

## **IHBG – HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION**

Eligibility - The Board recognizes the right of parents to pursue home education within the parameters of RSA 193-A and other applicable state laws and regulations.

Notification - Any parent commencing a home education program for a child who withdraws from the District will notify the New Hampshire Department of Education, the Superintendent, or a non-public school within five (5) business days of commencing the program. Such notification will include the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children who are participating in the home education program. If notice is provided to the Superintendent, he/she will acknowledge receipt of notification within fourteen (14) days. If requested by the parent, the Superintendent will assist in making such notification in complying with applicable statutory requirements.

For parents continuing a home education program, the initial home education notification is sufficient notification for as long as the child is a resident of the school district and using the school district as the home education participating agency. The home education notification of intent remains in place unless otherwise notified by the parent.

Termination - Written notice of termination of a home education program will be filed by the parent with the New Hampshire Department of Education, the Superintendent, or nonpublic school principal within fifteen (15) days of such termination.

Re-Enrollment Procedures – Parents should be aware that when re-enrolling a student, there may be discrepancies between the home education program and school district curriculum and requirements which may impact grade placement and/or high school credit. Parents deciding to re-enroll their children in the District will make arrangements with the School Principal for an evaluation to determine appropriate placement and/or high school credit.

Attendance - State attendance laws and District attendance policies apply to all students until the Commissioner of Education, the Superintendent, or the School Principal of a nonpublic school receives notice from a student's parent of the commencement of a home education program consistent with the requirements of RSA 193-A:5..

Evaluation Procedures - Parents will maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program and must provide for an annual evaluation documenting the child's demonstration of educational progress at a level commensurate with the child's age and ability, in accordance with RSA 193-A and NH Department of Education Rules Ed 315.

Parents have the option of having a teacher review the home education portfolio and making a determination of annual student progress, having the student take a national achievement test and scoring at or above 40<sup>th</sup> percentile, or having the student take the state assessment and scoring at or above 40<sup>th</sup> percentile. The parent will maintain a copy of the evaluation.

Home educated students are subject to the same participation policy and eligibility conditions as apply to regularly enrolled students. The results of the evaluation may be used by the parent to

demonstrate the child's progress at a level commensurate for approved curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities.

General Participation – General participation is subject to school rules and regulations and district policy. Home school students that are registered through the Epping School District may be eligible to participate in certain regular classes, co-curricular activities, grade level trips, social activities, extra-curricular activities, and admission and standardized testing. Home school students may also use school facilities and school texts and library books/materials. Registration for the purpose of this policy means that the home school parent(s) has chosen Epping School District to be the home school agency and submitted a home school notification to the Superintendent's Office.

Parents must annually notify the Superintendent's Office of their child's intent to participate in school curricular, co-curricular, or extra-curricular activities or use school facilities or school books, texts, or materials. The intent must be in writing and include a copy of the previous school year's evaluation or current evaluation documenting the child's educational progress at a level commensurate with the child's age and ability. Home education students are subject to the same age, performance, and pre-requisite standards as regularly enrolled students. Periodic academic performance updates may be required for participation in school activities. If approved the Superintendent's Office will issue a home education participation card within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the intent and evaluation. Students will be required to show this card to request school participation.

Approval for home educated student participation is subject to the following general conditions. Please reference the specific participation section of this policy for additional conditions.

- All requests for school participation will be made in writing by the parent to the School Principal. The School Principal will in writing grant or deny the request. The School Principal will consult with the Superintendent if denying a request.
- Home educated parents will provide supervision for some activities on the same basis as parents of fully enrolled students.
- Home education students awaiting participation in a class or activity must be supervised by the parent at all times, and must be picked up immediately following the conclusion of the class or activity.
- There is space available in the class or activity.
- There are no extra costs incurred by the district.
- The admission of the student will not have an adverse effect on the class or activity.
- Classroom or activity expectations for the home educated student are the same as regular students. The class or activity is developmentally and academically appropriate for the student.
- Prerequisite class or activity requirements are met.
- Transportation to and from school is provided by the parent.
- No substantial administrative or staff burden is created.
- There are no other factors impacting why the request should be granted or denied.
- Participation is subject to School Board policy and school rules and regulations for all students.

1. Regular Classes - Home education is defined as instruction in science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, and the history of the NH and US Constitutions. Home education students may enroll in specific classes other than those defined in the definition of home education per the following conditions.
  - Written notification of desire to participate is received by the School Principal at least thirty (30) days in advance of the first class meeting. Requests will be processed on a first come first served basis with ties resolved by drawing lots.
  - Attendance is regular, behavior is appropriate, and the parent and student demonstrate a willingness to follow the district's policy and school's rules and regulations.
  - The student completes all assignments and assessments as required of other students in the class.
  - Credit/grade is granted only after the successful completion of the class.
2. Special Education – Home educated students are not eligible for special education program and/or services.
3. Co-Curricular Activities – Participation in co-curricular activities is limited to those activities associated with approved regular classes being taken by the home educated student. Co-curricular activities are defined, but not limited to field trips, assemblies, fairs, etc. Participation is subject to the following conditions.
  - Prior written permission has been given by the parent.
  - Prior written permission has been given by the School Principal.
  - The student has agreed to abide by the same code of conduct as the regularly enrolled students participating in the activity.
  - Student may be denied access to some activities because of space restrictions.
  - If transportation is not provided by the co-curricular activity, the parent accepts responsibility for transportation to and from the activity.
  - The parent agrees to chaperone an event if deemed advisable by the School Principal.
4. Grade Level Trips – Some grade level teams offer voluntary trips associated with their grade level and not associated with one “regular core class” or “regular other class.” Participation is limited to home school students that have participated in the grade level academic program by taking one or more grade level “regular other class.” Participation is subject to the following conditions.
  - Prior written permission has been given by the parent.
  - Prior written permission has been given by the School Principal.
  - The student has agreed to abide by the same code of conduct as the regularly enrolled students participating in the activity.
  - Student may be denied access to some activities because of space restrictions.
  - If transportation is not provided by the grade level trip, the parent accepts responsibility for transportation to and from the activity.

