

Calvary Christian Home School

Handbook



Calvary Christian School –A Ministry of Christian Life Church

Calvary Christian School is a ministry of Christian Life Church located in Orange Beach, Alabama. We realized the need for a quality education. It is our mission and heartfelt desire to provide covering and support to the families that feel that God has called them to home educate their children. We are truly excited that God has chosen us for this ministry to our community.

In the state of Alabama there are three avenues by which parents may legally choose home education:

1. Tutor-requires certified teacher to oversee all work.
2. Certification of parents by the state.
3. Church school laws-parents become teachers of the school and teach-off campus.

Objectives and Standards

To establish and maintain a Church School as a ministry of Christian Life Church and to provide like-minded Christian families an alternative to public and private school in the form of individual instruction of children by their parents in traditional courses of academic study, basic living skills, spiritual growth and citizenship. Because education is more than gaining academic knowledge, the school is committed to encouraging an environment in which families can effectively cultivate the qualities of character, creativity, leadership, responsibility and excellence in every facet of life.

Statement of Policy

The following policies and procedures have been established to apply to all families whose children are enrolled in Calvary Christian School. Calvary Christian School like all schools adhere to a specific group of standards and requirements for parents and children enrolled in the program.

Application and Enrollment

Application for enrollment in Calvary Christian School is open to all home schooling households. Since Christian Life Church is distinctly a Christian organization, they reserve the right to discriminate in areas of religious beliefs and affiliations. Families are invited to apply to Calvary Christian School but this does not mean automatic acceptance into the school. Acceptance for enrollment in Calvary Christian School is at the discretion of the Administration and is based upon the satisfactory completion of all application requirements. Each family is responsible to fulfill requirements as outlined in the application material. This includes, but is not limited to, the provision of all forms, statements and records as required by the school. It is the policy of this church school Not to accept students that are truant or suspected of being truant or students that are expelled or suspended from another school.

Attendance

The State of Alabama has a compulsory attendance law. Children between the ages of seven and sixteen are required by law to be schooled regularly for an entire school term. The law requires that all educational institutions, public, private and tutors, must maintain attendance records. In light of these liabilities and Calvary Christian School's commitment to a reputable program, the following policies regarding attendance reports have been instituted.

Number of Days

Calvary Christian School's school year has 168 days. Students failing to accumulate the minimum required shall have their files and transcripts marked incomplete due to inadequate attendance. It is the responsibility of the parents to insure that their child(ren) accumulate the required number of days. The School's calendar runs from August through May.

Record Keeping

Parents should instruct their children in the basic courses of academic study including but not limited to: Bible, reading, spelling, writing, math, English, geography, science, health, physical education, and history. The parent should keep daily records of subject matter covered as well as furnishing academic reports and evaluations are to be kept in an orderly fashion. They may be in the form of lesson plans or journals of instruction. Plan books and journals of instruction may be evaluated periodically by the Administration of Calvary Christian School.

Academic Reports

Each family is required to submit to the Administrator a Quarterly Student Academic Report for students in grades k through 12. The quarterly reports shall contain written documentation of attendance and a cumulative total of days to date, and grades. Numerical grades are required for students in grades 9 through 12. Calvary Christian School has a standard grading scale for grades 9 through 12.

90 to 100 A

89 to 80 B

79 to 70 C

69 to 60 D

59 and below F

No credit will be given for grades of D or below.

Late Academic Reports

Reports not submitted within 10 days after the quarter ends will be considered violation of school policy.

Parent Meetings

At least one parent is required to attend the parent meetings as scheduled during the year. See the school calendar for meeting dates. Failure to attend required meetings is considered a violation of school policy.

Tuition

The tuition fee per family is \$150.00 per year. Tuition should be paid in full at the beginning of each school year. There is a \$30.00 charge for returned checks.

Change of Address

It is the responsibility of families enrolled in Calvary Christian School to notify the school of changes of address or phone number. Failure to do so may result in your family disqualifying itself from participation in this church school program.

Enrollment of New Students

Enrollment of new home schooling students will close November 1st. Calvary Christian School will notify the school board of enrollment as required by Alabama law.

Withdrawal

Families withdrawing from Calvary Christian School must do so in writing. The Administrator must receive written notice at least 7 days before withdrawing. Families will be responsible for any tuition, late fees, etc. until written notice is received. No records will be released until written notice is received and all fees are paid. The school board will be notified of all withdrawals as required by Alabama law.

Drivers License Forms

Drivers License forms (proof of enrollment) will not be issued if payments, grades, etc. are in arrears. These forms will not be issued to students that have been in this church school program for less than 45 days.

