Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in March	**Home Schools**	**6.202**	**8/10/26**
		Rescinds:	Issued: **12/13/21; 07/08/13; 01/09/95**

General

A home school is a school conducted or directed by parent(s)/guardian(s) for their own children. Home schools which teach grades K-12 where the parent(s)/guardian(s) are associated with an organization that conducts church-related schools[1] are exempt from the following provisions but shall follow procedures issued by the State Department of Education.

A parent/guardian wishing to conduct a home school shall meet the following requirements:[2]

1. Provide annual notice to the Director of Schools before the commencement of each school year of the intent to conduct a home school;

2. Submit to the Director of Schools the name, number, age, grade level of children involved, location of the school, curriculum to be offered, proposed hours of instruction, and qualifications of the parent-teacher;

3. Maintain attendance records, subject to inspection by the Director of Schools;

4. Submit attendance records to the Director of Schools at the end of each school year;

5. Provide instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for the same number of instructional days as required by state law;[3]

6. Possess a high school diploma or a high school equivalency credential approved by the State Board of Education;[4]

7. Ensure the administration to home school students of appropriate tests approved by the State Board of Education or a standardized test selected by the parent-teacher that provides nationally normed analytics in English and math in grades five (5), seven (7), and nine (9);

8. Submit proof to the Director of Schools that other health services and examinations as required by state law have been received by the home school student; and

9. In the event of illness or inadequacy of the home school parent-teacher to teach a specific subject, employ a tutor having the same qualifications as required of parent-teacher.

If one or more of these requirements are not met, the Board authorizes the Director of Schools to take formal action to bring the child into compliance with the compulsory attendance law (until the child has reached age seventeen (17), either in the home school or in a public, private, or church-related school).

FACILITIES USE

School facilities shall be available for home school instruction only when *all* of the following conditions exist:

1. Special needs courses are being taught which require services unavailable to the home school student;

2. These services cannot be provided through any means other than the schools;

3. Requests for services are made known by the home school parent when notice is given to the Director of Schools of the intent to conduct a home school;

4. The Director of Schools investigates the request and makes recommendations to the Board;

5. No overcrowding, additional expenses, including providing transportation, or other special situations which interfere with the normal operation of the school district shall be incurred; and

6. Approval by the Board shall be on a case-by-case basis.

RECORD ACCESS

The Director of Schools, through the Attendance Supervisor, shall have the attendance records of the home school inspected at least two (2) times each school year in order to provide assistance in implementing the compulsory attendance law.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-50-801(a)
2. TCA 49-6-3050(b), (c)
3. TCA 49-6-3004(a); TCA 49-6-3050(b)(3)
4. TCA 49-6-3050(b)(4)
5. TCA 49-6-3050(b)(5); Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 912

Cross References

Compulsory Attendance Ages 6.201