

## **HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION PROCEDURES**

*Policy Code:* **3132-R**

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### **A. ELIGIBILITY**

Homebound/hospital instruction is provided through local policy in regular education and by federal and state law in special education. Any child who is expected to be confined for a minimum of four (4) weeks or longer to a hospital or home for treatment or for a period of convalescence is eligible for this program. Any child who is disabled to the degree that it is impossible or medically inadvisable to attend public school, even with the provision of special classes, is eligible for homebound/hospital instruction. Exceptional Children are served on a case-by-case basis as required by law and policy.

### **B. VERIFICATION**

The child needing homebound instruction shall be expected to provide a medical statement completed by competent medical authority to be away from the classroom for a minimum of four (4) weeks, and the medical statement shall set forth the nature and extent of the handicap, the physical or psychological limitations under which the child can operate successfully, and the anticipated length of time expected. If an extension is needed beyond four (4) weeks a written statement is needed from the medical authority prior to the extension date. Exceptional children qualify for hospital/homebound instruction according to the requirements of the State Board of Education.

### **C. PROCEDURE**

The school principal or designee shall act as the home-school coordinator between the homebound student and the regular teacher(s). Contact should be made with the student's family as soon as the school receives notice of need for homebound services and arrangements will be made immediately.

If the hospital/homebound services are the result of a medical need, a medical statement from a medical professional is required. If the services are the result of a psychological or psychiatric need, a statement from the psychological/psychiatric professional as well as current treatment plan must be provided.

Services may begin upon receipt of medical verification and approval. Approval for exceptional children shall be the responsibility of the IEP Team and Director of Exceptional Children. Approval for non-exceptional children shall be the responsibility of the Student Services Director or other superintendent designee.

For an exceptional student, hospital/homebound services represent a change in setting and require the completion of appropriate forms and procedures as determined by the Exceptional Children Department and the NC Department of Public Instruction. For non-exceptional students necessary forms shall be available from each principal.

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**D. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

Children eligible for hospital/homebound instruction shall receive instruction based upon individual needs for three (3) to five (5) hours per week unless prohibited for medical reasons. Exceptional students will receive instruction based upon individual needs with the amount of time being determined by the Individual Education Plan. The hospital/homebound program shall provide instruction designed to allow the student to return to school with knowledge and skills sufficient to maintain his/her previous level of academic performance. All homebound placements will be reviewed every four weeks (monthly). Homebound instruction may occur in the home, hospital or alternate location such as a library, police station, or school after hours. A responsible adult other than the teacher must always be present at the time of instruction. There are no exceptions to this requirement. Instruction can be provided by individual instruction, virtual public schools or other means as designed collaboratively with the school, parent and student. If scheduled appointments are missed without prior notice, homebound instruction may be suspended.

**E. SOURCE OF FUNDS**

For identified exceptional children, hospital/homebound instruction shall be provided with federal, state, or local exceptional children's funds. Students not identified as exceptional children shall receive hospital/homebound services through local funds to the extent funding is available. Additional hours per week shall be paid from available funds.

Legal References: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et. seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 300; The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 706(8), 794, 34 C.F.R. pt. 104; The Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12134, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; G.S. 115C, art. 9, 115C-36, -47, -391; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy GCS-D-000

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000); Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities (policy 3520); Attendance (policy 4400)

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