Violations

When compliance with a school requirement would result in hardship, it is the responsibility of the family to notify the School Administrator of the hardship, prior to a violation, to work out a solution or an extension. Such violations include, delinquent tuition payments and reports, absence from required activities and overt misconduct. When a violation occurs a probation notice will be given by mail to advise the family of the violation. If a family, after receiving a probation notice does not respond within a period of fourteen days from the date of the probation notice, the family shall be assumed to be negligent and will be notified in writing by the School Administrator that their child(ren) have been removed from enrollment and their files closed. Such action terminates all of a family's rights and privileges with Calvary Christian School. All existing records will remain on file. However, no further records will be accepted until the violation is resolved and records will not be transferred until all fees and late charges are paid.

Enrollment Reinstatement

If a family has their files closed due to unresolved violations, the family may petition the School Administrator for reinstatement. Reinstatement of enrollment will be the discretion of School Administration and will require resolutions of the violation to the satisfaction of the Administrator and payment of a \$50.00 reinstatement fee. Petitions for reinstatement must be in writing.

Considerations

Calvary Christian School reserves the right to review any pertinent information, records or circumstances of any applicant or enrolled individual or family. Calvary Christian School reserves the right to take whatever steps it deems necessary toward any individual or family to insure that the reputation and purpose of Calvary Christian School is not hindered. Such actions can include the denial of enrollment or removal from enrollment of any student or family.

Calvary Christian School is a non-accredited school. It does not seek state accreditation due to the fact that the school would then have to meet state requirements as far as curriculum, teacher certification, and other state mandates. Please note that the Alabama State Board of Education's policy for home-educated students entering public school states that they will accept credits for elective subjects and tests for placement on core subjects. Individual schools may or may not abide by this policy and do not have to give credit for subjects done at home.

Recommendations

Because of the inconsistency of legal statute, it is impossible for Calvary Christian School to insure families enrolled in this program that they will never be subject to legal scrutiny. Calvary Christian School strongly recommends families join with Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) P.O. Box 3000, Purcellville, VA 20134. Phone 540-338-5600. <http://www.hsllda.org>

Statement of Faith

We believe and teach that the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15, 2 Peter 1:21).

We believe and teach that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who created man by a direct immediate act (Genesis 1:1;26-27; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).

We believe and teach the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15;7:26); His miracles (John 2:11); His vicarious and atoning death (1st Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9); His bodily resurrection (John 11:25; 1st Corinthians 15:4); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11).

We believe and teach in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature; and that only by God's grace through faith alone are we saved (John 3:16-19 5:24; Romans 3:23;5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).

We believe and teach the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; that they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).

We believe and teach the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord and Savior (Romans 8:9; 1st Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28).

We believe and teach the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling and infilling the Christian is enable to live a Godly life and witness to the saving grace of Christ (Acts 1:8, Romans 8:13-14;1st Corinthians 3:16;6:19-20;Ephesians 4:30;5:18;Titus 2:11-14).

Alabama Legal Information

The following article is from the HSLDA website and can be found at this address: <http://www.hslda.org/laws/default.asp?state=al>

Home Schooling in the United States: A Legal Analysis 2009-2010 Edition AL-

Compulsory Attendance Ages: "between the ages of 7 and 17." Alabama Code § 16-28-3.

Required Days of Instruction: 180 days (public schools only).

Required Subjects: None.

Home School Statute: None.

Alternative Statutes Allowing for Home Schools:

Home Schools have two options:

Option 1: Church School Option. Home schools qualify as church "schools ... operated as a ministry of a local church, group of churches, denomination, and/or association of churches on a nonprofit basis which do not receive any state or federal funding." Ala. Code § 16-28-1(2). Every child attending a church school is exempt from the requirements of this [compulsory attendance] section provided the child complies with the procedure in § 16-28-7 [parent or guardian reporting attendance in church school; see (a) below]. Ala. Code § 16-28-3. A church could establish different church schools within each home. Also, under this option, some home schoolers enroll their children in an existing church school but teach them at home.

a. "The enrollment and attendance of a child in a church school shall be filed with the local public school superintendent by the parent ... on a form provided by the superintendent ... which shall be countersigned by the administrator of the church school." Ala. Code § 16-28-7. (No requirement to file annually. Only need to file this form once at initial enrollment in church school.)

b. The principal teacher of the church school must keep an attendance register for each day of the school year. Ala. Code § 16-28-8.

c. A church school must "offer grades K-12, or any combination thereof...." § 16-28-1(2).

