

File: IHBG - HOME SCHOOLING

The Massachusetts General Law requires the School Committee to determine that a Home Schooling program meets the minimum standards established for public schools in the Commonwealth prior to approving such a program.

When a parent or guardian of a student below the age of 16 wants to establish a home-based educational program for his/her child, the following procedures shall be followed in accordance with the law:

Prior to removing the child from public school:

The parent/guardian must submit written notification of establishment of the home-based program to the appropriate administrator before the program is established, and resubmit notification on an annual basis as long as the child or children are being educated in a home-based environment. The District asks that you provide the written notification at least 14 days prior to establishing the program in order to allow for adequate time to review the program.

The parent/guardian must certify in writing the name, date of birth, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child in the program. The parent/guardian must also provide a statement regarding the qualifications of those who will be instructing the student; a description of each subject to be taught and how each subject will be taught; a listing of your planned schedule for instruction with the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects including whether or not you plan for any child to participate in Monson Public School curricular and/or extra curricular classes and/or activities; and a description of how the educational progress of the student will be measured. The District can provide a form for you to complete, which will assist in ensuring all of the required information needed is provided to the District to assess the home-based program.

The Superintendent shall give the notice to produce records required by law if there is probable cause to believe the program is not in compliance with the law. Factors to be considered by the Superintendent or School Committee in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal may be:

1. The proposed curriculum and the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects.
2. The competency of the parents to teach the children,
3. The textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aids to be used by the children and the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents.
4. Periodic standardized testing of the children to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards (other means of evaluating the progress of the children may be substituted for the formal testing process, such as periodic progress reports or dated work samples, subject to the approval of the parents and the District).

A student being educated in a home-based program within the District may have access to public school activities of either a curricular or extracurricular nature upon approval of the Superintendent and in accordance with Monson Public Schools Home School Policy Guidelines.

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)

Monson Public Schools
Home School Policy Guidelines

These guidelines are to be used in cases where a home-school plan requests student participation in classes and/or activities sponsored by the Monson Public Schools.

For students who would attend one or more classes or activities within the district while being home-schooled under a district-approved plan, the following considerations are to be included and agreed-upon by the student and his/her parents/guardians:

- A. Home-schooled students may have access to public school extra-curricular activities with the approval of the Superintendent.
- B. Pursuant to regulations of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), and other relevant regulations, students with an approved home education program may participate on athletic teams.
- C. Student participation in public school classes will be approved on a class-by-class basis and consideration will be given to space availability, the successful completion of prerequisites and programmatic impact.
- D. A parent/guardian is responsible for transportation to and from school.
- E. A student may participate in lunch and recess if their approved home-school plan includes at least one class in the Monson Public Schools AND the class(es) the student has been scheduled to attend falls either immediately before or after the lunch/recess period.
- F. Students will be held accountable for all district and school policies and procedures while on school property, including, but not limited to, the Code of Student Conduct, the Internet Use Policy, the Bullying and Harassment Policy, etc.
- G. Home-school students are not eligible for recognition or awards presented by the school district including, but not limited to, Honor Roll, Citizen of the Month, Valedictorian, etc.