**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SECTION 9000**

# 9300 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

9335 Home Education Programs

~~In accordance with the School Code, the District shall permit parents, guardians, or legal custodians to teach their children in the home. Applications for home schooling shall be reviewed by the Superintendent or his/her designee to ascertain that the program is in compliance with the provisions of the Home Education Program Act. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish procedures to facilitate the transition of students between the public school system and home education programs. Procedures shall also be established to determine which programs in the public school system will be made available to students in home education programs.~~

**For purposes of this policy, the following terms shall have the following meanings:**

**Appropriate Education – a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required by law and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.**

**Home Education Evaluator – a licensed clinical psychologist; a certified school psychologist; a teacher certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who possesses appropriate experience in evaluating student performance; or a non-public school teacher or administrator with at least two years’ experience within the last 10 years in a Pennsylvania public or non-public school who possesses appropriate experience in evaluating student performance.**

**Supervisor - the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child who is**

**responsible for providing instruction, provided that such person has a high school**

**diploma or its equivalent.**

**Prior to commencement of a home education program, and annually thereafter by August 1st , the parent/guardian or other person having legal custody of the child or children shall file a notarized affidavit with the Superintendent setting forth the information, instructional program, and courses as required by law.**

**For each student participating in the home education program, the supervisor shall:**

1. **Maintain a portfolio of records and materials.**
2. **Provide an annual written evaluation of the student’s educational progress.**

**The following minimum courses in grades 9 through 12 are established as a requirement for graduation in a home education program: four (4) years of English; three (3) years of mathematics; three (3) years of science; three (3) ears of social studies; and two (2) years of arts and humanities. Students who complete all of the graduation requirements of the home education program shall receive a high school diploma issued by the supervisor or the District.**

**At the request of the supervisor, the District shall lend to the home education program copies of the school’s planned courses, textbooks and curriculum materials appropriate to the student’s age and grade level.**

**Students with Disabilities**

**For any child identified by the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as needing special education services, the proposed home education program must address the specific needs of the exceptional student and be approved by:**

1. **A teacher with a valid certificate from the Commonwealth to teach special education;**
2. **A licensed clinical psychologist; or**
3. **A certified school psychologist**

**Written notification of the approval must be submitted with the affidavit unless the parent/legal guardian revokes consent for the provision of special education services.**

**The supervisor may request that the District or intermediate unit of residence provide services that address the specific needs of a student with a disability. When the provision of services is agreed to by both the supervisor and the District or intermediate unit, all services shall be provided in District schools or in a private school licensed to provide such programs and services.**

**Appropriate Education/Compliance Determination**

**Prior to June 30th of each year, a home education evaluator shall certify to the Superintendent that an appropriate education, that is legally compliant, is occurring in the home education program. If the supervisor fails to submit the certification, the Superintendent shall send a letter to the supervisor by certified mail (return receipt requested) notifying the supervisor that he/she has ten (10) days from the receipt of the certified letter to submit the certification.**

**If the Superintendent has a reasonable belief at any time during the school year that appropriate education may not be occurring in the home education program or that the home education program is out of compliance, he/she may submit a letter by certified mail (return receipt requested) to the supervisor that includes the basis for reasonable belief and requires the supervisor to submit to the Superintendent, within 30 days of the receipt of the certified letter, a certificate by a home education evaluator certifying that an appropriate education, that is legally compliant, is occurring in the home education program.**

**Hearing and Appeal**

**If the supervisor fails to submit a certification as required, the Board shall schedule a hearing before a qualified and impartial hearing examiner within 30 days. The hearing examiner shall not be an officer, employee or agent of PDE, the District, or the intermediate unit of residence of the child.**

**If the hearing examiner finds that an appropriate education is not taking place in the home education program, the home education program will be determined out of compliance; and the student will be enrolled in a District school, a non-public school or a licensed private academic school. The supervisor or Superintendent may appeal the decision of the hearing examiner to the Secretary of Education, Commonwealth Court, or Court of Common Pleas. The home education program may continue during the appeal process.**

**Transfers**

**If a student in a home education program is relocating to another school district in Pennsylvania, the supervisor must request from the Superintendent, by certified mail (return receipt requested) at least 30 days prior to the relocation, a letter of transfer for the home education program verifying that the program is compliant. The Superintendent shall issue the letter of transfer within 30 days of the receipt of the certified letter and provide a copy of the letter to the Superintendent of the new district of residence. If a home education program is out of compliance or involved in hearing or appeal proceedings, the Superintendent shall inform the home education supervisor and Superintendent of the new district of residence of this status and the reason for any denial of the transfer letter.**

**If the Superintendent is informed of pending hearing or appeal proceedings related to a student with a home education program that is relocating to the District, the student shall continue the home education program until the process is finalized.**

**The Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish procedures to** **implement this policy and to determine which programs in the public school system, through blended programming, will be made available to students participating in home education programs.**

Adoption Date - September 13, 1999

Revision Date - **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2018**

Review Date -

Legal Reference - **24 P.S. §111; 24 P.S.** **§1327;** 24 P.S. §1327.1; **22 Pa. Code § 1131a; 22 Pa. Code §1133**

Cross Reference - Policy 9330