a desire not to speak with someone from the school, I will provide an alternate name.

I understand that the information the references listed below provide will be held in the strictest confidence and the content of the conversations will not be revealed to me at any time.

I understand that the information provided during the conversation with the reference(s) will be used to make a Positive or Negative impression. The Positive or Negative impressions will then be used as one piece of the determining factor for admission. I understand that one or more negative impressions may, but will not necessarily, prevent my family's admission into Pathways Academy.

I will hold no person liable for giving or receiving information in the process of checking my references. I release from liability all persons, companies, and any corporations supplying that information.

**Parent/Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print:**

**REFERENCE 1:** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCE 2:** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCE 3:** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# PATHWAYS ACADEMY

## PERMISSION TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND CHECK

I agree that the information supplied on this release form is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

Pathways Academy has my authorization to contract background services from Employment Screening Services, Inc. or another professional corporation appropriately credentialed to provide such services, to thoroughly investigate and generate a report of my Criminal History.

I understand that this report may include both misdemeanor and felony convictions and charges, but will not include a Credit History or any minor offenses such as traffic violations (unless said violation became a criminal offense).

I understand and agree that Pathways Academy may use the information on my Criminal History report to determine the suitability of our family to home educate our children through their school.

I understand that Pathways Academy and any staff or individuals involved in the background check process will hold my information, including all details of the generated report, in confidence.

I understand and agree that a copy of this form is as valid as the original.

**The following information is required for identification purposes when checking records. It is confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.**

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ **AND** S.S. No: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

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*Applicant's Signature*

*Date*

# **PATHWAYS ACADEMY ENROLLMENT APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

**An application for admission requires the following items to be submitted:**

- **Relationship to Public School Statement form** (must be signed by teaching parent.)
- **New Family Enrollment Form** (only one form per family)
- **Teacher Application & Teacher Contract Signed**  
(Note: The contract is page 3 of the teacher application)
- **Student Registration Form** (Please fill out one per student; make copies if necessary.)
- **A Reference Request form** (References are for the Teaching Parent/Guardian)
- **A Background Check form** (Background check is for Teaching Parent/Guardian)
- **Liability Release Form** (All parent/guardians must sign the form; this form must be signed in our office or have a notarized signature if there is a Joint custody/non-custodial parent involved in the life of a child to enrolled with Pathways Academy.)
- **Payment of the Application Fee (\$25) should be submitted with enrollment application.**

*All applications for admission will be reviewed within 7 days (except during the months of June and December when the Resource Center is closed.) A staff member will E-MAIL the teaching parent a letter of acceptance or denial via the email address provided in your admission paperwork. If admission is denied, all copies of personal documentation you may have provided to the school office (birth certificate, transcript, & driver's license) will be shredded for security purposes.*

## **SUBMITTING THE NEW ENROLLMENT APPLICATION**

**We offer 3 ways to submit the application portion of your enrollment packet**

- **Mail to Pathways Academy:** P.O. Box 411 Gadsden, AL 35902
- **Return to the Pathways Academy Resource Center office:** 410 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Gadsden, AL 35901, which is open during Thursday office hours from Noon-4pm\*
- **Drop your application & fee\*\* into the Communications InBox:** The Communications InBox is located between the back porch and the handicap ramp (2nd Street entrance.)

*\*Please note that the Pathways Academy school office is only open on Thursday afternoons during the school year. It will be closed during June and December (& some pre-posted holidays & events which will be listed on the Pathways' school calendar which can be found on our school website, [www.pathways-academy.org](http://www.pathways-academy.org).)*

*\*\*A \$25 non-refundable application fee should be submitted with your family's application. If you are dropping the application into the mail or into the Communications InBox and have concerns about leaving a check in the envelope, you are welcome to send your application payment via PayPal to [pathwaysrc@gmail.com](mailto:pathwaysrc@gmail.com).*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you for applying for enrollment with Pathways Academy. We look forward to assisting you with your family's homeschool journey! Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.**

### **Pathways Academy Administrators & Staff**

"We Believe the Pathways to Education Begin at Home."

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." - Proverbs 3:5-6

# PATHWAYS ACADEMY

## Volunteer Registration Form

NAME: Ms.  Miss  Mrs.  Mr. : \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF CHILDREN AT HOME: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE A LICENSE? YES  NO  DO YOU HAVE A CAR? YES  NO

SPOKEN OR WRITTEN LANGUAGES: \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: \_\_\_\_\_

HOBBIES: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPECIAL SKILLS YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEND TO OUR PATHWAYS' FAMILY:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Leadership                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrapbooking              | <input type="checkbox"/> Clerical / Filing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Crafts / Sewing            | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking           | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography Skills  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching a Class                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Acting / Directing        | <input type="checkbox"/> Baking / Cooking    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singing / Playing an instrument   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing an Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing / Blogging / Social Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Making Posters / Flyers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Game Day      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website / Computer Skills         | <input type="checkbox"/> Slideshow Presentations   | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Making / Repairing things | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____         |

TIME PREFERENCE: Would you like to be a regular volunteer? YES  NO

Which age group would you prefer to work with? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of volunteer jobs are you are most interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Community Involvement: Any experience as agency/organization program volunteer?

If so, please share when and where: \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments or information you wish to offer: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE SIGN AND DATE BELOW:

*I understand that by responding to this form, I am under no obligation to volunteer. However, I may be asked to help when a need arises. I am willing to follow the policies Pathways Academy has put in place to protect both the students and the volunteers as they work to make Pathways Academy better for all of our families.*

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_