

## **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

### **Background**

Students enrolled in the Mt. Lebanon School District (“District”) are occasionally temporarily prevented from attending regular classroom instruction due to physical or mental illness or injury or other urgent reasons. Chapter 11 (Student Attendance) of the regulations promulgated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education permits school districts to offer homebound instruction to students who are temporarily precluded from attending a regular classroom due to such conditions, and requires school districts to adopt policies which describe the homebound instructional services available to such students.

### **Objective**

Homebound instruction is District-supplied one-to-one tutoring for a limited time. The purpose of homebound instruction is to keep students on track academically while the student is temporarily out of school. The objective of this policy is to establish the terms and conditions under which the District will offer homebound instruction to students who are temporarily unable to attend a regular classroom due to a physical or mental illness or injury or other urgent reasons. The term “urgent reasons” shall be strictly construed and does not permit irregular attendance.

### **Policy**

It is the policy of the District to provide eligible students enrolled in the District with homebound instruction when such student is temporarily unable to attend regular classroom instruction due to a physical or mental illness or injury or other urgent reasons. To be eligible for such homebound instruction:

- (a) Such student must be enrolled as a student of the District at the time of the illness, injury or other urgent medical reason. Homebound instruction will not be provided by the District to pupils residing within the District who attend a parochial school or any other school other than those of the District, are home schooled, or who have been suspended or expelled from the District or other school districts;
- (b) The student must be absent from school for ten (10) consecutive school days or provide the District with a physician’s statement that the student is reasonably expected to be unable to attend school for medical reasons for at least ten (10) consecutive school days due to such medical reason(s); and
- (c) The student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) must present the District with a physician’s statement that includes a recommendation for homebound instruction, identifies the specific condition which precludes the student’s presence in school, and provides an estimated date of the student’s return to school.

The Superintendent shall be authorized to employ properly certified teachers for homebound instruction where homebound instruction is appropriate pursuant to this policy. Parent(s)/guardian(s) requesting homebound instruction for their students shall request such homebound instruction in writing. The request shall be submitted to the student's building principal who shall forward the request to the Director of Special Education. The request must be accompanied by the required physician's statement.

The following terms and conditions apply to homebound instruction:

1. The District reserves the right to seek a second medical opinion by a physician of the District's choice (at District expense) if it so chooses. The District reserves the right to contact the student's physician for verification and/or clarification of the information contained in the physician's statement.
2. The assignment of an instructor will be at the District's discretion and person of the District's choice. Only certified teachers with all required clearances are permitted to participate in the homebound instruction program. Homebound instruction may be unavailable, or its commencement delayed if the District is unable to hire or has difficulty locating qualified applicants for homebound instructor positions.
3. The District may require a reassessment of the student's condition after sixty (60) school days.
4. Homebound instruction may not exceed a period of three months, unless approval for an extension is granted by the Department of Education. Any extensions must be reevaluated every three months.
5. Homebound instruction will be offered only during the District's instructional year.
6. Homebound instruction will be available to District students confined to their home or a hospital, rehabilitation center, or other medical facility. The District reserves the right to refuse to provide homebound instruction to a student confined to a facility that is located more than ten (10) miles outside of the boundaries of the District.
7. The District reserves the right to require that homebound instruction take place at a neutral site outside the student's home.
8. Homebound instruction for an eligible District student will be for up to five (5) hours per week. At the sole discretion of the Administration, the District may elect to offer homebound instruction on a limited or reduced schedule basis to students whose medical condition or treatment thereof enables the student to attend regular classroom instruction only on a limited or intermittent/interrupted basis. The Administration will reevaluate the decision to give homebound instruction to such students after four (4) weeks.

9. The homebound instruction student must keep up with assignments and school work in a timely fashion. All tests must be given by the instructor.
10. The District reserves the right to refuse homebound instruction when the instructor's presence in the place of the student's confinement constitutes a hazard to the health of the instructor; when a parent, guardian or other adult in authority is not at home with the student during the hours of instruction; or when the condition of the student or other circumstances are such as to preclude his/her benefit from such instruction.

Any breach of the above conditions, in part or in whole, may result in the withdrawal of approval of homebound instruction.

#### Administrative Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Administration to draft principles and procedures and/or administrative guidelines as necessary and appropriate for the implementation of this policy.

#### Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. District Staff
2. Students, Parents/Guardians
3. The Mt. Lebanon Community

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