

SOUTHERN PINES HANDBOOK

History & Administration

Southern Pines Christian School (SPCS) is a work of the Christian Chapel Church of Christ in Vernon, Alabama. The 2000 - 2001 school year was the first educational effort since its establishment in Lamar County in 1926. Steven Webber, Headmaster, and his wife, Patsy began home schooling their children in 1994 and have home schooling experience in Georgia, Illinois, Florida, Ohio, Alabama and Texas.

Philosophy

SPCS was established under a very simple premise: Home schoolers are committed to meeting their own family educational goals, motivated, highly organized, willing to spend the required energy necessary for home-based education, and need support and resources – not red tape and bureaucracy. Accordingly, we **don't require** belief statements, pre-approval of curriculum, mandatory attendance at workshops, progress reports, mandatory testing, mandatory school hours, immunization records, or special parent meetings.

While we do think that: home school is a full-time recognition that “teaching” is not restricted to time or place; we believe:

- Time-tested, established curriculum series produce the most predictable educational outcomes.
- “Unit studies” can also have significant educational value.
- Daily or weekly activity logs give important positive reinforcement of educational progress and achievement, and demonstrate “due diligence” to stand the scrutiny of any governmental entity who might inquire how you spend your time.
- Joining the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) just makes sense in the unlikely event that you encounter administrative or regulatory hassles from social services or the public education school system. Membership was always worth a “quiet night’s sleep” to us during our home school years and it was comforting to know that should problems arise, a group of attorneys were available to intercede on our behalf. (membership is subject to discount because of our association with the Christian Homeschool Education Fellowship (CHEF)..

- we also think how you choose to meet your home schooling goals and objectives within the framework of existing Alabama State Law should be up to you free of any additional unnecessary, artificial administrative burdens.

We **do expect** you to take on the challenge of home based education in a professional manner and expect you to be responsible, accountable, diligent, on time, objective and serious about the process. To these ends, the following will help you understand Southern Pines Christian School.

Goals

- ◆ Provide parent resources for home education
- ◆ Provide timely and accurate information to each home school family
- ◆ Provide recognition and graduation awards
- ◆ Comply with State of Alabama Law regarding home schooling

REQUIREMENTS & FEES

Registration Fee: \$200 for the 1st student, or \$350 for the entire family (regardless of the number of students). 12th grade **students graduating** pay an additional fee of **\$100 per each**.

Tuition includes:

- Notice to your county's school system sent via USPS "*Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested*".
- Permanent file setup per student
- Laminated "Student" and "Faculty" ID cards
- Certification of school attendance for driving license test
- Certification of school attendance for part-time work
- Official Transcript sent to school of your choice (additional transcripts \$10 Each)

Graduation includes:

- Diploma in padded case
- Congratulatory letter from Headmaster
- Graduation gift
- Graduation experience (formal, informal, party, presentation, etc. - your choice)
- Graduation cake
- Copies of all correspondence for your files

Eligibility/Requirements

- Open to anyone
- Any prior documented school credits applied toward graduation
- 175 school days required
- Attendance & Grades due each Semester (Jan 15th, June 30th, Sept 1st – minimum any two)
- Older children, special needs children, or those with previous disciplinary problems are **NOT** excluded from homeschool educational opportunities

Activities

Since Southern Pines students are located throughout the State, we don't sponsor any activities. Accordingly, please feel free to pursue those activities and field trips that best meet the educational needs of your student(s).

Alabama Home School Legal Requirements

Option 1: have teaching certificate to teach children at home, OR

Option 2: enroll in a church school (Southern Pines Christian School)

- Notification to Superintendent in county of residence to home school
- Church school tracks record of attendance and grades via report cards which you send to us one for each semester attended (Any two out of three constitute a school year)
- Number of days in school (175 required) – as recorded on your report card form (this is mandatory!)
- Notification to Superintendent when no longer enrolled

Home School Process

1. Decide to home school
2. Choose and obtain curriculum
3. Enroll in a church school that meets your needs
4. Credits earned in grades 9-12 include transcript (s) from any previous schools attended and you will receive credit for each A-D (no credits for "F's").
5. Submit grades and attendance as required (any two per year, Jan 15th, June 30th and/or Sept. 1st for SPCS)
6. Continue to meet SPCS guidelines, policies and procedures
7. If your student will be going to college, be aware of eligibility requirements from the college of your choice

Parents Enrollment Process

1. Complete and sign the *Application Form* (both parents or guardian must sign)
2. Complete and sign an *Enrollment Form* for each student (parent or guardian sign)
3. Submit forms along with Registration Fee (\$200 per student, or \$350 per family)

Southern Pines Christian School (SPCS) will:

1. Confirm enrollment and send *Faculty and Student ID(s) as requested*
2. Establish a school file for each student
3. File required grades & attendance reports
4. Notify the Superintendent in student's county of residence
5. Send a copy of Superintendent notification to parents

Parent/teacher expectations (RULES)

1. Complete all forms in full (Application Form, Enrollment Form or Forms).
 - Enrollment Form (s) due by July 31st for existing students
 - Enrollment Form (s) due within 10 days for new home school students
 - Grades and attendance records are due on Jan 15th , June 30th and/or Sept. 1st of each year
2. Meet all deadlines including enrollment, payment of fees and submitting reports.
3. Diligently educate each student in a broad range of subjects for the purpose of transferring knowledge; instilling values of lasting positive contribution to society; and fostering attitudes that increase the self worth of each student.
4. Participate in those activities which are supportive of your family's educational home school goals.

Reasons for termination

1. Failure to properly enroll
2. Failure to pay all fees as required on a timely basis
3. Failure to meet deadlines
4. Failure to follow RULES (above)

If you have any questions, contact Chancy Price, Headmaster, at 205-712-6037, or 205-789-2593.