



Lawrence Public Schools

Policy of the School Committee

Section I: INSTRUCTION

IHBG

Subject: HOME SCHOOLING

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POLICY STATEMENT

The Massachusetts General Law requires that the Superintendent or his/her designee to determine that a Home Schooling program meets with the minimum standards established for public schools in the Commonwealth prior to approving such a program.

When a parent or guardian of a student aged 6 to 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:

In accordance with the Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 76, Section 1, the Lawrence Public Schools has established the following procedure relative to home schooling.

1. Prior to the academic year, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must file a written request of intent to take advantage of home schooling. The letter should include the following: parent's name and address, student's name and grade for the upcoming school year, and the request for home schooling.
2. Once the letter of intent is received, a meeting may be scheduled with the Superintendent or his/her designee to discuss development of the educational plan and other related issues as they pertain to the competency of the individuals who will be serving as instructors, the curriculum to be utilized, the number of hours and days of instruction, and the proposed evaluation of the student's progress.
3. The parent/guardian will be asked to verify the age of the child(ren) so that the appropriate school grade assignment can be established.
4. The parent/guardian will be asked to provide annual verification of residency within the city of Lawrence.
5. A written application must be submitted which includes, but is not limited to, the course of study and the curriculum to be utilized. An application form is available.
6. The application will be forwarded to the Lawrence School Committee and/or Superintendent for approval.
7. Once approved, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive a letter of approval for home schooling from the Superintendent or his/her designee.
8. This procedure must be followed whether submitting an initial request for home schooling or the request is to continue home schooling for an additional year(s).
9. The Superintendent or his/her designee 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.



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POLICY STATEMENT

10. Factors to be considered by the Superintendent or his/her designee in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal will be:
- a. The proposed curriculum and the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects;
 - b. The competency of the parents/guardians to teach the children;
 - c. The textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aids to be used by the children;
 - d. The lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents/guardians; and
 - e. Periodic standardized testing of the children and/or a portfolio review to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the Lawrence Public Schools may have access to public school activities of either a curricular or extra-curricular nature upon approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

*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)*

REC'D: NESDEC

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