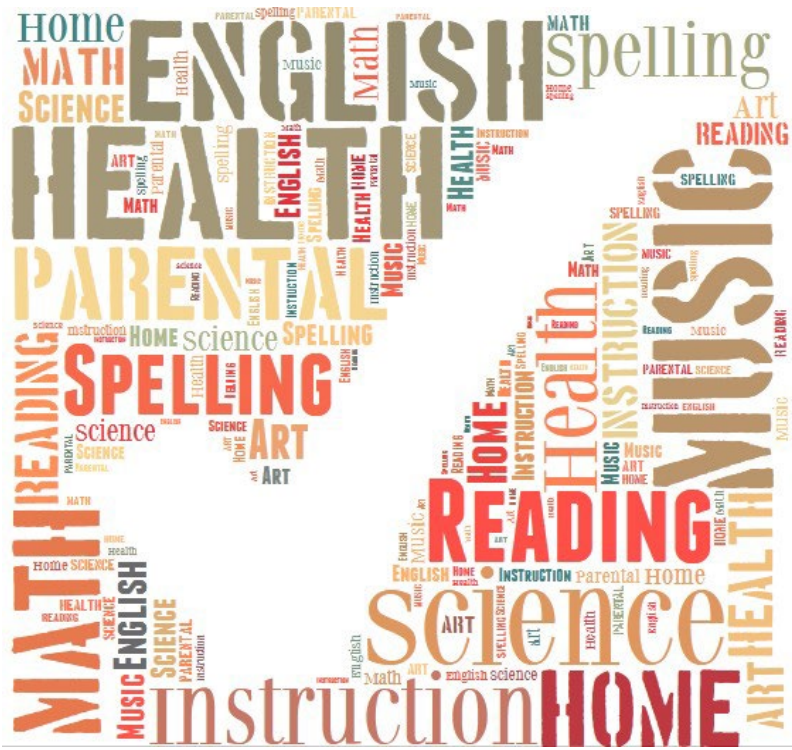


# **PARENTAL INSTRUCTION**

## **(HOME SCHOOLING)**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**



Calvert County Public Schools  
Department of Student Services  
1305 Dares Beach Road  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
443-550-8460

- Q: Must the parent/guardian be a certified teacher?**  
A: No. Present regulations do not require parents/guardians to have teacher certification in order to home school their child.
- Q: The General Regulations state that I must provide regular, thorough instruction. How can I show that I am doing this?**  
A: It is suggested that you bring dated samples of your work. Dated assignments indicate consistency. Field trips are also considered instructional time; materials from trips including photographs are evidence.
- Q: What areas of instruction are mandatory in my program?**  
A: Evidence of instruction is required in English/Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Health, and Physical Education. CCPS also recommends a technology component (*optional*).
- Q: Do I need to set up a classroom in my home?**  
A: An educational area is suggested. It could include a desk or work area with suitable lighting and ventilation. Having resources and instructional materials available to your child is important.
- Q: Will schools provide curriculum and textbooks?**  
A: No. However, curricular resources are referenced on our website at [www.calvertnet.k12.md.us](http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us). Go to the **Departments** tab, click on **Instruction**, and then **Program Information**. Textbook use is at the discretion of the parent/guardian.
- Q: What examples of my child's work should be available during the portfolio review?**  
A: Examples of work from each area should be provided. Writing, worksheets, workbooks, creative materials, tests and reading logs are all appropriate samples.
- Q: Should my child attend the review?**  
A: Your child is not required to attend, but is encouraged to come. Children often enjoy the opportunity to talk about their program.
- Q: What happens if CCPS staff find deficiencies in my home instruction program?**  
A: If deficiencies result in the child not receiving a regular, thorough instructional program conforming to the General Regulations, the parent will be notified and must provide evidence within 30 days that the deficiencies have been corrected. If the deficiencies are not corrected, the superintendent or designee may require that the child be enrolled promptly in school.
- Q: How often do portfolio reviews take place?**  
A: Generally, reviews occur twice per school year, typically the end of each semester. A maximum of three reviews are permitted by the General Regulations each academic year. Usually, a review takes 30 minutes per student.
- Q: Who reviews my program?**  
A: Department of Student Services staff will do your review. You will be contacted regarding your appointment.
- Q: Does the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provide information about home instruction support groups?**  
A: No. MSDE does, however, maintain the names and addresses of the nonpublic schools and bona fide church organizations registered in Maryland. You can find this information on the MSDE website at: [www.marylandpublicschools.org](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org).