- The parent agrees to chaperone an event if deemed advisable by the School Principal.
5. Social Activities – Requests for participation in activities which are purely social, such as school dances, will be determined in accordance with the school’s guest policies or practices. The following conditions apply.
    - The School Principal has approved attendance in advance.
    - The activity is age appropriate.
    - The student agrees to abide by the same code of conduct as other students in attendance.
  6. Extra-Curricular Activities – Extra-curricular activities are defined as, but not limited to school clubs and athletics. Participation is subject to the following conditions.
    - The student meets the same academic, physical examination, age and eligibility requirements and standards as regularly enrolled students. Documentation of such must be provided when requested by the School Principal.
    - The transfer student from a home education program meets the same eligibility requirements for enrolled transfer students.
    - The student maintains the same code of behavior as required of other regularly enrolled school participants.
    - Travel to and from extra-curricular activities is governed by School Board policy and applies to all participating students.
    - If transportation is not provided by the extra-curricular activity, the parent accepts responsibility for transportation to and from the activity.
  7. Use of School Facilities – Students may use school facilities on the same basis as regularly enrolled students provided that the use does not disrupt regular student and/or staff programming. Use of school facilities is subject to the following conditions.
    - The use has been approved by the School Principal prior to use.
    - The use is during the regular school day and the regular school year.
    - The use is directly related to the home education instructional program.
    - The use does not involve rearranging furniture.
  8. Use of School Texts and Library Books and Materials – Students may be permitted to use school texts and library books/materials provided the following conditions are met.
    - Sufficient copies are available.
    - The text is appropriate to the student’s age and grade.
    - The text is appropriate to the student’s home education program.
    - The text is signed out to the student and/or parent for a period of no longer than the regular course period.
    - Library books are signed out according to the library loan policy.
    - The parent agrees to pay the school district for all lost, damaged and/or non-returned texts and/or library books. Failure to be financially responsible will result in the

withholding of grades and may result in the withdrawal of all privileges for the home educated student. The Superintendent will resolve all disputes and may request a deposit for the use of school texts and library books/materials.

- The parent agrees to pay the school district upfront for all expendable workbooks and other such materials.

9. Admission and Standardized Testing – Students being home educated may participate in the regularly scheduled school/college admission and/or standardized testing program administered by the district per the following conditions.

1. The parent notifies the School Principal as to the intention to participate at least three (3) months in advance of the testing dates.
2. The student attends the school scheduled testing sessions/dates.

High School Graduation Diplomas, and Recognitions - The School Board will not award certificates or diplomas to home educated students. Students must enter the regular school program and complete all necessary graduation requirements from the district high school to be eligible for a certificate or diploma.

Home school students, who have participated throughout their high school home school program in high school curricular, co-curricular activities, and or extra-curricular activities, may attend high school graduation activities with their peers. Home school students may only participate in graduation activities one time and are subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to enrolled graduating high school students. Graduation activities include activities prior to graduation ceremony, the graduation ceremony, and activities after the graduation ceremony. The school may limit the home school student's participation due to age appropriateness. Home school parents are responsible for notifying the school at the beginning of the school year of their intention to participate in graduation activities and/or the graduation ceremony and keeping informed of the schedule and requirements.

Home school students do not receive an Epping School District issued certificate or diploma. However, the parent may supply the school with a home issued certificate, which fits within the diploma cover, for presentation at the graduation ceremony. All presentations are made by school administrators or district officials.

School Recognition Ceremonies - Home school students, receiving recognition for their participation in athletic, extracurricular, or selective academic programs, may attend school award ceremonies in which they will receive this special recognition.

Liability – The Epping School District, Epping School Board, and any employees of the Epping School District associated with a child who is or has been receiving home education are not liable in damages in a civil action for any injury, death or loss to person or property allegedly sustained by that child, the child's parent, or any other person as a result of the child's receipt of home education including, but not limited to any liability allegedly based on the failure of the child to receive a free appropriate or adequate public education.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

RSA 193-A (Home Education)

RSA 193:1 (Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil)

RSA 193:1-a (Dual Enrollment)

RSA 193:1-c (Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic or Home Educated Pupils)

Ed 315 (Procedures for the Operation of Home Education Programs)

Handbook (None)

APPROVED/REVISED: August 2, 2007, December 17, 2009, March 1, 2012, August 16, 2012,  
May 7, 2015

PREVIOUS POLICY: None