

IHBG - HOME SCHOOLING

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

When a parent or guardian of a student below the age of 16 wants to establish a home-based educational program for their child, the following procedures shall be followed in accordance with the law.

Application Process to Homeschooling Program

Prior to removing the child from public school:

The parent/guardian must submit written notification of establishment of the home-based program to the Superintendent or designee 14 days before the program is established, and resubmit notification on an annual basis as long as the child or children are being educated in a home-based environment. It may take up to 14 days before the program is approved once all information is submitted.

The parent/guardian must certify in writing, on a form provided by the District, the name, age, date of birth, place of residence, current grade, and number of hours of attendance of each child in the program.

The Superintendent or designee will require home school applications to include the following information to ensure that the program is in compliance with the law:

1. The proposed curriculum and the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects.
2. The competency of the parents/guardian (or other instructors) to teach the children. Proof of competency may include information regarding academic background, and life experiences.
3. The textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aids to be used by the children and the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents/guardian.
4. Periodic assessment and standardized testing of the children to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards.

If the application does not include sufficient information, the Superintendent or designee will give notice to the family indicating where the application is out of compliance. Information regarding any of these factors may be asked for from the family at any time. Failure to produce

evidence of the required information may result in the withdrawal of approval of the homeschool application.

Auditing Homeschooling Program

Auditing functions of the School District for the home instruction will include **an annual review of all work product submitted as required by the Home School plan.**

Record Keeping for Homeschooling Program

For High School Transcripts: Consistent with school policy relating to courses taken outside of Gateway Regional School, home education courses will not be calculated into a student's grade point average (GPA). Other examples of courses taken outside of the school that are not included in the calculation of a student's GPA are summer school courses, correspondence courses, courses taken while participating in a foreign exchange program in another country, and courses taken as part of a dual enrollment program at local colleges and universities.

The portion of a student's transcript covered by a home education program will be clearly identified and reported separately from any course work completed at Gateway Regional School. Student placement in courses taken at Gateway following participation in a home education program will be done based on principal determination.

Participation in Public School Activities

A student being educated in a Home School program within the District may have access to extracurricular activities including band, chorus, and athletics, subject to the approval of the Superintendent. Access to core academic programming is not permitted without enrolling in the school district. Field trip participation is at the discretion of the administration based on the specific parameters of the trip. A student being educated in a Home School program participating in any school-based program must follow the code of conduct. The school may revoke participation at any time due to a failure to follow school rules and expectations.

SOURCE: MASC Model Policy used as base - Updated 2023

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)