

SECTION 500 – EDUCATION SERVICES

HOME-BASED SCHOOLING

POLICY 590

ARTICLE 1 AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL

- A. Colorado law permits home schooling of students with minimum state controls. When parents choose to home school, the program must be offered in accordance with law:
1. The program shall include no less than one hundred seventy-two days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day.
 2. The program must include reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States.
 3. Any student who has been declared habitually truant at any time during the last six months of attending a public school before the proposed enrollment in a home-based educational program may not be enrolled unless the parent/guardian first submits a written description of the curricula to be used along with required written notification to the District.

ARTICLE 2 HOME-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- A. The parent must provide written notification of the establishment of said program to the District, fourteen days prior to the establishment of said program and each year thereafter. The parent in charge and in control of the home-based program shall certify in writing only a statement containing the name, age, place or residence and number of hours of attendance of each child enrolled in said program.
- B. Each child participating in a home-based educational program shall be evaluated when such child reaches grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven. Each child shall be given a nationally standardized achievement test to evaluate the child's academic progress, or a qualified person shall evaluate the child's academic progress. The test or evaluation results shall be submitted to the School District or to an independent or parochial school within the state of Colorado. If results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, said school shall notify the School District of test results.
1. If the child's composite score on the nationally standardized achievement test is above the thirteenth percentile, the child shall continue to be exempt from compulsory school attendance.
 2. If the score is below the thirteenth percentile, the District shall require the parent to place the child in a public, independent or parochial school until the next testing period, except that no action shall be taken until the child is given the opportunity to be retested using an alternate version of the same test or a different nationally standardized achievement test selected by the parent from a list of tests approved by the State Board of Education.

References:

- C.R.S. 22-7-409 (1.2)(d)(i)(C)(III) Home school students not required to take state assessments.
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 Home-based Education
C.R.S. 22-33-107 Compulsory attendance law
C.R.S. 22-32-116.5 (2) Extra-curricular and interscholastic activities

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3. If evaluation results show that the child is making sufficient academic progress according to the child's ability, the child may continue to be exempt from compulsory school attendance. If progress is not sufficient, the District shall require the child's parents to place the child in a public, independent, or parochial school until the next testing period.
- C. Students in a home-based educational program shall not be required to take state assessments.
- D. The records of each child participating in a home-based educational program shall be maintained on a permanent basis by the parent in charge and in control of such program. The records shall include attendance data, test and evaluation results, and immunization records. Such records shall be produced to the School District upon fourteen days written notice if the Superintendent has probable cause to believe that said program is not in compliance with home-based education law.
- E. Any child who has participated in a home-based educational program and who subsequently enrolls in the public school system may be tested by the School District for the purpose of placing the child in the proper grade level with the consent of the parent. The School District shall accept the transcripts for credit from the home-based program, except that the District may reject such transcripts if testing does not verify the accuracy of such transcripts.
- F. Any child participating in a home-based educational program shall have the same rights as a student enrolled in a District school to participate on an equal basis in any extracurricular or interscholastic activity offered by the school or District.

ARTICLE 3 COUNTS

- A. Students participating in a home-based educational program who also attend a District school for a portion of the time may be counted (part-time) for purposes of determining enrollment for funding. Participation in the extra-curricular program of the school or District may not be counted for funding purposes.

References:

C.R.S. 22-7-409 (1.2)(d)(i)(C)(III) Home school students not required to take state assessments.
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 Home-based Education
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