

THIEF RIVER FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

611 HOME SCHOOLING

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 home school 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 citizenship. (Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 1)

III. CONDITIONS FOR HOME SCHOOLING

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

IV. IMMUNIZATION

The parent or guardian of a home-schooled child shall submit statements as required by Minn. Stat. § 121A.15, Subds. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 12, 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 home schooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year. (Minn. Stat. § 121A.15, Subd. 8)

V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARD TESTS

Upon formal request as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks, individualized instructional or cooperative learning materials, software or other educational technology, and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home-schooled child as provided in Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 and Minn. Rules Ch. 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.40-123B.48 for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the school district will, at the request of the student 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 pupil support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home-schooled 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 home school (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

Enrollment in class offerings of the school district.

- A. A home-schooled 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.

[Note: The provisions of Article VIII. - Shared Time Programs do not make a determination as to whether Shared Time Programs should be offered to any pupil. However, it is required that home-schooled children be treated the same as all other nonpublic school children.]

IX. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Activities

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

A home school 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 home school 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 home school 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 home school 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 home school.

A home-schooled 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, home school 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 home-schooled 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 matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

X. Nonpublic School Student Graduation Requirements

Nonpublic school includes private, sectarian and home schools. Students who have been taking classes in a nonpublic school setting and wish to receive a high school diploma from Lincoln High School and the Thief River Falls Public School District need to have completed eight (8) credits of coursework in grades 9-12 at Lincoln High School in order to be eligible to receive a LHS diploma. These eight (8) credits (A minimum of two (2) credits are required per year at LHS.) must be successfully completed in the areas of math, science, English or social studies. In addition, students must successfully complete the Lincoln High

School Senior Focus class during their senior year of high school. Students must also meet all Minnesota Department of Education testing requirements for graduating seniors.

In the student's senior year, the student must be enrolled as either a full time student (4 credits) during the spring semester (or) as a half-time student (2 credits) during both the fall and spring semesters.

Beginning in SY 2018-19, the Thief River Falls School District does not issue diplomas to homeschool students. Each homeschool is expected to issue its own diploma to its students.

XI. Lincoln High School Graduation Participation

Commencement exercises are for Lincoln High School students only. For students to participate in commencement exercises they must have met all Lincoln High School Graduation requirements. The student must have all fines, dues, fees and discipline detention taken care of prior to going through commencement exercises. Students are also required to follow and meet acceptable behavior policies and the graduation participation requirements as noted in the Lincoln High School Student Handbook.

Nonpublic school students receiving high school GPA for class rank and highest academic honors must have completed a minimum of 20 credits at Lincoln High School while in grades 9-12.

***This policy will be phased in over the next three years:*

2015-2016	4 credits (English, math, science, social studies) + Senior Focus
2016-2017	6 credits (English, math, science, social studies) + Senior Focus
2017-2018	Full requirements as listed above.
2018-2019	No Lincoln High School (ISD 564) Diploma Awarded to Homeschool/Non-Public

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

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

Board Adopted: 01/2015

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