

## **IHBG            HOME SCHOOL EDUCATION**

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

When a parent or guardian of a student between the ages of 6 and 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:

1. The parent/guardian must submit written notification of establishment of the home-based program to the Superintendent at least 14 days before the program is established, and resubmit notification on an annual basis as long as the child is being educated in a home-based environment.
2. The parent/guardian must certify in writing, on a form provided by the District, the name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child in a program. A plan shall be approved for one academic year at a time.
3. 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:
  - a. The proposed curriculum and number of instruction hours in each of the proposed subjects to be taught.
  - b. The competency of the parents to teach the children.
  - c. The textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional aides to be used by the child and the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents/guardians.
  - d. End-of-Year Assessments of the child to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards.

Parents/Guardians should keep detailed records of the child's home-based educational program. These records may be helpful during an investigation regarding homeschooling, or if the student needs to furnish proof of education. These records should include attendance records, information on textbooks and workbooks student used, samples of student's schoolwork, correspondence with school officials, portfolios and test results, and any other documents showing that the child is receiving, or received, an appropriate education in compliance with the law. Records should be maintained as proof of compliance with the home education laws.

Students with approved home schooling programs may participate in Oxford Public Schools athletics and extra-curricular activities.

LEGAL REF:    M.G.L. 69:1D; 76:1; 76:2; 76:3  
                  SJC Care and Protection of Charles 399 MASS. 324 (1987)

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