

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 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.)

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 and 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 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. Home schooled students or shared time students are not expected to take the standards-based accountability assessments. A parent of a home-schooled or a shared time student may request a student participates and parents will be charged the standard fee for the test (from the Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments) plus administrative costs of test set-up and use of a trained proctor. 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 Chapter 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 to 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.

IX. HOME SCHOOL CREDIT AND GRADE TRANSFER:

- A. A letter grade of “C” will be given for credits earned in a home school. Home school students will receive a “C” for earned credits and “NC” for No Credit/Fail. This will be the process for calculating a home school student’s class rank and G.P.A. and transferring credits for graduation.
- B. Home school students will not be considered for National Honor Society.
- C. Home school students who are enrolled in classes within the school district as shared time pupils at Park Rapids Area Schools (Middle or High School) will not be considered for the Honor Roll.
- D. In order to receive a Park Rapids Area High School diploma, home school students must attend Park Rapids Area High School full-time in grades 11 and 12 and earn a minimum of 51% of their total high school credits from Park Rapids Area High School. In addition to meeting the PRAHS credit requirements, students must also pass the Minnesota Basic Skills Tests in Reading, Math, Writing and any other

required test. (Please note: Typically, the home school provides the diploma. MN Dept. of Education recommends that home school parents keep an extensive record of their child's course work to include a transcript showing credits earned and a portfolio of work completed in each subject area.)

Park Rapids Area Schools acknowledges the need to provide for credit by assessment for certain students who transfer in order to determine if the student has the needed skills and knowledge in order to be granted credit for the classes for graduation.

X. 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.

*** This Policy is in place of Policy 589 – Home School/Shared Time.*

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 (Cocurricular 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.92 (Transportation Aid 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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