

PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HOME EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

Chapter 76, Section 1 of Massachusetts Law provides a legal basis for parents to request permission to instruct their child(ren) at home.

To try to establish ground rules for shared responsibility between parents in the Plymouth Public Schools, the following regulation shall apply in judging an alternative for home education plans for approval or disapproval.

PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION

Parents requesting permission to implement an Alternative Home Education Program of their child(ren) shall request permission for conducting such a program by filing a formal letter with the Superintendent of Schools at least sixty (60) days prior to the program's initiation. The School Committee will act upon the request no later than forty-five (45) calendar days of submission of the parent request.

The request to implement an Alternative Home Education Program shall be accompanied by a detailed educational program for each child to be taught at home. The program must include a description of the following:

- 1.0 Competency of teacher(s) to include academic background, experience, or any other factors which may assist the School Committee in judging the competency of the instructor. If instruction is to be provided by providers other than the parents, the names and backgrounds of these individuals should be listed.
- 2.0 A listing of the subjects to be taught.
- 3.0 A time schedule indicating the number of minutes per day to be allocated to each subject area. The School Committee recognizes that in some instances parents may not follow a traditional public school day or calendar. However, a schedule is required.
- 4.0 A calendar indicating the number of minutes per day during which instruction will be given.
- 5.0 A listing of the textbooks and/or teaching materials to be employed, and/or a listing of clear goals to be achieved by each child. Goals should be listed for each academic area.
- 6.0 Evaluation/Assessment - Parents will also include as part of the child's educational plan an outline describing the types of evaluative instruments and/or procedures to be utilized in periodically measuring the child's academic growth. Measures may include formal and informal assessments including but not limited to standardized tests, report cards, progress reports, and student portfolios.
- 7.0 During the period that the program for home teaching is being reviewed, the child(ren) will remain in public school attendance.

EVALUATION

The superintendent/designee or school committee must also have access to the textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional aids to be used by the child(ren) and to the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents. This access is necessary only to determine the type of subjects to be taught and the grade level of the instruction for comparison purposes with the curriculum of the public schools.

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Finally, the superintendent or school committee may properly require periodic standardized testing of the child(ren) to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards.

In consultation with the parents, the school authorities may decide where the testing is to occur and the type of testing instrument to be used. Where practical, a neutral party should administer the test. Other means of evaluating the progress of the child(ren) may be substituted for the formal testing process, such as periodic progress reports or dated work samples, subject to the approval of the parents.

In evaluating the proposed home education alternative plan, recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools and his/her designated administrators and teaching staff shall be considered of the highest importance.

Parent will indicate their willingness to permit the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee to observe and evaluate instruction pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 1.

REVIEW

The Superintendent of Schools shall, on an annual basis, review the effectiveness of the Home Education Program. Included in the review will be an assessment of pupil growth and a recommendation for suggested changes. The Superintendent retains the discretion to require review more often annually if in his/her opinion the child is deprived of an education appropriate to the child's abilities. The annual review shall be the occasion for the parent or legal guardian to submit an updated program for the ensuing school year. The School Committee will act upon the updated review no later than forty-five (45) calendar days of the submission of the review.

PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A Student being educated through an approved home education plan shall be allowed to participate in public school activities of an extra-curricular nature. Home-educated students participating in extra-curricular activities are subject to the same participation fees, state and local regulations, and district policies and procedures as enrolled students.

REFERENCES:

Massachusetts Law, Chapter 76, Section 1
Perchembeles vs. Frizzle, Superior Court
Hampshire County, 1978

In Care and Protection of Charles & Others,
Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court,
March, 1987

New Life Baptist Church vs. Longmeadow,
U.S. District Court, July, 1987
Approved: 09 Sept. 1985

Johnson v. Charles City Community Schools Bd. of Education (1985)

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Rules and Regulations Governing
Athletics

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