

New Salem/Wendell School Committee

HOME SCHOOLING

The School Committee recognizes the right of parents and guardians to educate their child(ren) at home. The School Committee appreciates the personal and cultural uniqueness of each family and desires to ensure that the process by which school officials approve and review home education programs is both lawful and equitable. Therefore, the School Committee establishes this home education policy.

1. Requirements for approval of home instruction will include:
 - a. The parent or legal guardian must request permission to hold home instruction on an annual basis.
 - b. The Home Education and Approval form will be provided to the parents or legal guardians for their child(ren). This form must be completed and returned to the Superintendent before approval may be granted.
 - c. The Committee delegates the review of home instruction to the Superintendent for an initial decision regarding the appropriateness of the plan. The recommendation is presented to the Committee for a final decision.
2. Home Education programs shall be considered in an equitable, objective, and timely manner. Factors that may be considered by the Superintendent or School Committee in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal are:
 - a. Home educators need not be certified teachers nor have any diplomas or degrees. However, the academic background, life experiences and/or other qualities of those who will be instructing the child(ren) will be crucial criteria in determining the appropriateness of the home school application.
 - b. An overview of the educational program that is to include subjects and instructional materials. In order to meet the specific educational needs of their child(ren), the parent(s) or guardian(s) may adjust the material to achieve the goals of the educational program without further notification to the Superintendent's Office.
 - c. A statement concerning the length of the school year and the instructional hours that will be followed.
3. A mutually agreeable method of assessment which corresponds to the type of educational program being followed and must include one of the following:
 - a. Daily logs, journals, or progress reports. These should include portfolio materials or dated work samples. At least three (3) work sample representative of progress made throughout the year are needed for math and English language arts.
 - b. An independent report made by someone acceptable to both Superintendent and parent(s) or guardian(s);
 - c. Standardized test results;
 - d. Consultation with the Superintendent or school principal;

- e. Any other method agreed to by both Superintendent and home educator(s).
5. A student being educated in a home-based program within the district shall be informed of, and have access to, public school activities of an extra-curricular nature. They will have access to math, ELA, science and social studies classes. Arrangements for such participation are to be in accordance with the generally accepted scheduling procedures of the school and requires a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours notice by the family, prior to program attendance. **Children participating in any school related activities must meet all health related requirements regarding immunizations and the submission of necessary emergency forms.** Commitment to regular attendance is expected if the student/family decides to participate in any school related activity. Participation is determined by the Principal in consultation with the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.
- Whenever possible, if requested by the parent(s) or guardians(s), home school students may be granted opportunities to use the computer lab or school library. Use of these school facilities by a home school student must not conflict with scheduled classes. Consultation with the school principal as to the schedule is required.
- Administrators are encouraged to give all due assistance to home education families in their efforts to provide appropriate information concerning their home education program. Parent(s) or guardian(s) are entitled to all due process rights with regard to this policy and with regard to any procedures followed and actions taken, and will be given an opportunity to revise their proposal to remedy any inadequacies. During any resolution process, the parent(s) or guardian(s) **must continue the education of their children at home or at SRS.** In the case where this is the initial application, the parent(s) or guardian(s) may provide educational services during the appeal process. The Superintendent will work with the parent(s) or guardian(s) to expeditiously resolve the matter.
6. The Committee will act in a responsible, cooperative manner to ensure that all children in the School District receive competent, adequate instruction. This concern includes children in home education. If the Committee determines that a home instruction situation is inadequate, a conference between the parents or legal guardian and the Superintendent will be scheduled to find mutually acceptable ways to correct any deficiency.
7. If deficiencies in a home education situation are not corrected or the proper annual application or summary is not completed by the parents or legal guardian, appropriate actions will be taken by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent has the responsibility for the development of the procedures and forms necessary for the implementation of this policy.

First Reading: 12-04-14
Second Reading, First Vote:
Final Vote: 02-05-15