

9300 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

9335 Home Education/Home School 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 ten (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 t such person has a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Prior to commencement of a home education program and annually thereafter, the Supervisor shall file a notarized affidavit with the District's Home School Administrator (who shall be designated by the Superintendent) setting forth the information, instructional program, and courses as required by law. The initial affidavit may be submitted at any time during the school year, but all subsequent affidavits are due by August 1st for the following school year. If a child who will be reaching the age of eight (8) during the upcoming school year has never been enrolled in a public school, private school, private tutoring or home education program, the Supervisor must submit the initial affidavit before the child turns eight (8) years old.

1 When the affidavit is submitted, the Supervisor shall also provide the District's
2 Home School Administrator with evidence the home educated student has complied
3 with Pennsylvania's immunization requirements, evidence the home educated
4 student has received the health and medical services required for students of the
5 child's age or grade level as outlined in Article XIV of the School Code, and an
6 outline of the proposed education objectives by subject area which is compliant with
7 the course requirements specified at 24 P.S. § 13-1327.1(c) & 24 P.S. § 13-1327.1(d).
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9 If the District determines the notarized affidavit and the additional required
10 documents are incomplete or noncompliant, the District shall implement the hearing
11 and appeal process specified at 24 P.S. § 13-1327.1.
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13 For each student enrolled in the home education program, the Supervisor shall:
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- 15 1. Maintain a portfolio of records and materials.
- 16 2. Provide an annual written evaluation of the student's educational
17 progress.
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19 Students who complete all of the graduation requirements of the home education
20 program shall receive a high school diploma issued by the Supervisor by using the
21 standard form developed by PDE. The District will not issue a diploma to students
22 who complete all of the graduation requirements of the home education program.
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24 At the request of the Supervisor, the District shall lend to the home education
25 program copies of the school's planned courses, textbooks, and curriculum
26 materials appropriate to the student's age and grade level.
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28 Students with Disabilities 29

30 For any child identified by the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities
31 Education Act as needing special education services, the proposed home education
32 program must address the specific needs of the exceptional student and be approved
33 by:
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- 35 1. A teacher with a valid certificate from the Commonwealth to teach
36 special education;
- 37 2. A licensed clinical psychologist; or
- 38 3. A certified school psychologist,
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40 The foregoing shall not apply if the parent/legal guardian refuses to consent to, or
41 revokes consent for, the provision of special education services.
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Appropriate Education/Compliance Determination

Prior to June 30th of each year, the Supervisor must provide the Superintendent with a certification completed by a Home Education Evaluator and stating that an appropriate education is occurring for the school year under review. 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 that an appropriate education may not be occurring in the home education program or that the home education program being proposed or implemented, is not compliant with any requirement of 24 P.S. § 13-1327.1, he/she may submit a letter by certified mail (return receipt requested) to the Supervisor which 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 an appropriate education and that the program is compliant.

Hearing and Appeal

If the Supervisor fails to submit a certification that an appropriate education is occurring in the home as required, the District shall implement the hearing and appeal process specified at 24 P.S. § 13-1327.1. If the final determination is that the home education program is out of compliance, the student will be enrolled in a District school, a non-public school or a licensed private academic school.

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 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 who is relocating to the District, the student shall continue the home education program until the process is finalized.

Participation in District Activities

Participation in District activities (sports, clubs, etc.) by students in a home education program shall be governed by Policy 10410.

Dual Enrollment/Participation in Classes offered by the District

Beginning with the 2019/2020 school year and continuing thereafter, a student enrolled in a home education program shall not be entitled to dual enrollment in the District, which means, (i) if a student is enrolled in a home education program, the student shall not be permitted to also enroll in, or receive credit for, any class offered by the District (including the District's Virtual Academy) or the Warren County Career Center; and (ii) any student enrolled in the District shall not be awarded credit by the District for any home education course taken while the student is enrolled in the District. The one exception to this restriction is that a student who was enrolled in courses at the Warren County Career Center during the 2018/2019 school year, may continue to take courses at the Warren County Career Center, and receive credit for said courses, so long as the student is of "school age" (as this term is defined at 22 Pa. Code §11.12).

Entry to the District, Grade Placement, & the District's Awarding of Credit for Home Education Courses

The District shall evaluate for grade placement any student enrolling in the District after being enrolled in a home education program and shall also determine the credits the District will award towards graduation for those courses completed pursuant to a home education program. The manner through which the District determines grade placement and the awarding of credits towards graduation shall be determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee and specified in a separate administrative procedure.

Delegation of Authority

The Superintendent or his/her designee is hereby authorized to establish administrative procedures to implement this Policy.

Adoption Date	-	September 13, 1999
Revision Date	-	August 12, 2019
Review Date	-	
Legal Reference	-	24 P.S. §511; 24 P.S. §111; 24 P.S. §1327; 24 P.S. §1327.1; 22 Pa. Code §11.12; 22 Pa. Code §1131a; 22 Pa. Code §1133
Cross Reference	-	Policy 10410