NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME EDUCATION INFORMATION

Welcome to the Northern Lehigh School District. This document serves to provide you with current information on home education programs, as well as, other frequently asked questions that our district receives about home education as a resident of the Northern Lehigh School District.

PA Compulsory Attendance Law:
Effective with the 2020-21 school year, a child must comply with compulsory attendance requirements from age six (6) to age eighteen (18). Specifically, a child who has attained the age of six (6) on or before September 1st must enroll and attend school or begin a home education program that year. A home education program must be documented and evaluated to account for all schooling during that time.

Initiating Your Home Education Program:
Annually, by August 1st, the supervisor/parent/guardian of the home education program must submit the following documents to the school district:

- Notarized affidavit.
  - Elementary Sample (K-6)
  - Secondary Sample (7-12)
- Outline of proposed objectives by subject area for elementary and secondary requirements. *(See curriculum section on page)*.
- Evidence (records or a letter from the physician) that the child(ren) has/have been immunized. [Written documentation of religious exemption is excepted in lieu of this requirement, if applicable.]
- Evidence (records or a letter from the physician) that the child(ren) has/have received medical services required for the grade level. [Written documentation of religious exemption is excepted in lieu of this requirement, if applicable.]

Medical Exam:
- Original entry into school
- 6th Grade
- 11th Grade

Dental Exam
- Original entry into school
- 3rd Grade
- 7th Grade

Although school district approval is not required to commence a home education program, our district typically mails a letter home to let you know paperwork has been received and/or what is required for the school year based upon the grade level of the child(ren).

Standardized Tests:
Homeschooled students in grades 3, 5 and 8 must take and report in their portfolio, the results of the statewide tests or another nationally normed standardized achievement test in reading/language arts and math. If you would like to have your child(ren) take the state assessment in these areas, please reach out to the district early in the school year to notify us. (Contact information is contained at the bottom of this document.) Here is the list of standardized tests approved by PDE. *(See Tests section on page.)*

Students with Disabilities:
For any child in a home education program who is identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as needing special education services, there is additional documentation required which must be submitted. (This does not include those students identified as gifted and/or talented). A parent has no legal requirement for any particular skill or certification to homeschool a child with special needs. The only limitation is that the affidavit must address the specific needs of the child and be approved by a teacher with a valid PA certificate to teach special education or a licensed clinical or certified school psychologist, and written notification of such approval is submitted with the notarized affidavit.

Concluding Your Home Education Program:
A written evaluation of the home education program must be submitted by the home education supervisor to the school district no later than June 30th. The evaluation by a qualified home education evaluator is to be based on an interview of the student and a review of the portfolio. Documentation must state whether an appropriate education has occurred for the student for the school year.

Home Education Policy
Policy #137 Home Education Programs provides information on Home Education in the Northern Lehigh School District.

Transfer To/From Another District's Home Education Program:
When a homeschool family moves from one school district to another within Pennsylvania, an official letter of transfer is required. This letter substantiates that the home education program is in compliance with the home education law.

In the event the home education program site is relocating to another school district within this Commonwealth during the course of the public school term or prior to the opening of the public school term in the fall, the supervisor of the home education program must apply, by registered mail, thirty (30) days prior to the relocation, to the superintendent of the district in which he or she currently resides, requesting a letter of transfer for the home education program to the district to which the home education program is relocating. The current superintendent of residence must issue the letter of transfer thirty (30) days after receipt of the registered mail request of the home education program supervisor.

Additional Resources:
Purdon's Statute - Home Education Program
Pennsylvania Department of Education – Home Education and Private Tutoring

Contact Information for Home Education in the Northern Lehigh School District:
Dr. Tania Stoker, Assistant Superintendent (tstoker@nlsd.org)
Mrs. Monica Stoeckel, Administrative Assistant to the Asst. Superintendent (mstoeckel@nlsd.org)
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