

What to expect with an evaluation with Patti...

For evals, I meet with the student and the supervisor/parent. Most evals take 1 hour per family, perhaps longer with high school students or extra-large families. I follow the specifics of the law. My job is to “review the portfolio” and “interview the student.” When I review the portfolio, I’m looking for evidence of progress in the overall program and evidence that each subject required by law is included somewhere in the program. I like to see minimum of 2 but preferably 3 samples of work per subject: something from the beginning of the year, the middle of the year and the end of the year. I particularly like to notice samples of the student’s writing, since too often that is neglected.

I look at the log to verify that the time required was completed (180 days OR 900 hours for grades 1-6/990 for grades 7 and above if counting by hours). The law is not specific about what style of log to use, but it does require it be made “contemporaneously” with instruction – kept all year, not made up the night before the eval. I love messy logs, because it shows they’ve been used all year! Don’t worry about messy. I like to see clearly marked on the log where their time was completed. I have seen everything under the sun. I encourage families to find the style that suits them best and helps their school run smoothly rather than detract from the schooling.

The law is not specific about how to interview the student, so for the whole eval I take the approach of celebrating what the family has accomplished throughout the year. Typical questions are: What was your favorite part about school? What was your favorite book? Did you do any fieldtrips? What do you remember most? I do not take a critical approach. If something is sorely lacking, we talk about it and I give suggestions for the following year. If I find an open, teachable spirit, we’re all happy!

I complete a simple checklist, that I compiled by extrapolating all the important terminology from the law. A short-form eval is \$25.00/child and the family receives the form as they leave. My certification credentials are included at the bottom of the evaluation sheet. Beginning 2015, a copy of this form is the only thing you will turn into the school district.

As students approach high school, my role doubles up as guidance counselor. I guide families through decisions about diploma programs and as college looms ahead how to navigate that process. For families doing a parent-issued diploma, the short eval form is sufficient at the reduced rate.

For high school evals for students in a diploma program, I complete a written narrative report and a transcript of credits earned. I work with two diploma programs: Pennsylvania Homeschool Accreditation Program (PHAA) and Susquehanna Valley Homeschool Diploma Program (SVHDP). Those evals are \$65.00. If parents and students have all the paperwork organized, and credit forms (available on my website <http://www.his-homeschool-center.com>) filled out completely, they save \$10, now \$55. If research papers are required, I ask that they are sent to me via email file attachment at least 3 days prior to the eval, which also reduces the fee to \$50. SVHDP allows students to graduate early. However, if I am creating multiple eval reports for one year (i.e. 11th & 12th grades in the same year), my fees will be for 2 evals (\$50 + \$50). I just don’t want anyone to have any surprises, so I’m including that information here.

You are welcome to propose an equitable barter for goods or services. It must be mutually agreed upon.

Other info sheets available upon request:

- Standardized testing with Dr. Stoudt
- High School policy
- Research Paper guidelines
- Homeschooling children with special needs.