

Academy on the Eastern Shore
a ministry of Unity on the Eastern Shore
Mail: P.O. Box 776; Fairhope, AL 36533
(251) 990-8934

Policies of Academy on the Eastern Shore (AES)

Children are a gift from God. It is our responsibility as parents to honor God's gift by raising open-minded, respectable members of society, who will further our world through love and compassion, in unity with all.

1. Services provided by AES:

A. Compliance with Alabama compulsory attendance requirements by enrollment in an Alabama school as defined in legal code 16-28-1. The school is also in complete compliance with Alabama legal codes 16-28-3 and 16-28-7 of the State of Alabama.

B. Submit Church School Enrollment Form on parents' behalf (per Alabama law code 16-28-7).

C. Provide information on available enrichment activities.

AES exists to support parents in their right to school their children in a responsible manner. AES does not accept responsibility for the education of enrolled students. Rather, the school allows parents a means through which they may assume responsibility for their children's education. AES accepts children/families from the entire state of Alabama, regardless of race or religion. No statement of faith is required for admission.

2. Admission Policies:

Admission to AES is contingent upon successful completion of the following steps:

A. A telephone interview with the administrator.

B. Completion of all admission forms

C. Payment of application and enrollment fees.

The telephone interview consists of several questions meant to provide AES and the parent with information regarding home school responsibilities. Parents have an opportunity to ask questions regarding AES procedures, while AES glean information about the parents and students who will be enrolled.

The forms required for admission include a one-time application for first year students, an enrollment form, a records release form for the purpose of obtaining records from the child's previous school, and an AES Release Form stating that the parent agrees to be responsible for his/her child's education. All forms will be provided to the parents upon request.

The fees for admission include a one-time application fee of \$25.00 per child, up to \$75.00 per family, and a yearly tuition fee of \$125.00 per child, up to a maximum of \$375.00 per family.

AES will obtain previous school records for the enrolled students and forward them to the parents of the enrolled students. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure the safekeeping of these records. Parents may request AES to keep a copy of the records in the student's file. There will be a \$5.00 copy fee for each child. There will also be a \$5.00 copy fee for each copy requested in the future.

3. Attendance Policies:

While state law does not stipulate specific attendance policies for children attending a church school, there are laws for children who are tutored at home by a certified tutor. These policies, Code of Alabama, Section 16-28-5, require students tutored at home to attend school for at least three hours a day and at least 140 days a year. Because this

matches closest with home school education, children enrolled in AES are required to attend school for at least three hours a day and at least 140 days per year. Many families find that more hours and days are necessary for high school.

The Code of Alabama also states that children between the ages of 7 and 16 must be supervised by a parent, a guardian, or the charge of the parent or guardian between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily.

Attendance records are to be completed on the forms provided by AES and must be turned in twice a year, due on February 1 and July 1. Failure to provide attendance forms on time will result in dismissal from AES.

4. Withdrawal Policies:

Withdrawal from AES may be initiated by the home schooling family or by AES. The home schooling family may withdraw at any time throughout the year by contacting the administrator. No refunds will be given.

The academy will initiate withdrawal under the following conditions:

- A. Failure to turn in attendance forms by the specified dates.
- B. Inability of AES to contact the enrolled child's family for more than 30 days.
- C. Inappropriate conduct toward anyone associated with AES or UES.

5. Curricula Policies:

We, at AES, feel it is the right and responsibility of parents to educate their child with the curricula they choose. While we can provide some direction in obtaining curricula, the final choice must be what is best for the child.

There are many varied curricula. Complete curricula may be purchased that include all subjects' text and testing materials; some will even provide grading through the mail, or you may write your own curricula that uses information from your own sources. It is your choice.

If your child is high school age, there are specific subjects that should be considered, especially if they are considering college. Home-schooled children do not need a diploma; however, they will need to take ACT/SAT testing to be eligible for college. This should be a major consideration in choosing curricula for high school students.

6. Support Services:

It is the goal of AES to provide information on available support groups, field trips and cooperative learning opportunities, and we will help guide parents to answers and support where needed.

The Baldwin County Home Education Association is a support group for home schooling parents in Baldwin County, regardless of their denomination or affiliation. They may be reached at BCHEA, 405 West Fern Ave., Foley, AL 36535. There are many other support groups as well. Visit www.alabamahomeschooling.com for a list of support groups throughout the state, as well as other valuable information.

While it is not mandatory for AES parents to join the Home School League Defense Association (HSLDA), we strongly suggest membership. This is an organization that provides legal support and representation to its members in situations where home schooling may be legally challenged. Please visit their website: www.hslda.org for more information.

Please sign and return one copy of these policies with your other paperwork.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____
{Date received by A.E.S. _____} {Revised 7-1-2015}