

Palmyra Area School District

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: IN-HOME INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: November 9, 1995

REVISED: March 9, 2006

137. IN-HOME INSTRUCTION	
1. Purpose	The Board shall approve a program of home instruction, pursuant to the School Code, permitting students to study at home in accordance with the following regulations.
2. Definition SC 1327.1	The Pennsylvania statutes govern compulsory education. Home schooling, in which parents or guardians provide instruction to their children, is a legal alternative to public or private school education. Palmyra Area School District (“District”) accepts home schooling as such an alternative and places program approval under the direction of the District’s Superintendent (“Superintendent”).
3. Requirements	<p>The Superintendent shall review the notarized affidavit required by Section 1327.1(b) (1) of the School Code of 1949, Act of March 10, 1949, P. L. 30, No. 14, <u>as amended</u>, 24 P. S. Sec. 1-101 through Sec. 27-2702 (“Code”) and the portfolio of records and materials and the annual written evaluation of educational progress required by Section 1327.1 (e) (1) and (2) to determine the following, as appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Whether the supervisor of the home education program is the parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of the student;2. Whether the supervisor of the home education program holds a high school diploma or GED certificate;3. Whether the information required by Section 1327.1 (b) (1) (e) (1) and (2) of the Code is included in the affidavit, portfolio, and evaluation and is true and correct;4. Whether the testing required by Section 1327.1 (e) (1) of the Code was administered by an individual other than the parent or guardian of the student;5. Whether the evaluation of the portfolio was conducted by a teacher or administrator with the certification and experience required by Section

1327.1 (e) (1) and (2) of the Code;

6. Whether the home education program of an “eligible student” as defined by Section 14.1 of the special education regulations of the State Board of Education, 22 Pa. Code Sec. 14.1, was approved by a teacher certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to teach special education or a licensed clinical or certified school psychologist;
7. Whether the student is receiving instruction in the subjects and for the time specified in Section 1327.1 (c) of the School Code; and
8. Whether the student has demonstrated and is demonstrating sustained progress in the overall home education program.

For the purposes of these Guidelines, “sustained progress” shall mean mastery of learning outcomes. In reviewing the affidavit, portfolio, and evaluation and determining whether the student has demonstrated “sustained progress”, the Superintendent shall use his/her best professional judgment and may seek the advice and input of such professional staff as s/he deems appropriate.

Duration of Program

Home schooling should occur for at least one (1) academic year, to allow time for the child to settle into a schedule and work out any problems that arise. Parents, guardians, or legal custodians may initiate a home schooling program at any time. The program shall continue, unless deemed out of compliance, through the end of the school year during which it is initiated.

If the program is terminated by the supervisor prior to completion or in the middle of an academic year, the Superintendent shall have reason to believe that an appropriate education did not occur in the program and may initiate a portfolio review in accordance with Section 1327.1 (h) through (1) of the Code. In determining whether an appropriate education has occurred, the Superintendent may consider the premature termination of the program and the effects of premature termination on the student. Use of home school as a subterfuge to avoid the requirements of compulsory attendance violates the policy of this District and the purpose and intent of the Code. Parents or guardians who attempt such subterfuge to avoid the requirements of compulsory attendance violates the policy of this District and the purpose and intent of the Code. Parents or guardians who attempt such subterfuge shall be out of compliance with Section 1327 and 1327.1 of the School Code and shall be prosecuted accordingly. If the required affidavit, portfolio, or evaluation contains material misrepresentations of fact, the District shall not consider home schooling to constitute a valid defense to a truancy prosecution.

For each subsequent school year during which the parent or guardian wishes to provide home schooling, the parent or guardian shall submit to the Superintendent, on or before August 1, immediately preceding the school year in

question, the notarized affidavit required by Section 1327.1(b) (1) of the School Code. Failure to adhere to the August 1 deadline shall constitute a waiver of any home schooling defense to a truancy prosecution.

Instruction, Instructional Materials, Transportation & Behavior

The District, upon request of the supervisor, will supply the textbooks and workbooks that are provided for any student in the public schools. No charges will be made. In addition to books and materials, copies of planned courses and other curriculum materials will be made available at cost of reproduction.

A student in a home education program is not considered to be regularly enrolled in the public school system. However, at the high school level the District shall allow each child that is being home schooled to select up to two (2) courses per semester for credit. The home schooling child's request shall be granted if, in the Superintendent's discretion, there is availability in the requested course. Public school students shall be given priority over home school children in selecting courses.

Home schooled children are permitted, upon written request from the supervisor, to participate in taking the PSSA Tests given to Palmyra Students.

The transportation of home schooled children to and from the District's buildings for the purpose of attending classes shall be the sole responsibility of the supervisor. While home schooled children are in the school buildings, they shall abide by all rules and regulations that are imposed on public school students. Failure to do so shall lead to the termination of the home schooled child's participation in the selected courses.

Enrollment in District Promotion and Graduation

A student seeking enrollment in the District upon termination of a home schooling program shall be placed at such grade and at such instructional level within that grade as the Superintendent deems appropriate after evaluation of the home school portfolio, annual evaluation reports and any other information or assessment results that the Superintendent deems necessary. In determining the student's appropriate grade and instructional level and, in determining whether assessments in addition to those which are available in the home school portfolio and annual reports are required to place the student appropriately, the Superintendent shall use his/her best professional judgment and may seek the advice and input of such professional staff as s/he deems appropriate.

Home school students do not receive high school credit for work completed at home, and are not eligible for a Palmyra Area School District diploma.