

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Salem, Connecticut

INSTRUCTION

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

A. WHEN HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION IS TO BE PROVIDED

1. Homebound instruction shall be provided to District students when such a student is unable to attend school due to a verified medical reason, including mental health issues.
2. In order to receive homebound instruction, the student's treating physician must provide a statement in writing directly to the District, on a form provided by the District (Appendix A), stating:
 - a. The 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 unable to attend school due to a verified medical reason,
 - c. The student's diagnosis with supporting documentation,
 - d. 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,
 - e. The expected date the student will be able to return to school.

B. MEDICALLY COMPLEX STUDENTS

1. For purposes of this policy, "medically complex" means a student who has a serious, ongoing illness or chronic condition for at least a year and requires prolonged or intermittent hospitalization and ongoing medical treatments or medical devices to compensate for the loss of bodily functions.
2. The Planning and Placement Team ("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 the student's Individualized Education Program ("IEP") when the student is not able to attend school due to medical reasons.
3. The PPT shall consider and make accommodation for the student's program to be moved (a) from public school to a home or health care facility, including but not limited to, a hospital, psychiatric facility or rehabilitation center, and (b) back to school when the student is able to return to school.

C. IEP AND/OR INSTRUCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Homebound instruction shall be as specified in the student's IEP, subject to the following.

1. In the case of a student not otherwise in need of special education and related services, homebound instruction shall maintain the continuity of the student's regular program. The requirements of evaluation and an IEP shall not apply and a PPT 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 IEP shall apply if there is reason for the PPT to believe that the student will require special education and related services, consistent with the District's special education referral and "child find" obligations.
3. In the case of a student receiving special education and related services, the PPT shall, where necessary, modify short-term instructional objectives in the student's IEP.

D. CONTENT AND GOAL OF SERVICES

1. 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.
 - a. "Maintaining the continuity" of the student's general education program means that the student shall receive instruction in core academic subjects required by the District for the child or an interdistrict magnet school or charter school in which the student is enrolled for promotion or graduation.
2. Charter and magnet school students for resident students. Any interdistrict magnet school or charter school hosting a resident student requiring special education shall cooperate with the District in planning homebound instruction and shall provide instructional materials to enable the District to provide appropriate instruction to the student.

E. COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICES

1. Instruction for a student who is unable to attend school for medical reasons shall begin no later than the eleventh (11th) day of absence from school, provided the District has received notice in writing that meets the requirements of Section A of this policy. However, if the student's condition is such that the student cannot receive instruction within this timeframe, the student's treating physician shall determine when instruction shall begin and shall (in writing) inform the District.
2. Instruction for a student with a disability who is medically complex shall begin no later than the third (3rd) day of absence, provided the student is medically able to receive instruction.

F. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

1. In the event there is a dispute regarding the basis upon which the student's treating physician has asserted the need for instruction, the student shall receive such instruction pending review of the written statement provided by the student's treating physician by the school medical advisor (or other health professional employed by the District who is qualified to review the information submitted).
2. The parent of the student shall provide consent for the school medical advisor (or other qualified District health professional) to consult with the student's treating physician to assess the need for instruction. PLEASE NOTE: The District is not required to begin instruction until such consent is provided.
3. Consultation with the student's treating physician shall include a review of educational and medical records and, if appropriate, accommodations and school health services that can be provided to the student so the student can attend school safely.
4. Independent review. If there continues to be a disagreement regarding the provision of homebound instruction, the District may offer, at District expense, a review of the student's case by a qualified independent medical practitioner.
 - a. If the parent fails to make the student available for such review, the obligation of the District to provide homebound instruction shall end, and if the student continues to be absent from school, the District shall pursue school attendance interventions (including but not limited to truancy procedures and DCF involvement).
5. If the dispute regarding the provision of homebound instruction is not resolved, the District and the parent have the right to request either a due process hearing or mediation pursuant to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies governing special education.

G. TIME AND PLACE FOR INSTRUCTION

1. Amount: Instruction shall be provided as follows:
 - a. For any student with a disability from three to five years of age, inclusive, for the amount of time determined appropriate by the PPT;
 - b. No less than one (1) hour per day or five (5) hours per week for students in grades kindergarten through six; and
 - c. No less than two (2) hours per day or ten (10) hours per week for students in grades seven through twelve.

However, where evaluative data indicates that these time requirements should be modified, instruction time may be increased or decreased upon the agreement of the parent and the District or upon a determination made by the PPT as appropriate.

2. Location: Instruction may be provided in the setting of the student's home or the hospital to which the student is confined or the District may offer such instruction in other sites (such as a town library), taking into consideration the student's medical condition.

H. SERVICES FOR A STUDENT WHO IS PREGNANT OR HAS GIVEN BIRTH

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

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes: §10-76d: Duties and Powers of Boards of Education To Provide Special Education Programs and Services. Regulations Connecticut State Agencies: §10-76d-15: Homebound and Hospitalized Instruction. §10-76h-3: Hearing Requests; Content Of Hearing Request. §10-76h-5: Mediation.

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SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Salem, Connecticut

PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

FROM: _____
(Name of physician)

(Address)

(Telephone)

Re: _____
(Name of Student)

I hereby certify the following:

1. I am the treating physician for _____, a student (hereinafter, "the student"). I offered treatment/services to the student on _____, 201_ for the following reason(s).
2. After consultation with the Superintendent or his/her designee, I have determined that attendance at school with reasonable accommodations for the student is not feasible.
3. The student is unable to attend school due to a verified medical reason, including mental health issues.
4. Specifically, the student's diagnosis is as follows: _____
[attach supporting documentation]
5. _____ 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.
[check one of the two options]
6. The expected date the student will be able to return to school is _____.

(Date)

(Signature of treating physician)