

The district shall provide additional information as required by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to comply with the 2015 federal law Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the 2017 LOOK Act of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts DESE December, 2018 guidance documents related to English learners.

Legal REFS.: OMD #1810-0576 (language instruction for English Language Learners and Immigrant students contained in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 42 U.S.C. 2000d (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) 603CMR 14.00

❖ TEMPORARY HOME OR HOSPITAL TUTORING

A student who, due to documented medical reasons, is confined to a home or a hospital for no fewer than fourteen (14) school days during the school year is entitled to receive home/hospital educational services under 603 CMD 28.03(3) (c).

Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow student to continue his/her educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of student.

To qualify for the program the student needs a written statement from a medical doctor requesting the home bound instruction, stating the reasons why, and estimating the time the student will be out of school. This statement needs to be sent to the Director of Special Education.

Home or Hospital Tutoring is temporary in nature and is offered in basic elementary subjects and in secondary subjects who do not require laboratories and special equipment, subject in all cases to the availability of qualified teachers. Certified teachers are assigned to homebound instruction by the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education with the approval of the Superintendent.

❖ HOME SCHOOL

The Massachusetts General Law requires the School Committee to determine that a Home Schooling program meet with the minimum standards established for public schools in the Commonwealth prior to approving such a program.

Families who wish to home school their children must first submit the “Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education” application found on the FRPS website. Notice of Intent applications, for both new and continuing proposals, should be sent, prior to beginning the Home Education Program, to:

***Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
417 Rock St.
Fall River, MA 02720***

Any questions on either the Notice of Intent or the Home Education process may be directed to Assistant Superintendent at 508-675-8420 ext. 53811.

Step 2: Upon receipt of the Notice of Intent, Assistant Superintendent will review the proposed home schooling plan.

Step 3: The parent/guardian will then be notified as to whether the plan is approved or denied.

If the plan is approved, an approval notice will be signed by the Assistant Superintendent and Principal, and then sent to the parent/guardian. If the plan is denied, the parent/guardian will be provided with specific reasons for the denial so that the parent/guardian may revise and resubmit the plan.

Step 4: If the parent/guardian elects to proceed with implementing an approved Home Education plan, the parent/guardian must notify Assistant Superintendent of this in writing, either by signing and returning the approval notice, or by otherwise notifying Assistant Superintendent in writing of their decision.

If you plan to continue homeschooling during the next school year, you will need to file a “Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education” along with the results of an annual assessment. Please use the printable version Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education (located on the FRPS website) application form for children who were homeschooled in Fall River during the past academic school year. Notice of Intent applications, for both new and continuing proposals, should be sent, prior to beginning the Home Education Program to the address above.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the district may have access to public school activities of either a curricular or extracurricular nature upon approval of the Superintendent.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 69:1D; 76:1, Care and Protection of Charles Care and Protections of Charles - MASS. Supreme Judicial Court 399 Mass. 324 (1987)

❖ SPECIAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

(PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) and M.G.L. c. 71B, some students with disabilities may be eligible for services if they require specialized instruction and/or supportive services to help them make effective progress in school. These services can include, but are not limited to, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, specialized instruction, or placement in a special classroom.

Students may be referred to the Special Education Department for an evaluation of eligibility for special education services. Within five (5) school days of such a referral, a consent form authorizing an evaluation of the student will be forwarded to the parent(s). Within forty-five (45) school days of receipt of the parent(s)’ consent, an evaluation will be conducted and a Team meeting will be held to determine if the student is eligible for special education services. If the student is found eligible for special education services, the Team will develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) identifying the necessary services.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Section 504 provides: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II) is a federal law that applies to public entities, including the conforming amendment to Section 504 that affects the meaning of a disability under Section 504.

The Section 504 regulations require a school district to provide a “free appropriate public education” (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the school district’s jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. Under Section 504, a FAPE consists of the provision of regular or special education

Approved by
FRSC 11/18/24