

Micro-school

Hiring a teacher  
or tutor for a  
group of  
unrelated  
children

Private school  
group of children  
educated in group  
setting by paid  
adult(s)

Pod school

Cottage school

Daycare group of  
children looked after  
by paid adult(s)

Homeschool  
provided by a parent  
instructing his or her  
child(ren) only.

Homeschool Co-ops  
Groups of homeschool  
parents who gather to  
provide group experi-  
ences for their collective  
children. Parents remain  
onsite and are active in  
the running of the co-op.

Private schools have a definition in WA law. You can find it in RCW 28A.195.

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.195>

<https://www.sbe.wa.gov/our-work/private-schools>

These are also an alternative to compulsory attendance in a public school, but this involves groups of unrelated students taught by a paid adult. The OSPI has pages of their website dedicated to this and a packet and application to become a private school.

Micro schools, pod schools, cottage schools -- and grouping of unrelated school aged children dropped off to be taught by an unrelated adult -- these all fall under the definition of private schools -- not homeschooling.

Private schooling is not homeschooling, which, by definition, must be conducted "by a parent, instructing his or her child only."

Daycares also have a legal definition. These are also groups of unrelated children overseen by a paid adult. You can find it in RCW 43.216.

Daycares are not homeschooling, which, by definition, must be conducted "by a parent, instructing his or her child only."

### **"What about Homeschool Co-ops?"**

Homeschool co-ops occupy a VERY grey area in law. They are groups of homeschool parents who gather to provide their children group experiences. The parents remain onsite and are active in the running of the co-op. The state has seen fit to ignore homeschool co-ops because they have not strayed off to become private schools.

Homeschooling in WA has a legal definition. It is an alternative to compulsory attendance to public school that is narrowly defined as being "provided by a parent, instructing his or her child only."

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/learning-alternatives/home-based-instruction>