

POLICY FAMILY	ORGANIZATION FOR INSTRUCTION	524
<p data-bbox="250 352 389 531"><u>524.</u> Procedure For Home Instruction</p>	<p data-bbox="459 352 1437 489">The Shrewsbury Public Schools recognizes the right of parents/guardians to educate a child at home. The superintendent (or designee) shall approve a home education plan when satisfied that the instructional program is appropriate and meets the standards of the school district.</p> <ol data-bbox="459 527 1437 1297" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="459 527 1437 804">1. The compulsory attendance statute (MA Law Chapter 76,1) requires that students attend an approved program from age 6 to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Parents/guardians of a 5-year-old who will turn 6 by December 31<sup>st</sup> should submit written notification to the superintendent of their plans to homeschool before the beginning of the school year. Parents of a child who will turn 6 after December 31<sup>st</sup> may submit home school plans for the following school year. Parents/guardians should give the superintendent two weeks to consider their program.</li> <li data-bbox="459 842 1437 1297">2. Home education programs shall be considered in an equitable, objective, and timely manner. Factors that will be considered in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal are: <ul data-bbox="505 982 1437 1297" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="505 982 1437 1052">– Information about the parent's/guardian's academic credentials or other qualifications</li> <li data-bbox="505 1087 1437 1121">– A brief description of the proposed educational plan</li> <li data-bbox="505 1157 1437 1226">– Access to the kind of educational materials the parents/guardians expect to use</li> <li data-bbox="505 1262 1437 1297">– The plan for evaluation of the student's progress on an annual basis.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="488 1333 1417 1507">Before rejecting a proposal, the superintendent must provide the parents/guardians with an opportunity to explain their proposed plan. The MA General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 1 will guide the parties when parents/guardians begin a home school program without the approval of the school district.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="459 1543 1437 1612">3. Home education programs must be submitted and approved, annually, for each year a student is home schooled.</li> </ol>	

4. If it is determined, upon review of the student's annual progress, that insufficient progress has been made, the parents/guardians shall be notified and a meeting shall be convened to determine whether the approval shall be revoked.
5. Home education students with special needs may receive special education services under Massachusetts's law and will be treated similarly to those with special needs who are enrolled in private school at private expense.
6. Failure of a home educator to abide in good faith by the procedures as outlined above may result in the school committee taking action under MA Laws Chapter 76, 2 and/or 4, upon the recommendation of the superintendent.
7. Previously homeschooled students entering district schools are treated as students entering from other independent programs for grade placement. Each principal will place students transferring at the assumed grade level, but will reserve the right to test and reassign the student as may be necessary. The granting of high school credit for a previously homeschooled teenager will be considered on an individual basis, but only if the student has appropriate documentation. In addition, any and all state or federally mandated testing requirements must be successfully met in order for said students to be considered for receipt of a high school diploma.
8. Home-schooled students are not enrolled in the public school system. Consequently, they are neither required nor entitled to take the MCAS tests, which are designed to measure the academic progress of students enrolled in publicly supported schools and the performance of those schools.
9. Home-schooled students shall be prohibited from participation in academic or co-curricular programs of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

Adopted  
10/15/86  
Amended  
5/12/04

