

DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT	POLICY CODE: IHBG
DATE OF ADOPTION:	

**SECOND READING**

**HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION**

**Eligibility:**

The Board recognizes that RSA 193-A provides the legal right for parents to pursue home education within the requirements of enrollment and evaluation set by the New Hampshire State Department of Education (NHDOE).

It is the policy of the Board to work together with parents who desire to use the School District as their home education participating agency, or who desire to utilize the school district for annual evaluation purposes, with the goal of achieving maximum educational success for each home-educated child. *No Superintendent, School Board, school principal, or other school district official shall propose, adopt, or enforce any policy or procedure governing home educated pupils that is inconsistent with or more restrictive than the provisions of this chapter and any rules adopted pursuant to RSA 193-A:3.*

**Enrollment Procedures:**

~~Any parent commencing a home education program for a child who withdraws from the School District shall notify the New Hampshire Department of Education, the Superintendent, or a non-public school within five (5) business days of commencement of the home education program.~~ *Any parent commencing a home education program for a child, for a child who withdraws from a public school, or for a child who moves into a school district shall notify the Commissioner of the Department of Education, resident district superintendent, or principal of a nonpublic school of such within 5 business days of commencing the program. Such notification shall include the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children who are participating in the home education program. If such notice is provided to the Superintendent, s/he shall acknowledge receipt of notification within fourteen (14) days.*

~~A parent planning to continue a home education program after the commencement of such a program shall notify the Department of Education or Superintendent by the first day of each school year of the parents' intent to continue the program.~~

~~The Superintendent shall assist parents in making such notification and in complying with applicable statutory requirements.~~ *Once a parent has provided written notification of intent to home educate a child to the participating agency the notification of intent status remains unless otherwise notified by the parent. Notification of intent to home educate does not need to be provided each school year to the participating agency.*

Conventional attendance policies of the District and State Law apply to all students within the District until the Commissioner of Education, the Superintendent, or a non-public school principal acknowledge the establishment of a home education program, or immediately apply upon the termination of any home education program so acknowledged.

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## Evaluation Procedures

~~1. Parents must maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program and must provide for an annual evaluation documenting the child's demonstration of education progress at a level commensurate with the child's age and ability, in accordance with RSA 193-A and ED 315.~~

*I. The parent shall maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program. The portfolio shall consist of a log which designates by title the reading materials used, and also samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the child. Such portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years from the date of the ending of the instruction.*

~~2. Parents electing to request the school district's participation in the annual evaluation must make arrangements to do so with the District's Home Schooling Coordinator, Ms. Jean Briggs, at least 30 days prior to the end of the public school year. Arrangements for the district's participation will be at the discretion of the building principal based upon the availability of necessary resources. Parents are responsible for making arrangements for formal assessments administered by the school 45 days prior to their student's participation.~~

~~3. In cases where the school district does not participate in the annual evaluation, parents are responsible for filing the results of the outside evaluation with the Superintendent's office by July 1 — ED 315.07(g) and (h).~~

~~4. Within 21 days of receiving the annual evaluation data, the Superintendent shall review the results of the annual evaluation of the child. If the child does not demonstrate educational progress for age and ability at a level commensurate with his ability, the Superintendent will notify the parents, in writing, in compliance with ED 315.08 and .09.~~

*II. The parent shall provide for an annual educational evaluation in which is documented the child's demonstration of educational progress at a level commensurate with the child's age and ability. The child shall be deemed to have successfully completed his annual evaluation upon meeting the requirements of any one of the following:*

*(a) A certified teacher or a teacher currently teaching in a nonpublic school who is selected by the parent shall evaluate the child's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the parent or child;*

*(b) The child shall take any national student achievement test, administered by a person who meets the qualifications established by the provider or publisher of the test. Composite results at or above the fortieth percentile on such tests shall be deemed reasonable academic proficiency;*

*(c) The child shall take a state student assessment test used by the resident district. Composite results at or above the fortieth percentile on such state test shall be deemed reasonable academic proficiency; or*

*(d) The child shall be evaluated using any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent and the commissioner of education, resident district superintendent, or nonpublic school principal.*

*III. The parent shall maintain a copy of the evaluation. The results of the evaluation:*

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- (a) May be used to demonstrate the child's academic proficiency in order to participate in public school programs, and co-curricular activities which are defined as school district-sponsored and directed athletics, fine arts, and academic activities. Home educated students shall be subject to the same participation policy and eligibility conditions as apply to public school students.*
- (b) Shall not be used as a basis for termination of a home education program.*
- (c) Provides a basis for a constructive relationship between the parent and the evaluator, both working together in the best interest of the child.*

*While the evaluation must be done each year, it does not have to be shared with the participating agency on an annual basis. It is now used only for the parent's information and to be kept as a record of progress of the student.*

### **Re-enrollment into the District Program**

1. Parents deciding to re-enroll their children into the school district program following a period of home education will make arrangements with the building principal to provide for an evaluation process to determine appropriate placement in the school's program. Placements will be consistent with the School Board policy governing student placements, and are subject to the same appeal process.
2. Parents are responsible to remain aware of the scope and sequence of the District curriculum and for aligning their home education program in ways that may eliminate conflicts to appropriate placements.
3. Parents must notify the Commissioner of Education and the resident district Superintendent or non-public school principal within 15 days of the termination of the home education program and shall promptly enroll their children with the District in a State of NH approved private school.

### **Graduation/Diplomas**

No certificates or diplomas will be awarded to home-educated students by the School Board. Students must enter the regular school program and complete all necessary graduation requirements to be eligible for a diploma from any district high school.

### **Legal Reference:**

- RSA 193-A, Home Education
- RSA 193-A:5, I; Notification and Other Procedural Requirements
- RSA 193-A:6; Home Education; Records; Evaluation
- RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil
- RSA 193:1-a, Dual Enrollment
- RSA 193:1-c, Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic or Home Educated Pupils
- NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 315, Procedures for the Operation of Home Education Programs
- See also School Board Policy IHBG-R