

File: IHBG - HOME SCHOOLING

The Massachusetts General Law requires the School Committee to 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 between ages 6-16 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 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 district, the name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child in the program.

The Superintendent or designee 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 or designee 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 or designee to teach the children;
3. The textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aids to be used by the children 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 in grades 1-12 being educated in a home-based program within the Springfield Public Schools may have access to Special Needs or 504 supports.

Springfield Public Schools is not responsible for supplying textbooks or instructional materials to home schooling students.

A student in grades 1-12 being educated in a home-based program within the Springfield Public Schools may not have access to classes during the school day.

Home-educated students do not participate in state testing programs such as MCAS.

Springfield Public Schools are not responsible to supply textbooks or instructional materials to homeschooling students.

A student in grades 9-12 being educated in a home-based program within the Springfield Public Schools may have access organized sports teams if there is space available.

- The home-schooled student is subject to all High School eligibility standards as outlined in the student handbook and MIAA guidelines.

- The District reserves the right to allow enrolled students to have precedence or priority over the home school student with regard to placement on sports teams and activities that have limited enrollment.
- Students that are Home Schooled do not receive a diploma from the Springfield Public Schools.

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)