

Palmyra Area School District

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOME EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

ADOPTED: November 9, 1995

REVISED: March 9, 2006
December 8, 2011

1. Purpose	The Board shall approve programs of Home Education, pursuant to the requirements of the School Code, permitting students to study at home in accordance with the following requirements.
2. Definitions SC 1327.1	<p>Home Education Program - a program conducted in compliance with law by the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child. A home education program shall not be considered a nonpublic school under the provisions of law.</p> <p>Supervisor - the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child who is responsible for providing instruction, provided that such person has a high school diploma or its equivalent.</p> <p>Hearing Examiner - shall not be an officer, employee or agent of the Department of Education or of the school district or intermediate unit of residence of the child in the home education program.</p> <p>Appropriate Education - a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required by law and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.</p>
3. Requirements SC 1327.1	<p>A notarized affidavit of the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of the child shall be filed prior to commencement of the home education program and annually thereafter on August 1 with the Superintendent. The affidavit shall set forth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Name of the supervisor of the home education program who will be responsible for the provision of instruction.2. Name and age of each child who will participate in the home education program.3. Address and telephone number of the home education program site.4. That subjects required by law are offered in the English language,

including an outline of proposed education objectives by subject area.

5. Evidence that the child has been immunized and has received the health and medical services required for students of the child's age or grade level.
6. Certification signed by the supervisor that the supervisor, all adults in the home and persons having legal custody of a child in the home education program have not been convicted of criminal offenses as enumerated in the School Code.

Transfers

When a home education program is relocating to another school district, the supervisor is responsible to follow the requirements of law.

Program

A student who is enrolled in a home education program shall be deemed to have met the requirements if the program provides a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction, or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction per year at the elementary level, or nine hundred ninety (999) hours per year at the secondary level.

At the elementary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires; health and physiology; physical education; music; and art.

At the secondary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include language, literature, speech and composition; science; geography; social studies, to include civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra and geometry; art; music; physical education; health; and safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires.

Courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor: economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age appropriate courses required by the State Board of Education.

Requirements Of Supervisor

In order to demonstrate that appropriate education is occurring, the supervisor shall provide and maintain on file for each student enrolled in the home education program a portfolio of records and materials.

The portfolio shall consist of a log, made contemporaneously with the instruction, that designates by title the reading materials used; samples of any

writings; worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the student; and in grades three, five and eight results of nationally normed, standardized achievement tests in reading, language arts, and mathematics or results of statewide tests administered in these grade levels.

The supervisor shall ensure that the nationally normed, standardized tests or the statewide tests are not administered by the child's parent/guardian.

Evaluation Requirements

A teacher or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the elementary level or secondary level shall meet the requirements established in law.

An annual written evaluation of the student's educational progress as determined by a licensed clinical or school psychologist, a teacher certified by the Commonwealth, or a nonpublic school teacher or administrator is required. The evaluation shall also be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio and shall certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring. At the request of the supervisor, persons with other qualifications may conduct the evaluation with the prior consent of the Superintendent. In no event shall the evaluator be the supervisor or his/her spouse.

Documentation required by this policy shall be provided to the district Superintendent at the conclusion of each school year. The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether the child is receiving appropriate education, as defined in this policy and law, as a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.

If the Superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that, at any time during the school year, appropriate education may not be occurring in the home education program, s/he may require documentation pertaining to the portfolio to be submitted to the district by certified mail with return receipt requested within fifteen days, and the evaluation to be submitted within thirty days. If the Superintendent determines that appropriate education is not occurring, s/he shall send a letter to the supervisor stating that in his/her opinion appropriate education is not occurring in the home education program and shall return all documentation, specifying what aspect(s) of the documentation are inadequate.

The supervisor of the program shall have twenty days from receipt of the certified letter to submit additional documentation demonstrating that appropriate education is taking place. If documentation is not submitted within that time, the home education program shall be out of compliance; and the student shall be promptly enrolled in the public or a nonpublic school.

