

Home Schooling Guideline

HOME SCHOOLING

The Superintendent may excuse from compulsory school attendance, for not more than one school year at a time, any school-age child who is being instructed at home in accordance with the State Board of Education rules in the Ohio Administrative Code.

The child being instructed at home must be instructed by an individual with one of the following qualifications:

1. a high school diploma;
2. a certificate of high school equivalence;
3. standardized test scores that demonstrate high school equivalence or
4. other credentials found appropriate by the Superintendent.

Lacking the above, the home teacher must work under the direction of a person holding a baccalaureate degree. Any request to be excused must be made in writing by the parent(s) or guardian or other person having care or charge of the student and must contain the information required by the Ohio Administrative Code.

The Superintendent shall approve the home schooling request unless he/she determines that the information required by the Ohio Administrative Code has not been provided or unless he/she has substantial evidence that the minimum educational requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code have not been met, despite the fact that the required information has been provided by the parent(s).

If the Superintendent intends to deny the request for home schooling, he/she notifies the parent(s) within 14 calendar days and informs the parent(s) of the reasons for the intent to deny the request and of the parent(s)' right to a due process hearing before the Superintendent. Upon substantial evidence of cessation of home schooling in accordance with the Ohio Administrative Code, the Superintendent notifies the parent(s) of the intent to revoke the excuse and of the parent(s)' right to a due process hearing before the Superintendent.

Resident students receiving home instruction in accordance with State law shall be offered the same opportunities to participate in District extracurricular activities at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same academic, non-academic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Note: This is a required policy specific to House Bill (HB) 59 effective September 29, 2013.

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The Board recognizes and appreciates the individual's right to select home schooling as an educational alternative to attendance in a District school. Home schooling is subject to the following requirements and limitations:

1. The Board operates under Ohio law and State Board of Education Regulations, which provide for the right of home education and impose requirements that must be fulfilled by the parent(s) and student(s) electing this option. All applications for home schooling must be made through the Superintendent's Office.
2. Students who are excused from attendance at school by reason of home education in accordance with the State Board of Education regulations will be deemed to have withdrawn from enrollment in the District during the period of home-schooling.
3. Once a student has been approved through the Superintendent's Office for home-schooling, a letter will be sent outlining the procedures for returning to the District.
4. Home-schooled students will be permitted to take achievement/ability, criterion-referenced and proficiency tests administered to students enrolled in the school district in order to fulfill one of the student assessment options prescribed by the state rules. These tests are given at selected grade levels and must be taken during the regular administration of the tests. There will be no fee for these testing services. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to make the appropriate arrangements with the school. The District will not pay for standardized testing outside the District. Outside testing to comply with State law will be paid for by the parents.
5. It is recommended that a student be withdrawn from school for the purposes of home-schooling only at the end of a semester. If a student is withdrawn from school during a semester to participate in the home-education option, no grades or credits will be given for these courses.
6. Parents of students who are home-schooled are responsible for the procurement of textbooks and other instructional materials. Upon withdrawal from the District for purposes of home schooling, textbooks and other instructional materials provided to students while they were enrolled in the District must be returned to the schools. If available, textbooks for specific courses or subject areas may be loaned and a deposit fee may be charged. The District's courses of study related to broad areas of instruction, such as math, science, social studies and language arts, will be made available to parents of home-schooled students, upon request, for their review. A reasonable fee will be charged for the copying of these materials.
7. When a student seeks to enroll in the District after being home educated, the following conditions will apply:
 - a. Generally, it is recommended that the student enroll only at the beginning of a semester;
 - b. Placement in a grade level and awarding of high school credits for subjects will be made by the Superintendent based upon:
 - i. age appropriateness;

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- ii. the results of a review of the child's most recent annual academic assessment report provided by the parents;
 - iii. the results of nationally-normed standardized achievement tests, ability tests, criterion-referenced tests or proficiency tests that are normally administered to students of similar age in the District;
 - iv. other evaluation information which may include an interview with the child and/or parents.
 - c. The District may require the student to take any or all of the nationally-normed standardized achievement tests that are regularly scheduled for District students of similar age.
 - d. To assist in the appropriate placement of a high school student, the parent/guardian is requested to provide an academic assessment report for each class taken. This report should include, but is not limited to:
 - i. a portfolio of work done
 - ii. subject-matter tests and test scores
 - iii. resources and books used in class
 - iv. samples of the student's work
 - v. course of study
 - vi. the number of hours devoted to each subject area
 - vii. grades from previous schools prior to home-schooling
 - e. At the high-school level, a home-schooling review team made up of an administrator, counselor, teacher or the appropriate department chairperson(s) will review the material and make the recommendation to the principal and or to the Superintendent concerning placement and credits awarded. The Superintendent will make the final decision regarding placement and credits awarded. When determining high school credits at the middle school level, the high school format described in the preceding paragraph will be used. For all other middle school situations a grade level appropriate team in conjunction with the building principal will review the material and recommend to the Superintendent appropriate grade level placement and credits. The Superintendent will make the final decision regarding placement and credit awarded. At the elementary level, the building intervention team in conjunction with the building principal will review the material and recommend to the Superintendent appropriate grade level placement. The Superintendent will make the final decision regarding placement.
 - f. From the date of submission of the academic assessment report(s), school officials will have up to four weeks to review the report(s) in order to make proper grade and subject placement as a condition of enrollment. Therefore, it is recommended that requests to enroll be made well in advance of the start of a semester.
8. Parents who are home educating their children may select to enroll their children on a part-time basis for specific areas of study or courses. It is recommended that enrollment for this purpose begin at the start of the first or second semester. The parents of

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students who are being home educated and are enrolled on a part-time basis must still fulfill their obligation to provide 900 hours of home education per year over a full range of content areas.

9. Students who have been withdrawn from school for the purpose of home education may not participate in field trips of a school. Home-schooled students who are enrolled on a part-time basis may participate in field trips related to the courses or subject areas for which they are enrolled.
10. High school transcripts will specify credits earned through "Home Education." All home education courses for which credits are awarded the high school level will be given a grade of P/F (Pass/Fail).
11. Athletic eligibility will be determined by OHSAA guidelines and District's athletic policy.
 - a. Course work and evidence of mastery of course content undertaken under home education must be submitted to the middle or high school principal in order to certify academic eligibility to the OHSAA. The principal *or designee* must be given at least five school days prior to the date of certifying eligibility in order to review these materials.
12. A student must be enrolled full time for the last three semesters of high school in order to graduate from a District high school.
13. All students graduating from a District high school must pass the appropriate state mandated graduation test and meet requirements as specified in Board policy.
14. For award purposes at the high school level, the following conditions will apply:
 - a. GPA will be established for awards, which include but are not limited to the Jefferson Award, Graduate with Highest Honors, Graduate with Honors, etc., after two consecutive semesters of attendance in a District high school prior to the second semester of the student's senior year.
 - b. Eligibility for academic honor groups will be established only after two consecutive semesters of enrollment.