

## **611 HOME SCHOOLING**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and provide guidelines in accordance with state law for parents who wish to have their children receive education in a home school that is an alternative to an accredited public or private school.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The Compulsory Attendance Law (Minn. Stat § 120A.22) provides that the parent or guardian of a child is primarily responsible for assuring that the child acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship. (Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 1).

### **III. CONDITIONS FOR HOME SCHOOLING**

The person in charge of a home school and the school district must provide instruction and meet the requirements specified in Minn. Stat. § 120A.22.

### **IV. IMMUNIZATION**

The parent or guardian of a home schooled child shall submit statements as required by Minn. § 121A.15, Subds. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 12 on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form, to the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides by October 1 of the first year of home schooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year. (Minn. Stat. § 121A.15, Subd. 8)

### **V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARD TESTS**

Upon formal request as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks (including a teacher's edition, guide, or other materials that accompany a textbook when the edition, guide, or materials are packaged physically or electronically with textbooks for student use), individualized instructional or cooperative learning materials (including teacher materials that accompany pupil materials), software or other educational technology, and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home schooled child as provided in Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 3540. The school district is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.40 to 123B.48 for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the school district will, at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, make the electronic component

accessible to a resident student provided that the school district does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

## **VI. PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES**

Upon formal request as required by law, the school district will provide pupil support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home schooled child as provided by Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 and Minn. Rules Chapter 3540. The school district is not required to expend an amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.40 to 123B.48 for any of these purposes.

## **VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Resident pupils who receive instruction in a home school (where five or fewer students receive instruction) may fully participate in extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis as other public school students (Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.36, Subd. 1 and 123B.49, Subd. 4).

## **VIII. SHARED TIME PROGRAMS**

Enrollment in class offerings of the school district.

- A. A home schooled child who is a resident of the school district may enroll in classes in the school district as a shared time pupil on the same basis as other nonpublic school students. The provisions of this policy shall not be determinative of whether the school district allows the enrollment of any pupils on a shared-time basis.
- B. The school district may limit enrollment of shared-time pupils in such classes based on the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building. The school board and administration retain sole discretion and control over scheduling of all classes and assignment of shared time pupils to classes.

## **IX. ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES FOR SHARED TIME STATUS**

- A. Shared time students must enroll in District 761 courses that generate state per pupil aid.
- B. Students shall be limited to a maximum of two hours of shared time per day for grades K-5, or one block (approximately 85 minutes) for grades 6-12.
- C. Classes requested as shared time are not offered in their non-public school.
- D. Shared time students may attend facilities in their attendance area.
- E. Students wishing to enroll on a shared time basis must make application to the district on or before January 15 for enrollment beginning the next school year. The district

- will notify the student on or before May 1 whether the application has been accepted or rejected. Applications received after January 15 cannot be guaranteed acceptance.
- F. Students participating in the shared time program shall abide by all rules and regulations governing the conduct of regular full-time students.
  - G. Shared time students are not eligible for academic awards, honors, or recognition.
  - H. Shared time students are not eligible for an Owatonna High School diploma.

## **X. TRANSFER TO FULL-TIME STATUS AT OWATONNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Home schooled students who select to enroll in the Owatonna Public Schools on a full-time continuing basis will be eligible for academic awards, honors, or recognition once they have completed at least one semester.

### *Legal References:*

- Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
- Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
- Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
- Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School Children)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (School Boards may require fees)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Definitions)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks, Individual Instruction Material, Standard Tests)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (Co-curricular and Extracurricular Activities)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.86 (Equal Treatment – Transportation)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
- Minn. Rules Chapter 3540 (Textbooks, Individualized Instruction Materials, Standardized Tests)

### *Cross References:*

- Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
- Policy 510 (School Activities)