



Collier County
Public Schools

Exceptional Education and
Student Support Services

PARENTAL ASSURANCES FOR HOSPITALIZED/HOMEBOUND SERVICES

ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICES FOR HOSPITALIZED/HOMEBOUND STUDENT

Students who are determined to be eligible for Hospital/Homebound (H/H) services are considered students with a disability under Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes. A Hospital/Homebound student is one who has a medically diagnosed physical or psychiatric condition that is acute, catastrophic, chronic, or characterized by recurring intermittent episodes due to a persistent medical condition. The condition must result in confinement to the home or hospital and significantly restrict the student's ability to attend school for an extended period of time.

Eligibility for H/H services must be substantiated annually through medical documentation completed by a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) practicing in the State of Florida, as defined in Chapters 458 and 459, Florida Statutes.

Collier County Public Schools provides Hospital/Homebound instructional services to students who are unable to attend school on a regular basis due to a qualifying medical condition and who meet all eligibility requirements established by Florida law. Eligibility and service recommendations are determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team, which must determine that Hospital/Homebound instruction is the student's least restrictive environment (LRE).

Hospital/Homebound services are individualized and are intended to provide continuity of instruction during periods when a student cannot attend school. The level and frequency of services provided through the Hospital/Homebound program are limited in scope and duration and do not replicate the comprehensive instructional experience available in a traditional school setting.

Consistent with the Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) *Policy and Procedures Manual: Hospital/Homebound Programs and Services* (2008), Hospital/Homebound services are designed as a temporary educational intervention. These services are intended to support the student's continued access to education while prioritizing the student's medical and therapeutic needs. Whenever possible, instruction focuses on maintaining progress in required coursework and facilitating the student's successful return to the school environment.

Because students receiving instruction in the home or hospital may experience limitations related to their medical condition, academic performance may differ from that achieved in a traditional classroom setting. The IEP Team, school-based staff, Hospital/Homebound teachers, related service providers, and parents/guardians collaborate to provide appropriate educational services that are responsive to the student's health needs while maintaining continuity in the educational program. Through this collaborative approach, every effort is made to support the student's academic progress and transition back to regular school attendance when medically appropriate.

RETURN TO SCHOOL FROM HOSPITALIZED HOMEBOUND

Prior to a student's return to a school-based educational program, an IEP team meeting (staffing) must be convened at the student's zoned or enrolled school to review the student's medical status, educational needs,

and appropriate supports for reintegration. The parent/guardian must provide the school-based ESE Specialist with a completed Physician's Return to School Form, available on the District website, or equivalent medical documentation (e.g., physician's letter or prescription note) authorizing the student's return to school.

Hospital/Homebound services may be discontinued, and a student may be dismissed from the Hospital/Homebound program, under any of the following circumstances:

- The treating physician or psychiatrist determines that the student is medically able to return to school.
- Required updated medical documentation is not provided within the established timelines.
- A responsible adult is not available to be present during scheduled instructional sessions or teacher visits, as required by the Hospital/Homebound Agreement.
- The projected dismissal or review date identified on the medical documentation has been reached and continued eligibility has not been established.
- The parent/guardian or adult student fails to comply with the requirements outlined in the Hospital/Homebound Agreement.
- The IEP Team determines that Hospital/Homebound services are no longer the student's least restrictive environment (LRE) and that a return to a school-based placement is appropriate.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Parent/Guardian shall provide a quiet, clean, well-ventilated setting where a teacher and student may work.
2. Parent/Guardian must ensure that a responsible adult is present at all times during the instructional period.
3. Parent/Guardian must ensure that the student is prepared to actively participate in learning.
4. Parent/Guardian must establish a consistent weekly schedule with the H/H teacher.
5. Parent/Guardian must establish a schedule for student study and completion of assignments between teacher visits and contact the H/H teacher if there are any questions about assignments.
6. Parent/Guardian should schedule medical appointments around the student's H/H instruction. H/H hours will not be re-scheduled due to cancellation by the parent/guardian. Teacher absences will be rescheduled.
7. Parent/Guardian must notify (in advance) the H/H teacher when the student is unable to participate in instruction. The home/student must be free of a contagion or communicable disease.
8. Parent/Guardian must return instructional materials, textbooks, and all assignments to the school before the student returns to school. Parent/Guardian is responsible for the loss or deterioration of instructional materials and textbooks.
9. Parent/Guardian must ensure that an active release of information is on file for medical provider completing H/H application. Release must be in effect for the duration of the time student is receiving H/H services.
10. Requests for accepting employment and participation in extra-curricular activities will be reviewed on a individual student basis by the IEP team in consultation with the treating physician who recommended enrollment.
11. Parent must accurately reflect the time that the H/H teacher provided services within the timesheet paperwork.
12. If the parent is experiencing persistent issues with H/H teacher or service they will reach out to the ESE Program Specialist at the student's assigned school to report issues or concerns.

13. For students that are on intermittent or part time H/H, parents should reach out to the school's ESE Program Specialist and already established H/H teacher (if assigned) when the student has an instance or period of absences related to the established condition.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Due to the limited instructional hours provided through the Hospital/Homebound (H/H) Program, consistent student attendance and active participation are essential. Successful completion of coursework and the awarding of course credit are dependent upon the student meeting the minimum instructional contact hours established in the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

If a student is unable to participate in scheduled H/H instruction due to a medical appointment, the parent/guardian is responsible for notifying the assigned H/H teacher in advance whenever possible and submitting documentation from the medical provider verifying that the student was seen on that date. Medical documentation must be provided to the student's school in accordance with District attendance procedures. Students receiving Hospital/Homebound services are expected to participate in scheduled instruction when experiencing minor illnesses or symptoms, such as headaches, stomach aches, colds, or similar conditions, unless otherwise directed by their treating physician. Any absence not supported by appropriate documentation or communicated to the assigned H/H teacher may be recorded as unexcused.

The parent/guardian is responsible for reporting all absences to the assigned H/H teacher as soon as possible. Repeated unexcused absences, lack of participation, or failure to meet attendance expectations may result in a review of the student's eligibility for Hospital/Homebound services and may lead to the implementation of District attendance or truancy interventions, as applicable.

Parent/ Guardian Acknowledgement

I certify that I have read and understand the policies, procedures, and expectations of the Hospital/Homebound Instructional Program. I agree to comply with the requirements outlined herein and to support my child's participation in the program. I understand that adherence to these requirements is necessary to maintain my child's eligibility for Hospital/Homebound services and to ensure continuity of their educational program.

Student Name

Student ID#

Signature of Parent /Legal Guardian

Date