

6173/Homebound and Hospitalized Instruction

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: 6000
CATEGORY: Instruction
POLICY CODE: 6173/Homebound and
Hospitalized Instruction

HOMEBOUND AND HOSPITALIZED INSTRUCTION

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education, as mandated by Section 10-76d-15 of the Connecticut State Board of Education Regulations, to provide homebound/hospitalized instruction as a teaching service available to students who are unable to attend school for medical and/or mental health reasons for at least two (2) weeks or longer as diagnosed by a physician, psychiatrist, or Planning and Placement/504 Team, or whose condition is such that the student may be required to be absent from school for short, repeated periods of time during the school year.

The purpose of homebound/hospitalized instruction shall be to help students to keep up with their work even though they are unable to attend school. Instruction provided pursuant to this policy shall maintain the continuity of the student's general education program and, in the case of a student with a disability, shall be provided so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress towards meeting the goals and objectives in the student's IEP. "Maintain[ing] the continuity of the student's general education program" means the student shall receive instruction in core academic subjects required by the Board for promotion or graduation.

The PPT shall consider the educational needs of a student with a disability who is medically complex and the need for instruction to be provided in accordance with an IEP when said student is not able to attend school due to medical reasons. The PPT shall consider and make accommodation for the student's program to be moved from public school to a home or health care facility, including but not limited to a hospital, psychiatric facility, or rehabilitation center, and back to school when the student is able to return to school. A student with a "medically complex" disability is one who has a serious, ongoing illness or chronic condition for at least a year which requires prolonged or intermittent hospitalization and ongoing invasive medical treatments or medical devices to compensate for the loss of bodily functions.

A student who is pregnant or who has given birth and cannot attend school shall be provided homebound/hospitalized instruction and such other instruction as will enable the student to remain in school or otherwise have access to instruction and support services. The Board shall consider the student's individualized needs and shall provide, as appropriate, services including but not limited to transportation, a shortened school day, counseling, modified assignments, or modified class schedule.

Homebound/hospitalized instruction may also be provided for those students who have been excluded from regular school attendance for disciplinary reasons.

Adopted: 11/05/1980

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Revised: 05/06/2002, 2/16/2016

References

- Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-76d, 10-233a
- Connecticut State Department of Education Regulation § 10-76d-15

- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5113: High School Attendance/Loss of Credit
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5113.1: Attendance Grades K-8

Regulations

I. Initiation of Homebound/Hospitalized Instruction

A. The Board will provide homebound/hospitalized instruction to a student enrolled in the Trumbull Public Schools when such student is unable to attend school due to a verified medical reason which may include mental health issues. The student's treating physician shall provide a statement in writing directly to the Board, on a form provided by the Office of Pupil Personnel Services, stating: (a) the student's treating physician has consulted with school health supervisory personnel and has determined that attendance at school with reasonable accommodations is not feasible; (b) the student is, therefore, unable to attend school due to a verified medical reason and the student's diagnosis with supporting documentation; (c) the student will be absent from school for at least ten (10) consecutive school days or the student's condition is such that the student may be required to be absent from school for short, repeated periods of time during the school year; and (d) the expected date the student will be able to return to school.

B. Homebound/hospitalized instruction shall be as specified in the student's individualized education program, subject to the following:

- (1) In the case of a student not otherwise in need of special education and related services, homebound/hospitalized instruction shall maintain the continuity of the student's regular program. The requirements of evaluation and an individualized education program shall not apply and a planning and placement team meeting need not be convened.
- (2) In the case of a student not previously receiving special education and related services, the requirements of evaluation and an individualized education program shall apply if there is reason for the planning and placement team to believe that the student will continue to require special education and related services.
- (3) In the case of a student receiving special education and related services, the planning and placement team shall, where necessary, modify short-term instructional objectives in the student's individualized education program.

II. Commencement of Services

A. Subject to the Resolution of Disputes provisions below, homebound/hospitalized instruction for a student who is unable to attend school for medical reasons shall begin no later than the eleventh day of absence from school, provided the Board has received notice in writing that meets the requirement of IA above. If the Board is provided with adequate notice prior to the student's absence from school, instruction may begin earlier than the eleventh day of absence. If the student's condition is such that the student cannot receive instruction, the student's treating physician shall determine when instruction shall begin and shall, in writing, inform the Board.

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- B. Homebound/hospitalized instruction for a student with a disability who is medically complex shall begin no later than the third day of absence as long as the student is medically able to receive instruction.

III. Length of Time and Place of Instruction

- A. For preschool students eligible for special education, homebound/hospitalized instruction shall be provided for the amount of time determined appropriate by the Planning and Placement Team.
- B. For students in grades kindergarten through six, inclusive, homebound/hospitalized instruction shall be provided for no less than one (1) hour per day or five (5) hours per week.
- C. For students in grades seven through twelve, inclusive, homebound/hospitalized instruction shall be provided for no less than two (2) hours per day or ten (10) hours per week.
- D. Where evaluative data indicates that the time requirements above should be modified, instruction time may be increased or decreased upon the agreement of the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Board, or upon a determination made by the Planning and Placement Team as appropriate.
- E. Homebound/hospitalized instruction may be provided in the setting of the student's home or the hospital to which the student is confined, or the Board may offer such instruction in other sites such as the town library, taking into consideration the student's medical condition.
- F. Homebound/hospitalized instruction shall occur only in a location where, in addition to the tutor, a responsible adult over the age of 18, besides the student himself/herself, is present.

IV. Resolution of Disputes

- A. In the event of a dispute regarding the basis upon which the student's treating physician has asserted the need for homebound/hospitalized instruction, the student shall receive instruction pending review of the documentation provided by the student's treating physician by the school medical advisor or other health professional employed by the Board who is qualified to review the information submitted, so long as the parent(s)/guardian(s) has(have) provided consent for the school medical advisor or other health professional employed by the Board to speak with the student's treating physician to assess the need for instruction. The Board is not required to begin instruction until such consent is provided. Consultation with the student's treating physician shall include a review of educational and medical records and, where appropriate, a review of accommodations and school health services that can be provided to the student for the student to attend school safely.
- B. If the event of a continued dispute, the Board may offer at its expense a review of the student's case by a qualified independent medical practitioner. If the

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parent(s)/guardian(s) fail(s) to make the student available for such evaluation, the Board's obligation to provide homebound/hospitalized instruction ends. If the student continues to be absent from school, the Board shall pursue school attendance intervention in accordance with State law and Board policy.

- C. In the event of failure to resolve the dispute, both the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student and the Board have the right to request a hearing, or, in lieu of a hearing, to request mediation pursuant to State law and the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

V. Oversight

- A. Coordination and supervision of homebound/hospitalized instruction shall be the responsibility of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, although he/she may choose to delegate that responsibility.
- B. The Director of Pupil Personnel Services shall, with input from the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments, develop, disseminate, and periodically review procedures for implementation of homebound/hospitalized instruction, including the selection and supervision of tutors, and the interactions among tutors, classroom teachers, department chairs, and building-based administrators.
- C. Forms to support homebound/hospitalized instruction will be developed and reviewed periodically by the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.