**Q: Can a home-schooled student receive Special Education services?**

A: Children with disabilities who are home schooled do not have an individual entitlement to Special Education in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*). Special Education services would be available to any student found eligible by an IEP Team for an IEP if the parent decides to enroll a student in CCPS. If a parent believes that a child should be evaluated to determine eligibility for Special Education services, the parent should call their assigned school and speak to the IEP Chairperson. To find your assigned school, go to our website, on the **Parents** tab, you will find **School Bus Stop & School Locator**.

**Q: Can my child take part in other aspects of the school instructional or extracurricular programs while receiving home instruction?**

A: No.

**Q: May my child participate in the standardized testing program offered by CCPS?**

A: Yes. A child receiving home instruction may participate in the scheduled standardized testing programs that are administered in the assigned school. Testing should be requested in writing to the Department of Student Services (*checkbox on the Notification form*). It is the responsibility of the parent to contact the assigned school for their testing schedule and to make arrangements for participation prior to the testing date. Transportation must be provided by the parent.

**Q: Is my child allowed to participate in the PSAT testing?**

A: For PSAT testing, contact your assigned school guidance office for the schedule. For other college exams contact: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

**Q: Will my home instruction program be accepted for college admission?**

A: You are encouraged to make early contact with individual colleges and universities, determine their policies, and arrange your program, recordkeeping, and testing accordingly.

**Q: Will a high school diploma be provided by CCPS if my child remains on home instruction through Grade 12?**

A: No. A high school diploma represents completion of Maryland State graduation requirements by students who attend public schools. Your child may choose to sit for the GED.

**Q: What is the process if I should decide to place my child back in public school at some future date?**

A: Your child is welcome to enroll at any time. Parents of elementary-age students (*grades K-5*) should contact the elementary school principal. Parents of secondary-age students (*grades 6-12*) should call the assigned school for entrance information. The procedure for enrolling a student from home instruction can be found on our website at [www.calvertnet.k12.md.us](http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us), click on the **District Information** tab, **Policies**, scroll down to **Students** (3000- 3999), and then **Procedure** 3710.1.

**Q: Must I verify each year to continue home instruction?**

A: Yes! MSDE believes that in order for a parent to be in compliance with the compulsory attendance law set out in § 7-301 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and the State Board of Education regulations on home instruction found in COMAR 13A.10.01, a parent/ guardian who chooses to teach a child at home must provide annual verification of the child's instructional status. Whenever there are any changes in the child's program, including a change of address, the parent must notify the Department of Student Services by phone or in writing. If instruction is provided by a nonpublic school that provides supervision, it is the responsibility of the nonpublic school to notify the Department of Student Services.

**Nondiscrimination Statement**

Calvert County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, familial status, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth programs.



Calvert County Public Schools does not refuse enrollment of a prospective student, expel a current student, or withhold privileges from a current student, or prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national original, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

Calvert County Public Schools does not discipline, invoke a penalty against, or take any other retaliatory action against a student or parent or guardian of a student who files a complaint alleging that the program or school discriminated against the student, regardless of the outcome of the complaint.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

- Director of Student Services
- Director of Human Resources  
443-550-8000

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System at: <https://ocrcas.ed.gov> or call 1-800-421-3481.

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**Anti-sexual, Anti-racial and Anti-disability Harassment Statement**

Discrimination can manifest itself in behaviors such as bullying, harassment, or intimidation of individuals.

Calvert County Public Schools does not tolerate any form of harassment including, but not limited to, sexual, racial, or disability. Any individual (student, employee, or community member) who believes that they have been subjected to any form of harassment is encouraged to report the allegation of harassment. Students, parents, and community members may report allegations of harassment to: Ms. Cecelia Lewis, Director of Student Services, Calvert County Public Schools, 1305 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Employees may report allegations of harassment to: Mr. Zachary Seawell, Director of Human Resources, Calvert County Public Schools, 1305 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Calvert County Public Schools is committed to conducting a prompt investigation for any allegation of harassment. If harassment has occurred, the individual will be disciplined promptly. Disciplinary actions for students found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or expulsion. Disciplinary actions for employees found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or termination.

Calvert County Public Schools encourages all students, parents, employees, and community members to work together to prevent any form of harassment.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System at: <https://ocrcas.ed.gov> or call 1-800-421-3481.

**Calvert County Public Schools Antiracism Statement**

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) explicitly denounces racism, bullying, discrimination, white supremacy, hate, and racial inequity in any form within our school community. Furthermore, CCPS will not tolerate the values, structures, and behaviors that perpetuate systemic racism.

Each member of the district, individually and collectively, is responsible for creating and nurturing a safe, antiracist learning environment where each student, staff member, and community partner is a respected and valued member of the CCPS community.