I. INTRODUCTION

Lincoln Public Schools ("LPS") recognizes that parents/guardians have a statutory right to provide at-home instruction for their children pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-19-2. LPS has adopted this policy to ensure that children educated in the home receive a comparable education to those educated in the public school setting as requested by state law and regulation.

II. POLICY

A. Application Requirements

LPS School Committee will approve a program of at-home instruction which is substantially equal to the same extent as the subjects to be taught at public school within the town. The instruction must be provided by a parent/guardian or another individual engaged by the parent/guardian to provide personal interaction with the student. The parent/guardian requesting approval must provide a letter explaining the proposed program of study to the Director of Student Services ("Director") prior to August 1st or as early as practicable. The Director will review the letter. To request approval of the School Committee, the Director must state that the subjects to be taught are substantially to the same extent as a student within LPS.

The curriculum utilized by the parent/guardian must provide instruction in reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, history of the United States, history of Rhode Island, principles of American government at the appropriate grade level, civics, and health and physical education.[1]

Parents/Guardians should be aware that every child who has attained or will have attained six (6) years of age on or before September 1 of any school year shall attend kindergarten during all the days in that school year. Additionally, every child that has attained five years of age on or before September 1 of any school year shall be eligible to attend kindergarten during all days in that school year.[2] Parents/Guardians of any student that will be homeschooled during their kindergarten year shall submit approval for at-home instruction and adhere to this LPS Home Instruction Policy.

In compliance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-19-1 and § 16-19-2, LPS shall approve at-home instruction only when the at-home instruction proposed with applicable federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements.

Should the Director refuse to recommend approval of a program of at-home instruction, the parents/guardians may appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will recommend approval or non-approval to the LPS School Committee.

[1] See R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-19-2; R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-22-2 (Civics); and R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-22-4(a) (Health and Physical Education)
[2] See R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-27 (Kindergarten Attendance)

Any parent/guardian aggrieved by the action of the LPS School Committee to approve or deny at-home instruction may appeal to the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

B. Documentation Requirements

Parents/guardians will be required to complete and submit an attendance register to document a minimum of 180 days of service. The Director will request periodic reports on progress, offer the opportunity for the child to participate in state assessments, and request a final progress report at the end of the school year.

C. Textbooks and Expenses

In compliance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-23-2, upon written request to the Director, at-home instruction students will be permitted to borrow textbooks or ebooks that are currently being used by LPS.

Other than as specified by Rhode Island, all costs associated with home instruction are borne by the parents/guardians.

D. Diploma and Credit, Proficiency, and Grade Determination

Students participating in an approved home instruction program for the entirety of high school will not be granted an LPS high school diploma. Students will be responsible for their own high school equivalence diploma or certificate.

To be eligible to receive a high school diploma from LPS, at-home instruction students must attend the entire twelfth (12^{th}) grade year and, upon returning to LPS, have demonstrated mastery in the curriculum areas required for graduation.

Additionally, at-home instruction students who enroll at Lincoln High School ("LHS") will be assessed by the Director or his/her designee to determine the number of credits they should receive and their grade level. The Director will complete a transcript analysis with the Director of Guidance to review the course requirements for secondary students who wish to return to LPS from home schooling and enter Lincoln High School.

In conjunction with the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements Policy, the Director may consult the Proficiency Based Graduation Review Team to review the Graduation by Proficiency (GBP) requirements of all at-home instruction students entering eleventh ($11^{th)}$ and twelfth (12^{th}) at LHS.

Students must attend LPS High School for the entirety of the eleventh (11^{th}) and twelfth (12^{th}) grades to be included in class rank.

All students who return to LPS from at-home instruction may be required to take assessments to determine appropriate grade level.

References:

RI Homeschool Legislation 16-19-2
RI Compulsory Attendance Laws 16-19-1
RI Textbook Law 16-23-2
RI Kindergarten Attendance Law 16-2-27

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TOWN OF LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Lincoln, Rhode Island