

HOME EDUCATION and HOME INSTRUCTION

This Board of Education policy applies to those students who are “home instructed” pursuant to O.R.C. §3313.5312, and students who are defined as “home education” students pursuant to O.A.C. §3313-34-01. In both circumstances, these students are usually not already enrolled in the District, even on a part-time basis, as they are being taught at home, typically by a parent or guardian. This policy does not apply to students defined as “home instruction” students pursuant to O.R.C. §3323.12, which are children with a disability who are unable to attend school, even with the help of special transportation. Such children are already enrolled in school, but are being taught at home.

HOME EDUCATION/HOME INSTRUCTION

Enrollment

The District shall enroll or re-enroll students who have been home educated/home instructed without discrimination or prejudice. Home educated/home instruction students may elect to be enrolled as part-time students.

Grade Placement

Home instruction/home education students seeking admission into the District may be required to take competency examinations. The purpose of these examinations is to determine the proper grade placement for these students.

A. Grades K-8

Based on a review of the competency examination (if required), the most recent annual academic assessment report, and other home education records and evaluation information, the Superintendent will place the student in the grade level requested in accordance with O.R.C. §3319.01. If the student experiences any academic problems, school personnel shall request a parental meeting to review placement and any other options.

B. Grades 9-12

Based on a review of the competency examination (if required), the most recent annual academic assessment report, and other home education records and evaluation information, the Superintendent will tentatively place the student in the grade level requested in accordance with O.R.C. §3319.01, pending final determination of credits earned.

Permanent grade placement will be determined by the Superintendent in accordance with O.R.C. §3319.01, upon review of a competency evaluation (if required), transcripts, final determination of course credits earned, and/or the results of any nationally normed, standardized achievement tests taken by the student, and a conference with the student and/or parent(s).

Approval of Credits

Credit will be granted for any course appearing on a transcript from a correspondence school recognized and accepted by the District.

In the absence of an official transcript, credit will be granted upon the student's passing a comprehensive final exam from the previous school year for each specific course.

The District will be responsible for providing, administering, and scoring the exam(s).

Class Rank

The grade point average (GPA) of home education students who re-enroll in the District after the ninth grade will be based on years of attendance in the high school only and will necessitate a special notation or manual removal from class ranking list. Such students will be eligible for honors status distinctions such as the National Honors Society or an Honors Diploma.

Graduation

To be eligible for graduation, the student must meet the conditions of this policy, as outlined above, and meet all other graduation requirements of the District and the state of Ohio.

Access to District Materials and Services

- A. The District may provide educational textbooks, materials, supplemental materials, or supplies with non-enrolled students.
- B. Home educated students are not eligible for technology services provided by the District – i.e., Internet accounts, etc. (“*acceptable use*” agreement).
- C. Requests for services mandated by an active IEP must be made by a parent/guardian to the Superintendent or his/her designee. The student should be enrolled and counted in the District's ADM. An IEP conference should be held to write the details of the delivery service (time, place, etc.) and describe the educational plan for home education. A special excuse from Compulsory Attendance Laws from the Superintendent would have to be created.

- D. Home educated students do not qualify for auxiliary services.
- E. Testing, for purposes of academic assessment, as required by this Board policy to enroll a student into the proper grade within the District, shall occur at a District facility at the same time as enrolled students. Such testing expenses shall be borne by the District. Any independent test administration will be at the expense of the parent.

It is the parent's responsibility to request testing dates and places from District Administration.

Extracurricular Activities

A home instruction/home education student, who would otherwise be assigned to the District, and who is being taught at home pursuant to OAC §3301-34-01, shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity offered by the District at the school to which the student would be assigned, as determined by the Superintendent under O.R.C. §3319.01, based on the student's age and academic performance.

The Superintendent may afford a home instruction/home education student who is not entitled to attend school in the District the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity offered by the District, if the district to which the home instruction/home education student is entitled to attend does not offer that extracurricular activity.

A home instruction/home education student must be of appropriate age and grade level, as determined by the Superintendent, to participate in any extracurricular activity. Further, a home instruction/home education student must fulfill the same nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant, and must fulfill either of the following academic requirements:

- (1) If the student received home instruction/home education in the preceding grading period, the student shall meet any academic requirements established by the State Board of Education ("State Board") for the continuation of home instruction/home education.
- (2) If the student did not receive home instruction/home education in the preceding grading period, the student's academic performance during the preceding grading period must have met all academic standards for eligibility to participate in the program established by the District.

Eligibility for a student who leaves a school district mid-year for home instruction/home education shall be determined based on an interim academic assessment issued by the district in which the student was enrolled based on the student's work while enrolled in that district.

Any student who commences home instruction/home education after the beginning of a school year and who is, at the time home instruction/home education commences, ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity due to failure to meet academic standards or any other requirements of the District, shall not participate in the extracurricular activity until the student meets the academic requirements established by the State Board for continuation of home instruction/home education as verified by the Superintendent. No student shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the same semester in which the student was determined ineligible.

LEGAL REFS.: O.R.C. §§3321.04; 3313.5312; 3319.01
O.A.C. §3313-34-01

Adopted: August 12, 2014