File: IHBG

HOME SCHOOLING

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 76, § 1, the North Middlesex Regional School Committee is required to determine that a Home Schooling program for any student resident in the District contains instruction in all the studies required by Massachusetts law that equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress therein, the instruction in schools operated by the District. Accordingly, approval of such a program must be obtained from the District before such a program is established and may commence. Removal of a child from attendance in District schools without, or prior to, approval would cause the child to become truant and may result in a truancy proceeding or a care and protection action.

When a parent or guardian of a child under 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. Parents/guardians are encouraged to seek approval of a home-based educational program for a child who has attained the age of 16, but approval is not required:

Prior to removing the child from the District schools:

- The parent/guardian must submit written notification of establishment of the home-based program to the appropriate District administrator at least 14 days before the program is intended to commence. The parent/guardian is encouraged to submit notification sooner in order to minimize delay in commencing the program. Notification must be resubmitted on an annual basis as long as the child is being educated in a home-based environment. If a child has moved into the District and has an approved homeschooling program in their prior district, that plan must be submitted with the application. Approval must still be obtained from the District.
- The parent/guardian must certify in writing, on a form provided by the District, the name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of the child in the program.
- Approval is required for each child. Approval of programs for any siblings does not constitute approval for the child.

Factors to be considered by the District in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal may include:

1. The proposed curriculum, the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects, and the method(s) and frequency of instruction.
2. The competency of the parents/guardians to teach the child in the curriculum.
3. The textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional materials to be used by the child and the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents/guardians.
4. Periodic standardized testing/assessment of the child to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards under Massachusetts law.

The District shall notify the parents/guardians of approval or disapproval in writing within a reasonable time after the application is received. If the application is not approved, the written notification shall specify the reasons and shall suggest revisions that would result in approval.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the District may have access, as space is available, to District school activities of either a curricular or extracurricular nature upon approval of the Superintendent in his discretion. Such approval may be contingent on the satisfaction of additional requirements.

The District shall maintain student record files containing work samples, assessments, and other records provided by the parents/guardians.

In the event that the parents/guardians wish to discontinue an approved program and enroll the child in District schools, the District shall reasonably determine the child's grade level based on records provided by the parents/guardians. SOURCE: MASC

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)

DESE "Home Schooling" Guidance
https://www.doe.mass.edu/homeschool/

Adopted by the NMRSD School Committee:

NMRSD Adoption: November 7, 2022

Legal Counsel Review: 9/8/2026

Five-Year Review: 9/15/2026

NMRSD First Vote: 9/15/2026

NMRSD Adoption: 10/20/2026