

DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT	POLICY CODE: IHBG
DATE OF ADOPTION: JANUARY 14, 2013	

HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION

Eligibility:

The Board recognizes that RSA 193-A provides the legal right for parents to pursue home education within the requirements of enrollment and evaluation set by the New Hampshire State Department of Education (NHDOE).

It is the policy of the Board to work together with parents who desire to use the School District as their home education participating agency, or who desire to utilize the school district for annual evaluation purposes, with the goal of achieving maximum educational success for each home-educated child. No Superintendent, School Board, school principal, or other school district official shall propose, adopt, or enforce any policy or procedure governing home educated pupils that is inconsistent with or more restrictive than the provisions of this chapter and any rules adopted pursuant to RSA 193-A:3.

Enrollment Procedures:

Any parent commencing a home education program for a child, for a child who withdraws from a public school, or for a child who moves into a school district shall notify the Commissioner of the Department of Education, resident district superintendent, or principal of a nonpublic school of such within 5 business days of commencing the program. Such notification shall include the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children who are participating in the home education program. If such notice is provided to the Superintendent, s/he shall acknowledge receipt of notification within fourteen (14) days.

Once a parent has provided written notification of intent to home educate a child to the participating agency the notification of intent status remains unless otherwise notified by the parent. Notification of intent to home educate does not need to be provided each school year to the participating agency.

Conventional attendance policies of the District and State Law apply to all students within the District until the Commissioner of Education, the Superintendent, or a non-public school principal acknowledge the establishment of a home education program, or immediately apply upon the termination of any home education program so acknowledged.

Evaluation Procedures

I. The parent shall maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program. The portfolio shall consist of a log which designates by title the reading materials used, and also samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the child. Such portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years from the date of the ending of the instruction.

II. The parent shall provide for an annual educational evaluation in which is documented the child's demonstration of educational progress at a level commensurate with the child's age and

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ability. The child shall be deemed to have successfully completed his annual evaluation upon meeting the requirements of any one of the following:

- (a) A certified teacher or a teacher currently teaching in a nonpublic school who is selected by the parent shall evaluate the child's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the parent or child;
- (b) The child shall take any national student achievement test, administered by a person who meets the qualifications established by the provider or publisher of the test. Composite results at or above the fortieth percentile on such tests shall be deemed reasonable academic proficiency;
- (c) The child shall take a state student assessment test used by the resident district. Composite results at or above the fortieth percentile on such state test shall be deemed reasonable academic proficiency; or
- (d) The child shall be evaluated using any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent and the commissioner of education, resident district superintendent, or nonpublic school principal.

III. The parent shall maintain a copy of the evaluation. The results of the evaluation:

- (a) May be used to demonstrate the child's academic proficiency in order to participate in public school programs, and co-curricular activities which are defined as school district-sponsored and directed athletics, fine arts, and academic activities. Home educated students shall be subject to the same participation policy and eligibility conditions as apply to public school students.
- (b) Shall not be used as a basis for termination of a home education program.
- (c) Provides a basis for a constructive relationship between the parent and the evaluator, both working together in the best interest of the child.

While the evaluation must be done each year, it does not have to be shared with the participating agency on an annual basis. It is now used only for the parent's information and to be kept as a record of progress of the student.

Re-enrollment into the District Program

1. Parents deciding to re-enroll their children into the school district program following a period of home education will make arrangements with the building principal to provide for an evaluation process to determine appropriate placement in the school's program. Placements will be consistent with the School Board policy governing student placements, and are subject to the same appeal process.
2. Parents are responsible to remain aware of the scope and sequence of the District curriculum and for aligning their home education program in ways that may eliminate conflicts to appropriate placements.
3. Parents must notify the Commissioner of Education and the resident district Superintendent or non-public school principal within 15 days of the termination of the home education program and shall promptly enroll their children with the District in a State of NH approved private school.

Graduation/Diplomas

No certificates or diplomas will be awarded to home-educated students by the School Board. Students must enter the regular school program and complete all necessary graduation requirements to be eligible for a diploma from any district high school.

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Legal Reference:

RSA 193-A, Home Education

RSA 193-A:5, I; Notification and Other Procedural Requirements

RSA 193-A:6; Home Education; Records; Evaluation

RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil

RSA 193:1-a, Dual Enrollment

RSA 193:1-c, Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic or Home Educated Pupils

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 315, Procedures for the Operation of Home Education Programs

See also School Board Policy IHBG-R