WEEK 1 BONUS

Sample paperwork: Pennsylvania

Goes with: Video 2 — The Legal Part, Made Simple

This is what a full year of Pennsylvania homeschool paperwork can look like for one made-up student. Nothing here is a form to copy. It's here so you can see that every piece is short, plain and doable.

MADE-UP EXAMPLE FAMILY

MEET THE FAMILY

Student	Emma Carter, age 8, 3rd grade
Supervisor (parent)	Sarah Carter
Address	123 Cherry Lane, Maple Springs, PA 00000
Phone	(555) 010-0123
School district	Maple Springs Area School District
School year	2026–2027
Legal option	Homeschooling under the homeschool law

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

July 28, 2026	Filed the affidavit, with objectives attached, by email to the superintendent. Saved the confirmation.
September 8, 2026	First day of school. Started the attendance calendar and the reading log.
As we go	Added each new book or curriculum to the reading log the day we started it. Saved a few work samples each month.
April 2027	3rd grade standardized test, given by a testing service (in PA, a parent can't give it).
May 2027	Portfolio review and interview with an evaluator (a certified teacher).
By June 30, 2027	Sent the evaluator's certification to the superintendent.
By August 1, 2027	File next year's affidavit.

Calendar reminders for each deadline, set one week early: July 25 and June 23.

Sample for a made-up family. Not legal advice. Laws change, so always check your state's current requirements on HSLDA or with your school district.

FILED WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

What went into our affidavit

Filed: July 28, 2026 · by email to the superintendent of Maple Springs Area School District

Pennsylvania calls its notice of intent an **affidavit**. It has to be notarized, or you can use an **unsworn declaration** instead, which doesn't need a notary. Use the official form from your district or HSLDA. This page just shows what the Carters filled in.

Supervisor's name	Sarah Carter
Child's name and age	Emma Carter, age 8
Address and phone	123 Cherry Lane, Maple Springs, PA 00000 · (555) 010-0123
Subjects taught in English	Yes
Educational objectives	Attached, one or two lines per subject (next page)
Compliance with the homeschool law	*"I certify that this home education program will comply with the requirements of 24 P.S. § 13-1327.1."* Signed, Sarah Carter
Immunizations	☐ Immunization record ☑ Religious exemption ☐ Medical exemption Signed statement attached: *"Due to our sincerely held religious beliefs, we are exercising our religious exemption from immunizations for Emma Carter."*
Health and medical services	This is Emma's first year homeschooling, so we attached both: a **physical exam** form signed by her doctor and a **dental exam** form signed by her dentist.
Background statement	*"I certify that no adult living in our home has been convicted of the criminal offenses listed in the law within the past five years."* Signed, Sarah Carter

Notarized or not? Not. Instead of a notary, Sarah signed and dated the affidavit under this line (called an **unsworn declaration**). It counts the same as a notary stamp, and there's nothing extra to attach:
"I verify that the statements made in this affidavit are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities."

PA exams: physical at entry, 6th and 11th grade · dental at entry, 3rd and 7th grade. Saved: a copy of everything we sent, plus the superintendent's reply confirming it arrived.

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ATTACHED TO THE AFFIDAVIT

Educational objectives

Also called: the instruction plan · 3rd grade, 2026–2027

Pennsylvania asks for an outline of your goals by subject. There's no required format, and short is fine. Here's Emma's whole plan.

SUBJECT	HOW WE'LL COVER IT
English: reading	Read aloud daily and read independently. All About Reading Level 3. Library chapter books chosen with Emma.
English: spelling + writing	The Good and the Beautiful Language Arts Level 3. Write letters, short stories and a weekly journal entry.
Arithmetic	The Good and the Beautiful Math 3. Practice with real life: doubling recipes, money at the store, measuring for projects.
Civics	Tuttle Twins books. Learn how local government works and attend a town council meeting.
History of the U.S. and PA	Tuttle Twins America's History, Vol. 1. Visit the State Museum of Pennsylvania and Valley Forge.
Health and physiology	Learn the food groups by planning and making lunches. Read about how the body works.
Physical education	Swim lessons in winter, weekly hikes, co-op games, riding bikes.
Music	Weekly piano lessons. Listen to a classical piece each week and talk about it.
Art	Co-op art class and library art workshops. Nature journaling with watercolors.
Geography	Map work with the U.S. and Pennsylvania. Find each place we read about on a globe.
Science	Nature study: birds, trees and insects in our backyard. Simple experiments from library science books.
Safety education (fire)	Read Let's Talk Emergencies by Cheryl Daley. Visit our local fire station. Practice our home escape plan twice a year.