Right Of Hearing

The Board shall provide for a proper hearing by a duly qualified and impartial hearing examiner within thirty days. The examiner shall render a decision

within fifteen days of the hearing, except that s/he may require the establishment of a remedial education plan, mutually agreed to by the Superintendent and supervisor of the home education program, which shall continue the home education program. The decision of the examiner may be appealed by either the supervisor or the Superintendent to the Secretary of Education or Commonwealth Court.

If the hearing examiner finds that the documentation does not indicate that appropriate education is taking place in the home education program, the home education program shall be out of compliance; and the student shall be promptly enrolled in a public or nonpublic school.

Instruction, Instructional Materials, Transportation & Behavior

The district shall, at the request of the supervisor, lend to the home education program textbooks, and other curriculum materials provided for students in the public school and appropriate to the student's age and grade level. 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 District, however, such student must be enrolled for any courses taken through the District. At the high school level, the District may allow any student in a home education program to select up to two (2) courses per semester for credit. At the middle school level, the District may allow each student in a home education program to select chorus, band, and/or orchestra courses. This does not apply to sectionals. Approval of such requests from students in home education programs shall be subject to the Superintendent's discretion based on availability in the requested course. Participation in band and orchestra courses is subject to instrumentation and availability of equipment. Public school students shall be given priority over students in home education programs in reviewing course selections.

Students in home education programs, upon request of the supervisor, may participate in the PSSA administered to District students.

The transportation of students in home education programs to and from District facilities for the purpose of taking courses is the sole responsibility of the supervisor. While on District property or attending District sponsored events, regardless of location, home education students shall abide by all rules and regulations imposed on public school students. Failure to do so may lead to termination of the student's participation in District courses or activities.

Graduation Requirements

The following minimum courses in grades 9 through 12 are established as a requirement for graduation in a home education program: four years of English; three years of mathematics; three years of science; three years of social studies; two years of arts and humanities.

<p>SC 511, 1327.1</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Extracurricular And Interscholastic Participation</u></p> <p>Students participating in home education may participate in any activity that is subject to the provisions of Section 511 including, but not limited to; clubs, musical ensembles, athletics and theatrical productions provided that the child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Meets the eligibility criteria or their equivalent for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the school district;(ii) Meets the tryout criteria or their equivalent for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the school district; and(iii) Complies with all policies, rules and regulations or their equivalent of the governing organization of the activity. <p>For the purposes of this subsection, the school district of residence’s program of interscholastic athletics, including varsity sports, shall be considered an activity and shall include all activities related to competitive sports contests, games, events or exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students whenever such activities occur between schools within the school district or between schools outside of the school district.</p> <p>Where the activity requires completion of a physical examination or medical test as a condition of participation and the school district of residence offers such physical examination or medical test to students enrolled in the school district, the school district shall permit a child who is enrolled in a home education program to access such physical examination or medical test. The school district shall publish the dates and times of such physical examination or medical test in a publication of general circulation in the school district and on its publicly accessible Internet website.</p> <p><u>Enrollment/Reenrollment</u></p>
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<p>References: School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 111, 1327, 1327.1</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Chapter 4, Sec. 11.31a,</p> <p>Chapter 14 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 <i>et</i> <i>seq.</i></p>	<p>A home educated student seeking enrollment or reenrollment in the district must submit reports from a certified evaluator for each year or partial year that the home education program was in effect.</p> <p><u>Students With A Disability Under IDEA Chapter 14 Of PA Code</u></p> <p>A home education program shall meet compulsory attendance requirements for a student with a disability only when the program addresses the specific needs of the student and is approved by a teacher with a valid education certificate from the Commonwealth to teach special education, or a licensed clinical or certified school psychologist. Written notice of such approval must be submitted with the required affidavit.</p> <p>The supervisor may request that the school district or intermediate unit of residence provide services that address the specific needs of a student with a disability. When both the supervisor and the school district or intermediate unit agrees to the provision of services, all services shall be provided in the public schools or in a private school licensed to provide such programs and services.</p>
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