d. If the local school district believes a family is not in compliance with the law, it must give the family 3 days' written notice (§ 16-28-16) prior to instituting criminal charges. In an HSLDA case, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals reversed the conviction of a home school father who only received a 2-hour verbal notice from a truant officer. [Maas v. Alabama, 601 So.2d 209 (Ala.Ct.App. 1992)].

e. According to an Alabama Attorney General's opinion dated January 3, 1997, "[o]ther than the state laws requiring parents to report attendance and for church schools to report if a student is no longer in attendance at such a church school, there is no provision of Alabama law that permits or requires any state or local authority to regulate a church school." Alabama AL-2 Copyright 2009, HSLDA, all rights reserved. May be reproduced only by permission. THIS ANALYSIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE GIVING OF LEGAL ADVICE. Call or write to receive a free copy of HSLDA's newsletter and membership application. HSLDA, P.O. Box 3000 Purcellville, VA 20134 Phone: (540) 338-5600 Fax: (540) 338-2733 Website: www.hslda.org

Option 2: Private Tutor Option. Under § 16-28-5, the children in a home school must be instructed by a competent private tutor. Under this statute:

a. The teacher must be state certified.

b. The certified teacher must teach "for at least three hours a day for 140 days each calendar year, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m."

c. The tutor must file with the county superintendent, a statement showing the child to be instructed, the subjects taught, and period of instruction. The tutor must keep a register of the child's work showing daily hours of instruction and attendance and shall make such reports as the State Board of Education may require.

Teacher Qualifications: None, if the home school is operated as a ministry of a local church. Certification is necessary if home school tries to qualify as "private school," § 16-28-1(1)(a) or as a "private tutor," § 16-28-5.

Standardized Tests: Not required by statute.

Religious Freedom Act: Alabama Constitutional Amendment No. 622

The Religious Freedom Restoration Amendment (RFRA), passed with the help of HSLDA members, gives religious home schoolers 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. § V(b). 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.

PLEASE NOTE:

Children enrolled in a virtual charter school, public on-line school, or public school independent study program are not eligible for HSLDA membership. Enrollment in these 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 extends only to students whose education is primarily administered and controlled by parents privately. If you have any questions please call our office.

Department of Education

Revised 9/1/82

CERTAIN LAWS AND STATE BOARD RESOLUTIONS THAT PERTAIN TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN ALABAMA (Excerpts from Code of Alabama 1975 to 1982)

16-1-11. Private schools to register and report.

All private schools or institutions of any kind having a school in connection therewith, except church schools as defined in Section 16-28-1, shall register annually on or before October 10 with the department of education and shall report on uniform blanks furnished by the state superintendent of education, giving such statistics as relate to the number of pupils, the number of instructors, enrollment, attendance, course of study, length of term, cost of tuition, funds, value of property and the general condition of the school. (School Code 1927, Section 599; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 547.)

16-28-1. Private School.

(A) The term "private school" as used in this chapter, shall mean and only include such schools as hold a certificate issued by the state superintendent of education, showing that such school conforms to the following requirements:

- (1) The instruction in such schools shall be by persons holding certificates issued by the state superintendent of education;
- (2) Instruction shall be offered in the several branches of study required to be taught in the public schools of this state;
- (3) The English language shall be used in giving instructions;
- (4) A register of attendance shall be kept which clearly indicates every absence of each child from such school for a half day or more during each school day of the school year;

(B) The term church school, as used in this chapter, shall mean and only include such schools as offer instruction in grades K-12, or any combination thereof including the kindergarten, elementary, or secondary level and are operated as a ministry of a local church, group of churches, denomination, and/or association of churches of a nonprofit basis which do not receive any state or federal funding. (School Code 1927, Section 302; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 299.)

16-28-3. Ages of children required to attend school.

Every child between the ages of seven and 16 years shall be required to attend public school, private school, church school, or be instructed by a competent private tutor for the entire length of the school term in every scholastic year except that every child attending a church school as defined in 16-28-1 is exempt from the requirements of this section, provided such child complies with enrollment and reporting procedure specified in Section 16-28-7, Code of Alabama 1975. Admission to public school shall be on an individual basis on the application of the parents, legal custodian or guardian of the child to the local board of education at the beginning of each school year, under such rules and regulations as the board may prescribe. (School Code 1927, Section 301; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 297; Acts 1956, 2nd Ex. Sess., No. 117, p. 446, Section 3.)

16-28-5. Private Tutor.

