

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: REQUESTS FOR
TEMPORARY EXCUSES
FROM SCHOOL -
HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: November 9, 1995

REVISED: November 11, 2010

Palmyra Area School District

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 11.25 SC 1329</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">117. REQUESTS FOR TEMPORARY EXCUSES FROM SCHOOL – HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION</p> <p>The Board shall provide, pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, individual instruction to students confined to home or hospital for physical disability, illness or injury; or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons. The period of homebound instruction for an individual shall not exceed three (3) months.</p> <p>A homebound excuse is to be provided on a limited basis when a student is unable to attend any type of educational programming outside the home. If the student’s school program can be modified to accommodate his/her needs, then homebound is not appropriate.</p> <p>Homebound excuses may not be used as a way to avoid compulsory school attendance and must be based on a doctor’s recommendation. The PASD may require parental consent to verify a homebound recommendation with a recommending physician. At the district’s discretion, tutoring in the home during a homebound excusal period may be provided. Homebound tutoring is not intended to take the place of a regular or special educational program obtained through regular school attendance and is not an educational placement. The purpose of homebound tutoring is to maintain current skill levels and prevent regression, if possible, until the student can return to school. Credit for successfully completed work may be granted.</p>
<p>2. Guidelines</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 11.25 SC 1329</p>	<p><u>Eligibility</u></p> <p>A homebound excuse or homebound instruction is a “temporary excusal from school for urgent medical or other reasons,” made pursuant to School Code Section 13-1329 and Pennsylvania Code Title 22 Section 11.25.</p> <p>A school district may excuse a school age child from compulsory school</p>

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<p>Title 22 Sec. 11.34</p>	<p>attendance upon recommendation of the school physician, a psychiatrist or public psychologist, or both, and with the approval of the Superintendent. The excusal, which shall be reevaluated every three (3) months, may be extended upon the recommendation of the school physician and with the approval of the Superintendent.</p> <p><u>Criteria For Approval</u></p> <p>It is the policy of the Palmyra Area School District to provide eligible students with homebound tutoring when a request for a homebound instruction is approved and the student can tolerate and benefit from some instruction. Unless circumstances require otherwise, five (5) hours of tutoring per week may be provided. To be eligible for homebound tutoring, the district requires that the student meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Student is unable to attend school for more than fifteen (15) consecutive school days due to a temporary, serious medical reason such as a car accident, disabling surgery, serious illness, acute hospitalization (tutoring can be provided in hospital) or other serious, temporary health condition, as certified by a physician.2. Parent/Guardian submits Palmyra Area School District form: <i>Application for Homebound Instruction</i> with a copy of the doctor's medical request for homebound instruction certifying the nature of the illness or the condition and probable duration of the confinement. The recommending physician must also verify, on a signed prescription paper that includes the physician's ID number, that the student is unable to attend any part of the school day due to the student's condition. <p><u>Conditions For Approval</u></p> <p>Parents/Guardians and students are advised of the following conditions to the approval/provision of a homebound excuse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The district may contact the recommending physician for verification or clarification of information on the physician's statement.2. If the district believes that additional information is needed, with legally required consent, the Palmyra Area School District may contact the recommending physician to seek additional information.3. At any time, the district may utilize its school physician to review and deny or approve a request for a homebound excuse.4. The district reserves the right to refer a student to a physician of the district's choice, at district expense, if it so chooses.5. In the event that the district chooses to refer a student to its own physician to determine the necessity for homebound services, and the district
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	<p>physician’s opinion is contrary to the family physician, or the recommending physician is unable to substantiate the recommendation, the administration will be authorized to honor the opinion of the district physician. The child will be requested to return to school. In such a case, the student shall be denied any further homebound services and the child would then fall under the compulsory school attendance regulations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Whether a tutor/instructor is assigned shall be at the district's discretion, and that person shall be of the district's choice.7. The district requires a reassessment of the student's condition by the family physician after sixty (60) calendar days.8. Students on homebound excuses shall not be permitted to participate in any extra-curricular, co-curricular or after-school activities or events while on a homebound excuse. Permission for exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent.9. Homebound instructors are permitted up to five (5) hours per week tutoring individual students. Generally, students may receive up to one hour of home instruction time for each day absent.10. Homebound tutoring is provided in accordance with the school calendar and will not be required for snow days or weekends.11. Homebound tutoring will be based on provision of assignments from the student’s current courses, provided by the student’s then current teachers.12. The district, at its sole discretion, may permit a student to complete coursework for credit if a student is physically and mentally able to independently complete school work in a satisfactory manner while on a homebound excuse. Such student must keep up with the class’s regular assignments and school work in a timely fashion in order to earn credit. The tutor may administer tests if deemed appropriate by the tutor. If a student is permitted to complete course work for credit, the tutor will collect classroom work from the student’s regular teacher. It shall, however, be the responsibility of the student to complete the course work satisfactorily. Lack of independent work on the part of the student or non-completion of assignments may result in the loss of credit or failure of the course. The district shall make the final decision on an award of credit for a course.13. Due to the nature of course content, it may not be possible for the homebound teacher to deliver or teach the course content. In this regard, the student will be required to reschedule this course(s) during the next available semester.14. Each hour of homebound tutoring provided is to be supported by one (1)
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to three (3) hours of independent study, depending on grade level, by the student if medical condition allows this.

15. The parent/guardian is required to provide the homebound teacher with an educational learning environment within the home conducive to conducting the assigned course work. A parent/guardian or other adult authority must be present in the home during homebound tutoring. It is expected that family members will not interfere with tutoring sessions. It is expected that students will be prepared for sessions. Eating during sessions is not permitted unless necessary for medical reasons. If an environment conducive to learning is not provided, homebound tutoring may be terminated. The student will be excused without instruction or course credit until the student's condition allows him/her to return to school.

Any breach of the above conditions, in part or in whole, may result in the withdrawal of approval of a homebound excuse. Homebound tutoring is a temporary instructional program and should not be considered as a replacement to attendance and instruction in the regular school setting.

Withholding Of Previously Granted Homebound Tutoring

Homebound tutoring may be offered at the district's discretion. Once granted, the Board reserves the right to withhold/deny individual instruction when:

1. The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the teacher.
2. A parent/guardian or other adult in authority is not at home with the student during the hours of instruction.
3. The condition of the student is such as to preclude his/her benefit from such instruction.

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