

HOME SCHOOLING

PURPOSE:

This policy shall serve to establish and communicate the School Department guidelines, procedures and expectations in relation to students' regular education program (in the home) outside the public school environment as provided by State Law.

PHILOSOPHY:

The North Kingstown School Committee recognizes the right of parents to utilize home schooling as an alternative method for complying with the State Compulsory Attendance Law. Some parents, either for personal or religious reasons, may choose to educate their children at home. Any parent intending to carry out their child or children's educational program through a home schooling program is expected to comply with state law.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Parents wishing to exercise their right to educate a child or children at home must submit written notification of intent to the North Kingstown School Committee, through the Superintendent of Schools, as soon as said intent is determined by the parents. Home Schooling parents are invited to meet with the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, or designee, to discuss an instructional plan that meets with RI Department of Education requirements. Parents may proceed with their chosen Home School Program subject to annual renewal approval by the School Committee each year thereafter.

The Superintendent (or his/her designee) will submit the Letter of Intent to the School Committee for approval at the next closest and appropriate School Committee Meeting date following receipt of the letter. Every effort shall be made to expedite the attainment of School Committee action on such a request.

In carrying out a Home School Program, parents should to be able to show that their teaching is thorough and efficient.

POLICY STIPULATIONS:

1. The Letter of Intent will reflect that the parent(s) or guardian(s) shall comply with Title 16-19-2 requirements of the General Laws of Rhode Island. The educational program must teach subjects in the English language substantially to the same extent as subjects are required to be taught in the public schools. The program must include reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, and civics as these subjects are required to be taught in the public schools thoroughly and efficiently.

- a. The Letter of Intent should go through the Central Office and provide the student's name, address, month and year of birth, last grade completed, parent name and contact information.
2. Parents must maintain instructional attendance records as required by State of Rhode Island Law and submit these records to the North Kingstown School Department upon request of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. A home schooling school year must be substantially equal to that required by law in public schools.
 3. The School Committee requires some type of evaluation component that will accommodate the preferences of parents for certain mechanisms for measurement which may take the form of a report card, written evaluations, dated work samples, or other means of evaluation. Annual testing or standardized testing is not required by Rhode Island General Law, but may be used as a type of evaluation solely by choice of the parents. While the Commissioner of Education has ruled that local school districts have the authority to require some type of evaluation under their "approval" authority, they also must "accommodate the preferences of parents for certain mechanisms for measurement."
 4. Children receiving home instruction have the same rights that private school students have to be loaned textbooks in Science, Math, English, and Modern Language and may make requests for such books through the procedure established for private school students.
 5. Home school participation in specific academic programs, enrollment in specific courses, participation in extracurricular and/or interscholastic activities, access to formal testing programs, and use of specific facilities of the Department is subject to the approval of the School Committee and contingent upon the understanding that approval will be guided by the following considerations:
 - a. Space remains available within the set student participation level of the program/class etc.
 - b. New enrollments in the School Department shall have preference.
 - c. The parent provides transportation to and from the approved activity.
 - d. Students follow all rules and meet the same requirements as established for public students, including health and other expectations.
 - e. Participation requires no direct additional cost to the Department.
 - f. Enrollment in specific courses offered by the Department, and at the High School Level only, shall be limited to those specific course/classes students may need but are unable to obtain access to sufficient instructional opportunity through other means available within their approved Home School Program.
 - g. Students wishing to participate in extra-curricular activities must meet all eligibility requirements of the Rhode Island Athletic Interscholastic League, and all stipulations as stated in 5a-f above and:
 - 1) The Rhode Island Athletic Interscholastic League requirements will be made available upon request.

6. In the event that the School Committee does not approve a parental intent to carry out a Home School Program, the Committee must provide a written explanation to the parent(s) specifying in detail its statutory basis for such denial. The Committee's decision may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.

7. If any change of policy toward home schooling is being formally considered, all parents who are currently on record as home schooling in North Kingstown will be provided prior written notice relative to the contact information on record with the School District.

First Reading: Nov. 13, 2002

Second Reading: Nov. 20, 2002

Adopted: Nov. 20, 2002

Revised: 3/24/09, 4/5/10, 2/9/16