

HOME SCHOOLING

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L.c. 76, §1, the School Committee designates that the Superintendent determine that a home schooling program meet with the minimum standards established for public schools in the Commonwealth prior to approving such a program.

When a parent or guardian of a student below the age of 16 wants to establish a home-based educational program for his/her child, the following procedures shall be followed in accordance with the law:

Prior to removing the child from public school:

The parent/guardian must submit written notification of establishment of the home-based program to the appropriate administrator fourteen (14) days before the program is established, and resubmit notification on an annual basis as long as the child or children are being educated in a home-based environment.

The parent/guardian must certify in writing, on a form provided by the school district, the name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child in the program.

The Superintendent shall give the notice to produce records required by law if there is probable cause to believe the program is not in compliance with the law. Factors to be considered by the Superintendent in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal may be:

1. The proposed curriculum and the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects.
2. The competency of the parents to teach the children,
3. The textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aids to be used by the children and the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents.
4. Periodic standardized testing of the children to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the district may have access to public school activities of either a curricular or extra-curricular nature upon approval of the Superintendent.

A student, with the approval of the Superintendent, may be awarded a high school diploma if he or she has satisfied the Massachusetts Department of Education's competency requirements and has met the school district's educational standards for graduation.

The School Committee will be provided with a report at the first meeting in October and the first meeting in June on the number of home school applications received and approved and all home school applications will be made available to the School Committee upon request.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L.c69, §1D; M.G.L.c. 76, §1

Adopted: January 22, 2008