

611 - HOMESCHOOLING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and provide guidelines in accordance with state law for parents who wish to have their children receive education in a homeschool that is an alternative to an accredited public or private school.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Compulsory Instruction law (Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22) provides that the parent or guardian of the child is primarily responsible for assuring that the child acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship.

III. CONDITIONS FOR HOMESCHOOLING

The person in charge of a homeschool and the district must meet the requirements specified in Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22.

IV. IMMUNIZATIONS

The parent or guardian of a homeschooled child shall submit statements as required by Minnesota Statutes section 121A.15, subs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 12 on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form, to the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides by October 1 of the first year of homeschooling in Minnesota and the Grade 7 year.

V. ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

Each year, the performance of each child who is not enrolled in either a public school or an accredited nonpublic school must be assessed using a nationally norm-referenced standardized achievement test. If this test does not assess all the statutorily required subject areas, the parent(s) must assess the student's performance in those subject areas. If the results of the assessments indicate that the child's performance on the total battery score is at or below the 30th national percentile or one grade level below the performance level for children of the same age, the parent will obtain additional evaluation of the child's abilities and performance for the purpose of determining whether the child is in need of instructional support.

VI. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, STANDARD TESTS

Upon formal request by October 1 of each year, as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks, individualized instructional or cooperative learning materials, software or other educational technology and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a homeschooled child as provided under state law. The school district is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to state law for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the district will, at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, make the electronic component accessible to a resident student provided that the school district does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

VII. PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES

Upon formal request by October 1 each year, as required by law, the school district will provide pupil support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a homeschooled child as provided under state law. The school district is not required to expend an amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to state law.

VIII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Resident students who receive instruction in a homeschool (in which five or fewer students receive instruction) may fully participate in extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis as other public school students.

IX. SHARED TIME PROGRAM

Enrollment in class offerings of the school district as detailed in Policy 537 (Shared Time).

- A. A homeschooled child who is a resident of the school district may enroll in classes in the school district as a shared time pupil on the same basis as other nonpublic school students. The provisions of this policy shall not be determinative of whether the school district allows the enrollment of any pupils on a shared-time basis.
- B. The school district may limit enrollment of shared-time pupils in such classes based on the capacity of a program, class, grade level or school building. The school board and administration retain sole discretion and control over scheduling of all classes and assignment of shared time pupils to classes.

X. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Activities

1. Minnesota State High School League-sponsored activities (in which six or more students receive instruction in the homeschool or the homeschool students are not residents of the district).

A homeschool that is a member of the Minnesota State High School League may request that the school district enter into a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as provided in Minnesota State High School League Bylaws. The approval of such an arrangement shall be at the discretion of the school board.

- a. The homeschool must become a member of the Minnesota State High School League in accordance with the rules of the Minnesota State High School League.
 - b. The homeschool is solely responsible for any costs or fees associated with its application for and/or subsequent membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
 - c. The homeschool is responsible for any and all costs associated with its participation in a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as well as any school district activity fees associated with the Minnesota State High School League activity.
2. Non-Minnesota State High School League activities in which six or more students receive instruction in the homeschool.

A homeschooled child may participate in non-Minnesota State High School League activities offered by the school district upon application and approval from the school board to participate in the activity and the payment of any activity fees associated with the activity. However, homeschool students may not be charged higher activity fees than other public school students. An approval shall be granted at the discretion of the school board.

B. Transportation Services

1. The school district may provide nonpublic nonregular transportation services to a homeschooled child.
2. The school board of the school district retains sole discretion and control and management of scheduling routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of

school children and any other matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School Children)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks; Individual Instruction or Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (Extracurricular Activities; Insurance)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.86 (Equal Treatment – Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 (Nonpublic Schools)

Cross References:

Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
Policy 655 (Student Activities)
Policy 537 (Shared Time)

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