



Book	Regulations
Section	JE - Student Attendance
Title	HOME SCHOOLING/HOME INSTRUCTION
Number	JEJ-R
Status	Active
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Home Instruction Guidelines

In compliance with state law, these guidelines have been developed for children taught under the home schooling program.

1. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are to request home schooling/home instruction information from the Department of Student Services.
2. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall submit the Home Schooling Notification form to the Department of Student Services.
3. Upon receipt of the consent form, and once home schooling/home instruction has begun, the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) assume full responsibility for preparing the curriculum, providing materials, implementing instruction, and providing such extracurricular/cocurricular activities as appropriate. The St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) is not responsible for providing any experiences for a child who is on home schooling. This shall include, but not be limited to, regularly scheduled classes, extracurricular/cocurricular activities and other experiences provided by a school.
4. Please note that when a family makes the decision to provide instruction at home, that family has forfeited all services provided by SMCPS, including Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) services for students with special needs; however, Child Find services are available to all residents in St. Mary's County.
5. A representative of the local school system will arrange bi-annual meetings at a time and place agreeable to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and the school system to review the portfolio of education materials, discuss the instructional program as needed, and observe instruction as necessary.
6. The portfolio shall demonstrate that:
 - a. The student is receiving regular, thorough instruction in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children the same age.
 - b. The student is receiving instruction in English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education.
 - c. The instruction takes place on a regular basis during the school year and be of sufficient duration to implement the instruction program.
7. If there are deficiencies in the program provided by the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) or if the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) do not comply with the review process, the Director of Student Services will notify the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of any deficiencies or noncompliance.

The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) have thirty (30) days to comply or show improvement. If there is insufficient

improvement or continued noncompliance within thirty (30) days, the student must be enrolled in a public or nonpublic school.

The pupil personnel worker assigned to the family will work with the State's Attorney's Office and/or the appropriate school to enroll the student.

8. Upon request of the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), a child may participate in the local school system's standardized testing program. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) is to contact the principal of the public school in the child's attendance area to arrange for testing.
9. Annually, prior to the beginning of the school year, parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall verify the continuation of home schooling for his/her child with the local school superintendent or with the supervising nonpublic school or institution.
10. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall notify the local school superintendent or the supervising nonpublic school or institution if a change occurs in the home school status of a child during the school year.
11. The supervising nonpublic school or institution shall notify the local school superintendent if a change occurs in the status of a home schooled/home instructed student whose instruction was under its supervision during the school year.
12. Upon application of a child for admission to a public school from a home instruction program, the local superintendent shall determine by an evaluation the placement of the child and any credits to be awarded toward high school graduation. The evaluation may include administration of standardized tests, examinations, and interviews with the child.

Upon receiving an official transcript which indicates approval or accreditation status (Maryland State Department of Education) the credit will be determined and granted. A "P" (Pass) grade will be placed on the student's transcript. "P" grades do not count either for or against a student in calculation of honor roll, grade point average, or class rank. (Note: SMCPs will not accept credits for courses not commonly taught in public schools.)

13. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) who are interested in home schooling/home instruction for their child can access information and curriculum on the Maryland State Department of Education website at www.marylandpublicschools.org.

St. Mary's County Public Schools, Leonardtown, Maryland