

HOME SCHOOLING

The Laconia school District recognizes home education programs as educational options as provided by RSA 193-A.

Instruction shall be deemed home education if it consists of planned and supervised instructional and related education activities, including a curriculum and instruction in science, mathematics, language, government, history, health/physical fitness, reading, writing, spelling, the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States, and an exposure to, and appreciation of, art and music.

Eligibility:

The Board recognizes that RSA 193-A provides the legal right for parents to pursue home education within the parameters of certain requirements of enrollment and evaluation set by the New Hampshire State Department of Education (NHDOE). In order to provide home education, parents are required to notify either the Superintendent, the principal of a non-public school, or the Commissioner of Education of their intention.

Home educated students shall have access to curricular courses and co-curricular programs offered by the Laconia School District. Participation in curricular courses and co-curricular programs shall not be more restrictive for home educated students than it is for resident students.

A home educated student shall not include any student who has graduated from a high school level program of home education or its equivalent, or has attained the age of 21.

Notification and Other Procedural Requirements:

1. Parents planning to home educate their child(ren) shall notify the Commissioner of the Department of Education, the resident district superintendent, or principal of a non-public school, in writing, of such on or before the date of the home education program will begin.
2. Notification made by the parent shall include a list of the names, addresses, and birthdates of all children who will participate in the home education program. The parent shall also provide a phone number at which the parent may be reached during normal business hours.
3. State attendance laws and District attendance policies shall apply to all students within the District until the Commissioner of Education, the resident superintendent, or principal of a non-public school receives notice from a student's parent of the commencement of a home education program.

4. Written notice of termination of a home education program shall be filed by the parent with the Commissioner of Education and, in addition, the resident district superintendent or non-public school principal within fifteen (15) days of said termination.

Evaluation Procedures:

1. Parents must maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program. The portfolio must consist of a log which designates, by title, the reading materials used, and also samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the child. The parent must maintain that portfolio for 2 years from the date of the ending of the instruction.
2. The parent must provide for an annual educational evaluation in which is documented the child's educational progress at a level commensurate with the child's age and ability. The annual evaluation must meet one of the following requirements:
 - a. Certified teacher or teacher in a non-public school who is selected by the parent must evaluate the child's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the parent or child.
 - b. The child can take any national student achievement test, administered by a person qualified as established by the publisher of the test. Composite results at or above the fortieth percentile are deemed reasonable academic proficiency.
 - c. The child may take a state student assessment test used by the resident district with composite results at or above the fortieth percentile to be deemed reasonable academic proficiency.
 - d. The child may be evaluated using any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent and the commissioner of education, resident district superintendent, or non-public school principal.

The parent shall maintain a copy of the evaluation. The results of the evaluation:

- May be used to demonstrate the child's academic proficiency in order to participate in public school programs, and co-curricular activities which are defined as school sponsored and directed athletics, fine arts and academic activities. Home educated students shall be subject to the same participation policy and eligibility conditions as apply to the public school students.
- Will not be used as a basis for termination of a home education program.

- Provide a basis for a constructive relationship between the parent and the evaluator, both working together in the best interest of the child.

Liability Limited:

1. The resident school district, the school board of the district and any employees of the 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 a person or property allegedly sustained by the child, the child's parents, 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.

Re-enrollment into the District Program:

1. Parents deciding to re-enroll their children in the school district program following a period of home education will make arrangements with the building principal to provide for an evaluation that helps to determine appropriate placement in the school's program. Placements will be consistent with the school board policy governing student placements, and are subject to the same appeal process.
2. Parents are responsible to remain aware of the scope and sequence of the District curriculum and for aligning their home education program in ways that eliminate conflicts to appropriate placements.
3. Parents must notify the resident district Superintendent or non-public school principal within 15 days of the termination of the home education program and shall promptly enroll their children in a school approved by the State of New Hampshire.
4. High School credit toward graduation shall not be awarded for home school programs unless the credit(s) has been awarded by an accredited institution.

Adopted: August 29, 1983

Revised: 12/1/98, 1/15/02, 2/16/16