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KEPT IN THE PORTFOLIO

Attendance log

Goal: 180 days or 900 hours (elementary) · September 2026 shown

The law doesn't require a daily log, but you do need to reach 180 days or 900 hours, so keep a simple way to show it. A check mark on a calendar is plenty. Field trips and co-op days count.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	**8** ✓ 5 hrs First day!	**9** ✓ 5 hrs	**10** ✓ 5 hrs	**11** ✓ 4 hrs Co-op	12
13	**14** ✓ 5 hrs	**15** ✓ 5 hrs	**16** ✓ 6 hrs Field trip: State Museum	**17** ✓ 5 hrs	**18** ✓ 4 hrs Co-op	19
20	**21** ✓ 5 hrs	**22** ✓ 5 hrs	**23** ✓ 5 hrs	**24** ✓ 5 hrs	**25** ✓ 5 hrs Field trip: fire station	26
27	**28** ✓ 5 hrs	**29** ✓ 5 hrs	**30** ✓ 5 hrs			

September total	17 days · 84 hours
Year to date	17 of 180 days · 84 of 900 hours

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KEPT IN THE PORTFOLIO

Reading + materials log

Rule in PA: list the reading materials you use, by title, as you go

No daily entries. Add one line the day you start a new book or curriculum. This is Emma's whole year, and it took about a minute each time.

STARTED	TITLE	SUBJECT
9/8	All About Reading Level 3	Reading
9/8	The Good and the Beautiful Language Arts 3	Spelling, writing
9/8	The Good and the Beautiful Math 3	Math
9/8	Charlotte's Web (E.B. White)	Read-aloud
9/9	National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of North America	Science
9/10	Tuttle Twins America's History, Vol. 1	History, civics
9/14	Let's Talk Emergencies (Cheryl Daley)	Fire safety
9/24	Good Enough to Eat (Lizzy Rockwell)	Health
10/5	The Boxcar Children (Gertrude Chandler Warner)	Read-aloud
10/12	Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark (Mary Pope Osborne)	Reading
11/2	The Tuttle Twins Learn About the Law (Connor Boyack)	Civics
12/1	Little House in the Big Woods (Laura Ingalls Wilder)	Read-aloud, history
1/11	The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body (Joanna Cole)	Health, science
2/8	Peter and the Wolf (Prokofiev), audio	Music
3/1	The Story of Pennsylvania (library picture book)	PA history, geography
4/5	The Wild Robot (Peter Brown)	Read-aloud
5/3	Nature Anatomy (Julia Rothman)	Science, art

Shortcut: your library account keeps a list of every book you check out. Once a month, copy the new titles over.

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KEPT IN THE PORTFOLIO · GRADES 3, 5 AND 8

3rd grade test results

Goes to: the evaluator, not the school district

In 3rd, 5th and 8th grade, Pennsylvania wants a standardized test in reading/language arts and math, from the state's approved list. A parent can't give it. The testing service mails or emails a score report, and that report goes straight into the portfolio.

WHAT EMMA'S REPORT SHOWED

Test	Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Grade 3
Given by	Keystone Family Testing (a testing service), April 14, 2027
Reading	94th percentile
Language arts	91st percentile
Math	96th percentile

What a percentile means: 94th percentile = Emma scored as well as or better than 94 out of 100 3rd graders who took the test.

WHAT YOU DO WITH IT

- ☑ Put the full score report in the portfolio
- ☑ Bring the portfolio to the evaluator, who reviews it with everything else
- ☑ Don't send it to the school district

Find the approved test list and testing services on HSLDA's Pennsylvania page.

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END OF THE YEAR

What's in Emma's portfolio

Goes to: the evaluator, not the school district

THE PORTFOLIO

- ☑ **Reading + materials log**, listed by title
- ☑ **Attendance calendar**: 180 days
- ☑ **Work samples**, a few per subject, each dated
- ☑ **3rd grade test score report** (see the previous page)

WORK SAMPLES WE SAVED

Writing	Persuasive letter about the chicken coop (9/23) · journal pages (Oct, Feb)
Math	Pancake recipe math (9/18) · two workbook pages per month
Science	Bird feeder visitor chart (9/9–9/15) · tree leaf rubbings (Oct)
Fire safety	Family escape plan drawing (9/14)
Art	Watercolor leaves (9/11) · nature journal pages
History + geography	Pennsylvania map (9/10) · State Museum notes (9/16)
Music + PE	Piano recital program (Dec) · swim lesson certificate (Feb)

THE EVALUATION

- ☑ Evaluator: a Pennsylvania-certified teacher with 2+ years of experience (a parent or spouse can't do it)
- ☑ May 2027: the evaluator interviewed Emma and reviewed the portfolio
- ☑ Evaluator signed a certification that an appropriate education is happening
- ☑ Sent a copy of that certification to the superintendent by June 30, 2027

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