



Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District

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Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District

Policy for Home Instruction

The Superintendent of Schools of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District recognizes his responsibility to enforce the Massachusetts compulsory attendance requirements which are found in state law and regulations including General Laws c.76, 1.

The Superintendent also acknowledges the right of parents and guardians to educate their children at home. The Superintendent has established the following guidelines for approval of home instruction programs. This policy was adopted by the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's School Committee, and final approval by the School Committee was granted at the School Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

In accordance with Massachusetts law, parents who wish to obtain approval from the Superintendent (or his/her designee) of a home instruction program must satisfy the guidelines set forth in this policy. These guidelines are intended to provide a review process as to ensure reasonable education requirements are met.

Home Instruction Guidelines

1. In order for a student to be instructed at home, a parent(s)/guardian(s) must complete the enclosed application, providing the requested information to the Superintendent (or his/her designee) thirty (30) days prior to the start of the proposed home instruction program. Parents/guardians must obtain approval prior to removing a student(s) from the public school and beginning the home instruction program.
2. Upon submission of a proposal for home instruction, a parent/guardian may request to appear before the Superintendent (or his/her designee) to have an opportunity to explain the proposed plan further and present witnesses on their behalf. A parent/guardian may be represented at their own expenses.
3. A parent/guardian must demonstrate that the proposed program for each student meets the statutory requirements that the instruction will equal "in thoroughness and efficiency, and in progress made therein, of that in the public schools in the same district." In addition, the Superintendent (or his/her designee) will request certain information about a proposed home instruction program including, instructor qualifications, a description of the subjects to be taught, the proposed curriculum, a schedule of instruction to occur and a description of the teaching materials and programs to be used. See also, M.G.L. c.69, §1D&E; M.G.L c.71, §§1, 2, & 3.
4. After submission of all required information and any hearing that is requested the Superintendent (or his/her designee) shall notify the parent/guardian as to whether the proposed home instruction program has been approved, rejected or whether additional information is needed. If a home instruction proposal is rejected the reasons for such a decision will be detailed and the parent/guardian shall be given an opportunity to revise the proposal.

5. If a parent/guardian commences a home instruction program without the necessary approval, the Superintendent may initiate a CRA Child Requiring Assistance Petition or Failure to Cause, wherein it would have the responsibility of showing that the proposed program does not meet the above standard.
6. An approved home instruction program shall be in effect for up to one school year. Thereafter, if a parent/guardian intends to continue home instruction, a new home instruction application for each student must be submitted annually to the Superintendent (or his/her designee) for approval in accordance with these guidelines.
7. To ensure educational progress, the Superintendent, in consultation with a parent/guardian requires periodic standardized testing of children. This requirement may be substituted and a student's progress may be evaluated through such measures as quarterly progress reports and dated work samples filed along with the progress reports.

A student being instructed at home pursuant to this policy may have access to the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's public schools for the purposes of either curricular or extracurricular activities subject to the approval of the Superintendent. In order to participate in MIAA sanctioned events, such as interscholastic athletic programs, a student instructed at home pursuant to this policy must satisfy all the relevant MIAA eligibility requirements.

Home instructed students shall be subject to the same cost or eligibility criteria, if any, as students enrolled within the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's public schools and shall be expected to comply with any relevant laws, regulations or codes of conduct while participating.

Legal Ref: M.G.L. c.69, §1D&E; M.G.L c.71, §§1, 2, & 3

Revised and Adopted: 9/9/2008 (R.H. and School Committee)