

Instruction**Home Instruction****Statutory Authority**

Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes describes the duties of parents for educating their children. It requires that each parent or person having control of a child age five to sixteen (inclusive) shall cause such children "...to attend a public day school regularly..." However, Section 10-184 allows the parent or person having control of such child to educate the child in other than the public schools if they are "...able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools."

The State Board of Education and the Sterling Board of Education acknowledge the right of parents to instruct their children at home as an alternative to public school attendance.

The Board of Education will establish procedures to safeguard the rights of parents and students, to ensure compliance with state statutes, and to determine if the child is receiving instruction equivalent to that offered in the public school.

Procedures

- A. Prior to the start of the school year, using enumeration cards and other records, the Superintendent will contact all parents of students who are being home-schooled and send them the "notice of intent" (#6172.3, Appendix A) form.
- B. Parents should file with the Superintendent of Schools the notice of intent form (#6172.3, Appendix A) which provides basic information about the program to be provided to their child. A notice of intent will be valid for up to one school year.
- C. Filing should occur within ten days of the start of the home instruction program.
- D. The school district will receive the notice of intent, the Superintendent will check it for completeness, and the form will be retained as part of the district's permanent records. A complete form will be one which provides basic program information including name of teacher, subjects to be taught, number of days of instruction, and the teacher's methods of assessment.
- E. A parent, by filing a notice of intent, acknowledges full responsibility for the education of their child in accordance with the requirements of state law. Receipt of a notice of intent in no way constitutes approval by a school district of the content or effectiveness of a program of home instruction.
- F. An annual portfolio review may be held during the fourth marking period with the parents, school officials, and whenever possible, the appropriate grade level teacher, to determine if instruction in the required courses has been given. Parents will have the option of bringing their child(ren) to the review.
- G. A school district should not accept nor require a notice of intent for any child younger than five years or older than eighteen years.
- H. The school district shall record the number of students instructed at home on the appropriate form issued by the State Department of Education.

**Participation in SMS Classes during the Regular School Day, Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities
Inter-Scholastic Sports**

The participation of home-schooled students in classes during the regular school day, field trips, extra-curricular activities, and inter-scholastic sports will not be allowed.

Entry or Re-entry into the Public School System

Re-entry of the child into the public school system will be after completion of an appropriate grade level re-entry assessment to assure proper grade placement. This assessment may be oral and/or written and will be compiled by the appropriate grade level teacher(s).

Upon review of the assessment by the classroom teacher(s) and administration, on behalf of the Board of

Education, the child will be assigned to the appropriate grade level. Recommendations from previous teachers and/or specific student educational plans will be included in the decision, in conjunction with Board policy.

The assessment will be retained as part of the district's permanent records.

Special Education Services

The Board of Education is not required, nor shall it provide special education programs or related services for any child whose parent or guardian has chosen to educate such child at home. The Board will provide evaluation and consultative services in development of the IEP, where appropriate, limited to the per pupil expenditure "same average amount" as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-184](#) Duties of parents.

[10-184a](#) Special education programs not required for children in home or private schools

[10-220](#) Duties of Boards of Education.

Policy adopted: August 15, 2006