

HOMESCHOOLING

The Massachusetts General Laws require the school district to determine that a Homeschooling program is equal to public schooling “in thoroughness and efficiency and the progress made therein” prior to approving such a program.

When a parent/guardian of a child between the ages of 6 and 16 wishes to establish a home-based educational program, the procedures set forth below must be followed:

Prior to removing the child from public school;

The parent/guardian must submit written notification of establishment of the home-based program to the appropriate administrator 14 days before the program is established, and resubmit notification on an annual basis as long as the child or children are being educated in a home-based environment.

The following must be included with the notice:

1. The name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child in the home program.
2. Information about the academic or other qualifications of the individuals who will be teaching the children.
3. The proposed curriculum and the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects.
4. Names and description of textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aides to be used by the children. The administrator may request access to such materials if necessary to assess the level of instruction in comparison to curriculum of the public schools.
5. Proposed method of assessing each child’s progress, to include periodic testing or, in the alternative, an agreed upon form of evaluation.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the district may participate in after-school athletics, clubs, and any other optional activities, subject to the same enrollment and behavioral criteria as other students. Any student who participates in athletics through the public schools is required to provide requested records of health and immunization and to purchase accident insurance.

Students in a home-based program are not able to participate in academic or enrichment activities scheduled to occur within the regular school day.

LEGAL REFS: (M.G.L. 69:1D; 76:1)

Care and Protection of Charles, Supreme Judicial Court 399 Mass. 324(1987)

Approved: November 3, 2016
Reviewed:
Revised:

Date Received _____

CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education
Academic Year _____

Instructions: Please complete this form, a separate one for each child to be home schooled. Attach any additional information, and forward it to the Superintendent of Schools, Canton Public Schools, 960 Washington St., Canton MA 02021, prior to the starting date of the home education program. Expect a response to this from the Superintendent (or designee) within ten days. If this process is initiated during the school year, the student must remain in school until the school district and the parents agree jointly to the home education plan.

A. Parent name _____
Address _____
Phone (daytime) _____ (evening) _____
Student _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

B. On a separate sheet, describe the instructional program to be taught, including subjects and instructional aids to be used.

C. Academic background, life experiences and/or qualifications of those who will be instructing the child, as they relate to the instructional program described in section B.

D. Check the method of assessment to be used, followed by a brief description.

- Daily logs, journals, progress reports, portfolios or dated work samples
- An independent report made by someone acceptable to both Superintendent (or designee) and parent(s) or guardian(s)
- Standardized test results (testing to be paid for by parent(s) or guardian(s))
- Consultation with the principal(s) of the school(s) which the child(ren) would have otherwise attended

The following signature confirms the intent to provide a home education plan which equals at least the current number of hours required by the Department of Education for schooling at the grade level the student would otherwise attend (900 hours for the equivalent of Grades 1-5; 900 to 990 hours for the equivalent of Grades 6-8; 990 hours for the equivalent of Grades 9-12).

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

Date Submitted

The signature of the Superintendent (or designee) indicates final approval of this plan.

Signature of Superintendent (or designee)

Date of Response

Attached to this application is a packet that includes the following materials:

Canton School District Home Education Policy
School addresses/telephone numbers to contact for information about ongoing opportunities for participation within the school

Failure of a home educator to abide in good faith by the procedures outlined above may result in the School Committee taking action under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, sections 2 and/or 4, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. CHINS proceedings pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 119, section 21, will not be invoked for any child pursuing a home education program.
REF: M.G.L. Chapter 76, Sections 1, 2 and 4 – Charles Decision