

611 HOMESCHOOLING

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 homeschool 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 leadership. (Minn. Stat. 120.22, Subd. 1)

III. CONDITIONS FOR HOMESCHOOLING

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

IV. IMMUNIZATION

The parent of a homeschooled child shall submit statements as required by Minn. Stat. 121A.15, Subds. 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 homeschooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year. (Minn. Stat. 121A. 15, Subd 8)

V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARDIZED TESTS

Upon formal request as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks, individualized instructional materials and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a homeschooled 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. Funding for the aforementioned educational materials is provided through the Aids for Nonpublic Students program. As per state statute, parents of homeschooled students may access these funds by following established state and district guidelines. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the school district will, at the request of the students 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 support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a homeschooled child as provided by Minn. Stat. 123B.44 and Minn. Rules Ch. 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.40-123B.48 for any of these purposes.

VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Resident pupils who receive instruction in a homeschool (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

- A. A homeschooled 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. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Activities

- 1. Minnesota State High School League sponsored activities (where six or more students receive instruction in the homeschool or the homeschool students are not residents of the school district).

A homeschool which is a member of the Minnesota State High School League may request that the school district enter into a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as provided in Minnesota State High School League Bylaw 403.00. The approval of such an arrangement shall be at the discretion of the school board.

- a. The homeschool must become a member of the Minnesota State High School League in accordance with the rules of the Minnesota State High School League.
- b. The homeschool is solely responsible for any costs or fees associated with its application for and/or subsequent membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
- c. The homeschool is responsible for any and all costs associated with its participation in a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as well as any school district activity fees associated with the Minnesota State High School League activity.

2. Non-Minnesota State High School League activities where six or more students receive instruction in the homeschool.

A homeschooled child may participate in non-Minnesota State High School League activities offered by the school district upon application and approval from the school board to participate in the activity and the payment of any activity fees associated with the activity. However homeschool students may not be charged higher activity fees than other public school students. An approval shall be granted at the discretion of the school board.

B. Transportation Services

1. The school district may provide nonpublic nonregular transportation services to a homeschooled child.
2. The school board of the school district retains sole discretion and control and management of scheduling routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, and any other matters relating to the provision of transportation services.

Legal References: Minn. Stat 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Stat. 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. 120A.24 (Reporting)
Minn. Stat. 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
Minn. Stat. 123B.49 (Co-curricular and Extracurricular Activities)
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.86 (Equal Treatment-Transportation)
Minn. Stat. 123B.92 (Transportation Aid and Entitlement)
Minn. Rules Chapter 3540 (Textbooks, Individualized Instruction materials, Standardized Tests)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 510 (School Activities)

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