

**HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION &
ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS BY NONPUBLIC,
PUBLIC CHARTERED SCHOOLS OR HOME EDUCATED PUPILS**

Eligibility:

The Board recognizes that RSA 193:1, I(b) permits resident parents to meet their duty to ensure their child is educated by pursuing home education in accordance with RSA 193-A and the regulations set by the New Hampshire State Department of Education (NHDOE).

The District Superintendent shall be available to serve as a participating agency with parents who reside in the district and implement a home education program. Ed 315.02(i) defines participating agency as the resident district superintendent, the Commissioner of Education, or non-public school principal.

Parents are reminded that a home education program is generally provided by the parent unless the participating agency and parents have agreed to another provider.

Home School Enrollment and Termination Procedures:

Any parent commencing a home education program for a child who withdraws from the school district shall notify the Superintendent within five (5) business days of commencement of the home education 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, she/he shall acknowledge receipt of notification within fourteen (14) days. Annual notification of intent to home educate is not required.

In the event a parent terminates their child's home education program, and the Superintendent is the participating agency, written notice of termination of the program shall be filed by the parent in accordance with NH RSA 193-A:3. If a termination notice is provided to the Superintendent she/he shall acknowledge receipt of a properly completed notice within 14 days.

The Superintendent and his/her office shall assist the parents in complying with these notice provisions, and shall notify them of any defect in the notice in accordance with the applicable state regulations.

Unless a student is otherwise exempt, the compulsory 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, and shall immediately apply upon the termination of any home education program so acknowledged.

Evaluation Procedures:

State law requires that parents shall 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. Parents are responsible for choosing a lawfully appropriate method of evaluation in accord with RSA 193-A:6.

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Parents for whom the Superintendent is the participating agency who elect to have their child take a state student assessment test used by the school district shall make arrangements to do so with the appropriate building administrator and are responsible whenever possible for coordinating their child's assessment with the District's assessment schedule.

When the Superintendent serves as the participating agency she/he is authorized to mutually agree with the parents as to an alternative, valid measurement of student progress.

Re-enrollment Into the School District:

Parents deciding to re-enroll their children into the school district following a period of home education will make arrangements with the building principal for an evaluation 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.

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 placement.

Promotion:

Students participating in a home education program are not considered public school students. No promotion certificates will be awarded to home educated students by the School Board. Students must enter the regular school program and complete all necessary promotion requirements to be eligible for a promotion certificate.

Home educated New Boston students that seek to re-enroll must comply with all State of New Hampshire laws, all District policies, and all rules and regulations of New Boston Central School. In order to obtain a promotion certificate, the District shall determine whether the student meets the District's criteria for promotion and shall only issue a certificate upon demonstration of such by the home educated student's parents.

Participation in School and Co-Curricular Activities:

Home educated students shall have access to the curricular courses and co-curricular programs offered by the school district. Any home educated student who participates in district curricular programs shall not do such to the exclusion of their home education program.

The District reserves the right to require full enrollment in the public school in the event the parent is no longer providing any home education, and is relying solely on the District to provide curricular programming.

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Participation of home education students in district programs and activities are subject in the following conditions.

1. Home education students must supply to the school proof of their residence in the district and their home school enrollment.
2. All requests by a home educated student to participate in an educational program or interscholastic activities shall be made in writing by the parent, in duplicate to the Principal and to the Superintendent.
3. All students are subject to the same age, performance, and pre-requisite standards for admission to grade level classes and co-curricular activities.
4. In accordance with RSA 193-A:6, III(a), the student's annual evaluation may be used to demonstrate the child's academic proficiency in order to participate in public school programs, and co-curricular activities. Final determination of a student's qualifications to enroll in a grade level class will be made by the building principal.
5. Participation in extra-curricular programs and activities will be in compliance with the school's eligibility requirements.
6. All home educated students participating in an educational program or extra-curricular program activities are subject to the same standards and code of conduct as any other participants in New Boston School District programs. Students must follow all applicable rules, policies and procedures, specifically including requirements of immunization. During his or her period of participation in school activities, parents of home educated students shall execute standard waivers and permissions and shall be subject to the rules, regulations and notices as are in effect for all children and parents.
7. The New Boston School District reserves the right to terminate the participation of a home educated student in educational programs at any time for the reasons set forth below. An appeal by a parent under this paragraph shall be handled in the same fashion as an original request for participation. As in that matter, the decision of the New Boston School Board shall be final.
 - i. Failure of the home educated student to abide by all applicable rules and regulations, including all rules of student conduct.
 - ii. Failure of the home educated student to participate in scheduled activities, or significant absences of the home educated student.
 - iii. Failure of a home educated student or parent to abide by the provisions of this policy set forth herein.

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8. It may be neither practical nor feasible for home educated students to participate in special programs that have unclear or flexible schedules. The parents of home educated students must take the initiative to check with the school on the scheduling of events and possible changes that may occur.
9. Neither the New Boston School District, nor any of its agents or employees, including staff members, are responsible to notify the home educated student or his/her parents of any changes in schedule affecting the student. It is the responsibility of the home educated student and his/her parents to inquire concerning schedules. However, such agents or employees are not precluded from making such notifications.
10. The New Boston School District shall cause, at the request of a parent, the parent to be placed on the mailing list for any applicable school to receive such notices as are ordinarily distributed either by the mail or through students.
11. The New Boston School District shall not be responsible for providing transportation for any home educated student unless such can be done at no additional cost to the New Boston School District and without undue administrative burden to the New Boston School District.
12. Requests for the use of the information center, audio-visual materials, and the like to support the student's participation in District programs shall ordinarily be granted in the absence of substantial reasons to the contrary.
13. Counseling, psychological services, guidance services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and other special services are not considered curricular or co-curricular in nature. Accordingly, requests for such services shall generally be denied.
14. Social activities, such as school dances, are not considered curricular or co-curricular in nature. Participation will be determined in accordance with the school's guest policies or practices.

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Legal References:

RSA 193-A, Home Education

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. 315.01-315.19, Procedures for the Operation of Home Education Programs

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