

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

The Wilmington School Committee recognizes and respects the rights of parents/guardians to educate their children at home in accordance with state law. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for reviewing and approving home schools.

The approval of home schools shall be consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 76, § 1 and relevant case law. To obtain the approval of a proposed home school, parents/guardians bear the responsibility to demonstrate that their proposed home school program meets the requirements of M.G.L. c. 76, § 1, in that the instruction will equal “in thoroughness and efficiency, and in progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town.”

Factors to be considered by the Superintendent or designee 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.

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 parent/guardian must obtain approval of a homeschool plan before removing the child from public school. Specifically, the parent/guardian must submit written notification of their intent to establish a home-based program to the appropriate administrator 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, the name, age, place of residence, proposed curriculum, and number of hours of attendance of each child in the program.

As part of the approval process, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the parents/guardians with an opportunity to explain their proposed plan and present witnesses on their behalf. If the home education plan is rejected, the Superintendent or designee must detail the reasons for the decision, and allow the parents to revise their proposal to remedy its inadequacies.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the District may have access to extracurricular public school activities only upon approval of the Superintendent.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 69:1D; 76:1, Care and Protection of Charles  
Care and Protections of Charles - MASS. Supreme Judicial Court 399 Mass. 324  
(1987)

Adopted: January 20, 2021

Reviewed/Revised: December 2, 2020

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1. Requirements for approval of home instruction will include:
  - a. The parent or legal guardian must request permission through the Superintendent's Office by completing the Home School Application or sending in the Massachusetts Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education or to Continue a Program of Home Education to hold home instruction on an annual basis.
  - b. A home instruction application form will be provided to the parents or legal guardian. This form must be completed and returned to the Superintendent before approval may be granted.
  - c. The Committee delegates the approval of home instruction to the Superintendent or designee. Any approval or rejection of an application by the Superintendent or designee is subject to review by the Committee.
2. Parents or a legal guardian in charge of home instruction must make provision for regular testing or use of other indicators of student progress such as standardized achievement tests. As an alternative to home testing and at the request of those in charge of the home instruction, the School District will make provision for inclusion of home-taught children in the annual achievement test battery, which is usually administered in February or March of each school year. The home instruction summary form must include either a summary of home testing results for each required subject for each child or the results of the achievement test that is administered through the School District.
3. Auditing functions of the Committee for the home instruction will include:
  - a. The Committee at any time may request a review by the Superintendent of the attendance rolls, records of test scores or other achievement indicators in each required subject for any child in home instruction.
  - b. The Committee may request at any time that the Superintendent review the instructional materials and methods used by the person(s) responsible for the home instruction.
  - c. The Superintendent will prepare for the Committee an annual summary of the children included in home instruction this report will also summarize, in general, the appropriateness or possible deficiencies of home education situations.
4. Within one week of the ending date of the home instruction, as indicated on the home instruction application form, the School District will mail the parents or legal guardian a home instruction summary form. The completed form should be returned to the School District within 30 days. This summary form must be returned to the School District office before annual approval of home instruction can be made for any succeeding years.
5. The Committee will act in a responsible, cooperative manner to ensure that all children in the School District receive competent, adequate instruction. This concern includes children in home education. If the Committee determines that a home instruction situation is inadequate, a

conference between the parents or legal guardian and the Superintendent will be scheduled to find mutually acceptable ways to correct any deficiency.

6. If deficiencies in a home education situation are not corrected or the proper annual application or summary is not completed by the parents or legal guardian, an appropriate referral to the Department of Children and Families will be made.

Adopted: April 14, 2021

Reviewed/Revised: December 2, 2020