

## **IHBG – HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION**

**ELIGIBILITY** - The Board recognizes that RSA 193-A provides the right for parents/guardians to pursue home education within the parameters of requirements and evaluation set by the New Hampshire State Department of Education (NHDOE). Recognition of home education for notification and evaluation purposes is limited to students 6 to 16 years old. Epping parents of students participating in home school education beyond 16 years of age may notify the district of their intent to continue home school education and request eligibility to participate in curricular and co-curricular activities subject to policy.

**NOTIFICATION** - Any parent/guardian commencing a home education program for a child who withdraws from the district's schools shall notify a participating agency. In most instances that will be the school district. Some parents/guardians choose to affiliate with a nonpublic school and in rare instances the Commissioner of Education at the NHDOE. The parent/guardian shall notify the Superintendent, NHDOE, or nonpublic school principal within 30 days of commencement of the home education program. Such notification shall include the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children who are participating in the home education program. If such notice is provided to the Superintendent, he/she shall acknowledge receipt of notification within fourteen (14) days.

The Superintendent shall assist parents/guardians in making such notification in complying with applicable statutory requirements as needed.

**STUDENT PARTICIPATION** – Home school students that are registered through the Epping School District may be eligible to participate in school curricular and co-curricular activities subject to school rules and regulations and district policy. Registration for the purpose of this policy means that the home school parent(s) has chosen Epping School District to be the home school agency and submitted a home school notification to the Superintendent's Office.

**ATTENDANCE POLICIES** - Conventional attendance policies of the District and State Law apply to all students within the District until the Commissioner of Education, the Superintendent, or a nonpublic school principal acknowledge the establishment of a home education program, or immediately apply upon the termination of any home education program so acknowledged.

**EVALUATION PROCEDURES:** Parents/guardians must maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program and must provide for an annual evaluation documenting the child's demonstration of education progress at a level commensurate with the child's age and ability, in accordance with RSA 193-A and NH Department of Education Rules Ed 315.

Parents/guardians have the option of successfully completing the home educated student's annual evaluation upon meeting the requirements of any one of the following.

1. A certified teacher or teacher currently teaching in a nonpublic school may evaluate the student's educational progress upon review of the portfolio. The teacher shall submit a written evaluation to the Superintendent, NHDOE, or nonpublic school principal.

2. The student may take any national student achievement test. The composite results must be at or above the fortieth (40<sup>th</sup>) percentile to be deemed reasonable academic proficiency. Such test results shall be reported to the Superintendent, NHDOE, or nonpublic school principal.
3. The student may take a state assessment test used by the district. The composite results must be at or above the fortieth (40<sup>th</sup>) percentile to be deemed reasonable academic proficiency. Such test results shall be reported to the Superintendent, NHDOE, or nonpublic school principal.
4. The student may be evaluated using any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent/guardian and the Superintendent, NHDOE, or nonpublic school principal.

Parents/guardians electing to request the school district's participation in the annual evaluation must make arrangements to do so with the appropriate School Principal prior to the end of the public school year, provided the school district is acting as the participating agency. If the school district is not acting as the participating agency, the Superintendent may provide evaluation services at his/her discretion.

The Superintendent will develop a form that may be used by parents in filing the results of the outside evaluation. The School Principal will use the same form in filing the results of an evaluation with the Superintendent's office. Principals will send copies of said evaluation to the parents/guardians. The Superintendent shall review the results of the annual education evaluation of children in home education programs. The Superintendent will notify the parents/guardians if their child has demonstrated progress within 21 days of receiving the annual evaluation data.

If progress is not demonstrated, the Superintendent will notify the parents in compliance with Department of Education regulations. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the parent in writing within 21 days of the evaluation if the child has not demonstrated educational progress. The parent/guardian shall have one (1) year from the date of receipt of the written notification to provide remedial instruction to the student. At the end of the one-year probationary period, the student will be reevaluated. Continuation in a home education program shall be contingent upon the student demonstrating progress commensurate with his/her age and ability.

**TERMINATION** – Written notice of termination of a home education program shall be filed by the parent/guardian with the NHDOE, the Superintendent, or nonpublic school principal within fifteen (15) days of such termination.

Parents/guardians deciding to re-enroll their children into the school district following a period of home education will make arrangements with the School Principal for an evaluation to determine appropriate placement in the school's program. Placements will be consistent with the School Board policy governing student placements and are subject to the same appeal process.

Parents are responsible to remain aware of the scope and sequence of the district curriculum and for aligning their home education program in ways that may eliminate conflicts to appropriate student placement.

**GRADUATION & DIPLOMAS** - No certificates or diplomas will be awarded to home-educated students by the School Board. As a result home school students are not eligible to participate in graduation events. Students must enter the regular school program and complete all necessary graduation requirements from the district high school to be eligible for a certificate or diploma.

Home school students receiving recognition for their participation in athletic, extracurricular, or selective academic programs may attend award ceremonies in which they will receive this special recognition.

**SCHOOL CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** - Participation of home education students in programs and activities are subject to the following conditions.

1. All requests for participation shall be made in writing by the parent/guardian in duplicate to the School Principal and the Superintendent. After consulting with the School Principal, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall in writing grant or deny the request.
2. Home education students must supply to the school proof of their home school enrollment.
3. All students are subject to the same age, performance, and pre-requisite standards for admission to courses and co-curricular activities.
4. Participation is subject to School Board policy and school rules and regulations.
5. It may be neither practical nor feasible for home-educated pupils to participate in special programs that have unclear or flexible schedules. The parents of home educated pupils must take the initiative to check with the school on the scheduling of events and possible changes that may occur.
6. The parents of home educated pupils may be asked to provide supervision for some activities on the same basis as the parents of fully enrolled students.
7. Home education students awaiting participation in a class or curricular/co-curricular activity must be supervised by the parent at all times, and must be picked up immediately following the conclusion of the activity.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

RSA 193-A (Home Education)

RSA 193:1 (Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil)

RSA 193:1-a (Dual Enrollment)

RSA 193:1-c (Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic or Home Educated Pupils)

Ed 315 (Procedures for the Operation of Home Education Programs)

NH Department of Education Advisory (Subject: HB406 Home Education)

Handbook (None)

APPROVED/REVISED: August 2, 2007, December 17, 2009

PREVIOUS POLICY: None