Instruction by a private tutor means and includes only instruction by a person who holds a certificate issued by the state superintendent of education and who offers instruction in the several branches of study required to be taught in the public schools of this state, for at least three hours a day for 140 days each calendar year, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and who uses the English language in giving instruction. Such private tutor shall, prior to beginning the instruction of any child, file with the county superintendent of education, where his place of instruction is in territory under the control and supervision of the county board of education, or the city superintendent of schools, where his place of instruction is in territory under the control and supervision of a city board of education, a statement showing the child or children to be instructed, the subjects to be taught and the period of time such instruction is proposed to be given. Such tutor shall keep a register of work, showing daily the hours used for instruction and the presence or absence of any child being instructed and shall make such reports as the state board of education may require. (School Code 1927, Section 303; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 300.)

16-28-6. Children exempt from attending public school.

(a) The following children, when issued certificates of exemption by the county superintendent of education, where they reside in territory under the control and supervision of the county board of education, or the city superintendent of schools, where they

reside in territory under the control and supervision of a city board of education, shall not be required to attend school, or to be instructed by a private tutor:

- (1) Children whose physical or mental condition is such as to prevent or render inadvisable attendance at school or application to study. Before issuing such certificate of exemption, the superintendent shall require a certificate from the county health officer in counties which have a health unit, and from a regularly licensed, practicing physician in counties which do not have a health unit, that such a child is physically or mentally incapacitated for school work;
- (2) Children 16 years of age and upward or children who have completed the course of study of the public schools of the state through high school as now constituted;
- (3) Where because of the distance children reside from school and the lack of public transportation such children would be compelled to walk over two miles to attend a public school;
- (4) Where the children are legally and regularly employed under the provisions of the law relating to child labor and hold permits to work granted under the terms of said child labor law.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to deny any right to any child granted under the provisions of sections 16-39-1 through 16-39-12. (School Code 1927, Section 304; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 301, Acts 1947, No. 676, p. 517; Acts 1971, No. 2484, p. 3965.)

16-28-7. Report of enrollment.

At the end of the fifth day from the opening of the public school, the principal teacher of each public school, private school, and each private tutor, but not church school, shall report on forms prescribed by the state superintendent of education to the county superintendent of education, in the event the school is operated in territory under the control and supervision of the county board of education, the names and addresses of all children between the ages of seven and 16 years who have enrolled in such schools; and thereafter, throughout the compulsory attendance period, the principal teacher of each school and private tutor shall report at least weekly the names and addresses of all children between the ages of seven and 16 years who enroll in said school or who, having enrolled, were absent without being excused, or whose absence was not satisfactorily explained by the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child. The enrollment and attendance of a child in a church school shall be filled with the local public school superintendent by the parent, guardian or other person in charge or control of the child on a form provided by the superintendent or his agent which shall be countersigned by the administrator of the church school and returned to the public school superintendent by the parent. Should said child cease attendance at a church school, the parent, guardian, or other person in charge or control of the child shall by prior consent at the time of enrollment direct the church school to notify the local public school superintendent or his agent that said child no longer is in attendance at a church school. (School Code 1927, Section 309; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 306.)

16-28-8. Reports required must be furnished.

All school officers, including those in private schools, or private tutors, but not those in church schools, in this state, offering instruction to pupils within the compulsory attendance ages, shall make and furnish all reports they may be required by the state superintendent of education and by the county superintendent of education or by the board of education of any city with reference to the workings of this chapter. The principal teacher of each public school, private school, church school, and each private tutor shall keep an attendance register showing the enrollment of the school and every absence of each enrolled child from school for a half day or more during each school day of the year. (School Code 1927, Section 310; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 307.)

16-28-11. Enrollment report and list of potential students compared.

The county superintendent of education or the city superintendent of schools, as the case may be, shall upon the receipt of the report from teachers and private tutors showing the enrollment of children between the ages of seven and 16 years compare and study reports with the list which has been compiled of the children who should attend each school and ascertain what child or children required to attend school are not enrolled. (School Code 1927, Section 313; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 310.)

16-28-12. Person in loco parentis responsible for child's attendance.

Each parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of any child required to attend school or be regularly instructed by a private tutor who fails to have such child enrolled in school or who fails to send such child to school or have him instructed by a private tutor during the time such child is required to attend a public school, private school, or be instructed by a private tutor, or fails to require such child to regularly attend such school or tutor, or fails to compel such child to properly conduct himself as a pupil, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$100.00 and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days. The absence of a child without the consent of the principal

teacher of the school he attends or should attend or the tutor who instructs or should instruct such child shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section. (School Code 1927, Section 305; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 302.)

16-28-13. Burden of proof on person in loco parentis.

No parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of any child shall be convicted for failure to have said child enrolled in school or for failure to send a child to school or for failure to require such child to regularly attend such school or tutor, or for failure to compel such child to properly conduct himself as a pupil, if such parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of such child can establish to the reasonable satisfaction of the court the following:

- (1) That the principal teacher in charge of said school which he attends or should attend or the tutor who instructs or should instruct said child gave permission for the child to be absent; or
- (2) That such parent, guardian or other person is unable to provide necessary books and clothes in order that the child may attend school in compliance with law, and that such parent, guardian or other person had prior to the opening of the school, or immediately after the beginning of such dependency, reported such dependent condition to the juvenile court of the county and offered to turn the child over to the state department of pensions and security as a dependent child; or
- (3) That such parent, guardian or other person has made a bona fide effort to control such child and is unable to do so, and files in court a written statement that he is unable to control such child; or
- (4) That there exists a good cause or valid excuse for such absence; or
- (5) That such parent, guardian or other person has made a bona fide, diligent effort to secure the regular attendance of such child and that the absence was without his knowledge, connivance or consent.

16-28-15. Absence must be explained.

Every parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of any child required to attend public school, private school, or church school, shall as soon as practical explain the cause of any absence of the child under his control or charge which was without permission of the teacher, and a failure to furnish such explanation shall be admissible as evidence of such child being a truant with the consent and connivance of the person in control or charge of said child, unless such person can show to the reasonable satisfaction of the court that he had no knowledge of such absence and that he had been diligent in his efforts to secure the attendance of such child. (School Code 1927, Section 308; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 305.)

16-28-17. When child may be taken into custody.

It shall be the duty of the attendance officer, probation officer or other officer authorized to execute writs of arrest to take into custody without warrant any child required to attend school or be instructed by a private tutor who is found away from home and not in the custody of the person having charge or control of such child during school hours and who has been reported by any person authorized to begin proceedings or prosecutions under the provisions of this chapter as a truant. Such child shall forthwith be delivered to the person having charge or control of said child or to the principal teacher of the school or the private tutor from whom said child is a truant. If such child is an habitual truant, he shall be brought before the juvenile court for such disposition as the judge of said court finds proper from the facts. (School Code 1927, Section 315; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 312.)

16-28-22. Prosecutions.

No prosecution or proceeding under this chapter shall be begun except by one of the following parties: (1) The county superintendent of education or city superintendent of schools where the matter affects a school or private tutor in territory under his supervision; or (2) An attendance officer; or (3) The principal teacher of the school which the child attends or should attend; or (4) The private tutor by whom the child is instructed or should be instructed; or (5) The probation officer of the county; or (6) A duly authorized agent of the state superintendent of education or the department of pensions and security. (School Code 1927, Section 324; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 320.)

16-28-23. Attendance register and rules and regulations as evidence.

The registry of attendance of pupils kept by any public school, private school, church school, or private tutor in compliance with the provisions of law or any rule and regulation promulgated by the state board of education shall be admissible as evidence of the existence or nonexistence of the facts it is required to show. A copy of any rule and regulation of the state board of education, duly certified as true and correct by the state superintendent of education shall be admissible as evidence of the provisions of such rule and regulations, and the statement in the certificate of the state superintendent of education of the date of the promulgation shall be admissible as evidence that such rule or regulation was duly promulgated on the day and date named. (School Code 1927, Section 325; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 321.)

16-4-16. The state superintendent of education shall prepare,

or cause to be prepared, and submit for approval and adoption by the state board of education a uniform series of forms and blanks for the use of county boards of education, boards of education of cities, school officials and teachers, and it shall be his duty to see that all financial matters and all educational records are made according to these forms and blanks. He shall also prepare, or cause to be prepared, and submit for approval and adoption by the state board of education forms and blanks to be used in the annual report and the monthly reports of persons conducting private schools and of private educational associations, corporations or institutions except church schools as defined in Section 16-28-1.

16-40-1. Physical education required.

Every public school and private school, except church schools as defined in 16-28-1, shall carry out a system of physical education, the character of which shall conform to the program or course outlined by the department of education. (School Code 1927, Section 621; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 555.)

Section 10.

Notwithstanding entitlement to the exemptions provided church school under Section 16-28-1, 16-1-11, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, 16-28-8, 16-28-15, 16-28-23 and 16-40-1 any church school as defined in Section 16-28-1 (B) shall certify to the local public school superintendent on forms supplied by the superintendent to the requesting church school that the exemptions specified herein are waived.

Testing is not mandatory.