

Home Education

The Inter-Lakes School District recognizes a family's right and respects a family's decision to choose home education programs as educational options as provided by RSA 193-A.

As defined by RSA 193-A:4 Home Education; Defined:

1. Instruction shall be deemed home education if it consists instruction in science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States, and an exposure to and appreciation of art and music. Home education shall be provided by a parent for one's own child, unless the provider is as otherwise agreed upon by the appropriate parties named in section 2.
2. The department of education, resident district superintendent, or a nonpublic school shall work with parents upon request in meeting the requirements of this section.

Eligibility:

The Board recognizes that RSA 193-A provides the legal right for parents to pursue home education within the parameters of certain requirements of enrollment and evaluation set by the New Hampshire State Department of Education (NHDOE). In order to provide home education, parents are required to notify either the Superintendent, the Principal of a non-public school, or the Commissioner of Education of their intention.

Home educated students shall have access to and are welcome to participate in curricular courses and co-curricular programs offered by the Inter-Lakes School District. Participation in curricular courses and co-curricular programs will be consistent with the participation requirement of enrolled students and shall not be more restrictive for home educated students than it is for enrolled students.

Notification and Other Procedural Requirements:

1. Parents planning to home educate their child(ren) shall notify the Commissioner of the Department of Education, the resident District Superintendent, or Principal of a non-public school, in writing, of such within five (5) business days of commencing the home education program.
2. Notification made by the parent shall include a list of the names, addresses, and birthdates of all children who will participate in the home education program. The parent shall also provide a phone number at which the parent may be reached during normal business hours.
3. State school attendance laws and District school attendance policies shall apply to all students until a parent/guardian commences a home education program. Accordingly, when a parent/guardian of a child who is enrolled in school wishes to begin a home education program for the child, Ed. Rule 315.04 (e) requires that on or before the date the home education program begins, the parent/guardian must advise the Superintendent of the child's withdrawal from the District. The notice of withdrawal may be made in person, via telephone or in writing, at the parent/guardian's election.
4. Once established, the home education program remains in effect unless terminated pursuant Ed. 315.04 (k). The parent/guardian is not required to provide annual notification of continuation of a home education program.
5. Written notice of termination of a home education program shall be filed by the parent with the Commissioner of Education and, in addition, the resident District Superintendent or non-public school Principal within fifteen (15) days of said termination.

Evaluation Procedures:

1. Parents must maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program. The portfolio must consist of a log, which designates by title the reading materials used, and also samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the child. The parent must maintain that portfolio for 2 years from the date of the ending of the instruction.
2. The parent must provide for an annual educational evaluation in which is documented the child's educational progress at a level commensurate with the child's age and ability. The annual evaluation must meet one of the following requirements:
 - a. Certified teacher or teacher in a nonpublic school who is selected by the parent must evaluate the child's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the parent or the child.
 - b. The child can take any national student achievement test, administered by a person qualified as established by the publisher of the test. Composite results at or above the fortieth percentile is deemed reasonable academic proficiency.
 - c. The child may take a state student assessment test used by the resident district with composite results at or above the fortieth percentile to be deemed making reasonable academic proficiency.
 - d. The child may be evaluated using any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent and the Commissioner of Education, resident district Superintendent, or nonpublic school Principal.

The parent shall maintain a copy of the evaluation. The results of the evaluation:

- May be used to demonstrate the child's academic proficiency in order to participate in public school programs, and co-curricular activities which are defined as school sponsored and directed athletics, fine arts and academic activities. Home educated students shall be subject to the same participation policy and eligibility conditions as apply to the public school students.
- Will not be used as a basis for termination of a home education program.
- Provides a basis for a constructive relationship between the parent and the evaluator, both working together in the best interest of the child.

Liability Limited:

1. The resident school district, the school board of the district and any employees of the district associated with a child who is or has been receiving home education are not liable in damages in a civil action for any injury, death or loss to person or property allegedly sustained by the child, the child's parents, or any other person as a result of the child's receipt of home education, including but not limited to any liability allegedly based on the failure of the child to receive a free appropriate or adequate public education.

Re-Enrollment into the District Program:

1. Parents deciding to re-enroll their children in the school district program following a period of home education will make arrangements with the building principal to provide for an evaluation process 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.
2. Parents must notify the resident district Superintendent or non-public school Principal within 15 days of the termination of the home education program and shall promptly enroll their children in a school approved by the State of New Hampshire.

3. High school credit toward graduation shall not be awarded for home school programs unless the credit(s) has been awarded by an accredited institution.

Legal 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 Non-Public or Home Educated Pupils

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 315, Procedures for the Operation of Home Education Programs

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