

## HOME SCHOOLING

The Massachusetts General Law requires the Quabbin Regional School District to determine that a Home Schooling program meet with the minimum standards established for public schools in the Commonwealth prior to approving such a program.

When a parent or guardian of a student below the age of 16 wants to establish a home-based educational program for his/her child, the following procedures shall be followed in accordance with the law:

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 parent/guardian must certify in writing, on a form provided by the District, the name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child in the program.

The Superintendent shall give the notice to produce records required by law if there is probable cause to believe the program is not in compliance with the law. Factors to be considered by the Superintendent or School Committee in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal may be:

1. The proposed curriculum and the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects.
2. The competency of the parents to teach the children,
3. The textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aids to be used by the children and the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents.
4. Periodic standardized testing of the children to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the District may have access to public school activities of either a curricular or extracurricular nature upon approval of the Superintendent.

A student, with the approval of the School Committee, may be awarded a high school diploma if he/she or she has satisfied the Department of Education's competency requirements and has met the District's educational standards for graduation.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 69:1D; 76:1, Care and Protection of Charles  
Care and Protections of Charles - MASS. Supreme Judicial Court 399 Mass. 324  
(1987)

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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. A home instruction application form will be provided to the parents or legal guardian. This form must be completed and returned to the Superintendent before approval may be granted.
    - c. The Committee delegates the approval of home instruction to the Superintendent. Any approval or rejection of an application by the Superintendent is subject to review by the Committee.
  2. Children in home instruction may, at the discretion of parents or guardian, attend the public schools on a part-time basis. It may be an advantage for a home-taught child to attend specialized classes in the public school.
  3. Parents or a legal guardian in charge of home instruction should make provision for regular testing or use of other indicators of student progress such as standardized achievement tests. As an alternative to home testing and at the request of those in charge of the home instruction, the School District will make provision for inclusion of home-taught children in the annual achievement test battery, which is usually administered in February or March of each school year. The home instruction summary form must include either a summary of home testing results for each required subject for each child or the results of the achievement test that is administered through the School District.
  4. Auditing functions of the Committee for the home instruction will include:
    - a. The Committee at any time may request a review by the Superintendent of the attendance rolls, records of test scores or other achievement indicators in each required subject for any child in home instruction.
    - b. The Committee may request at any time that the Superintendent review the instructional materials and methods used by the person(s) responsible for the home instruction.
    - c. The Superintendent will prepare for the Committee an annual summary of the children included in home instruction. This report will also summarize, in general, the appropriateness or possible deficiencies of home education situations.
1. Within one week of the ending date of the home instruction, as indicated on the home instruction application form, the School District will mail the parents or legal guardian a home instruction summary form. The completed form should be returned to the School District within 30 days. This summary form must be returned to the School District office before annual approval of home instruction can be made for any succeeding years.
  2. The Committee will act in a reasonable, cooperative manner to ensure that all children in the Quabbin Regional 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.

3. 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, an appropriate referral will be made.

MIAA  
HOME EDUCATED STUDENTS  
5/8/95

Home Educated Students:  
Requirements for Participation in Interscholastic Athletic Programs

The MIAA will permit a home-educated student to participate in interscholastic athletics if the following conditions are met:

1. The local School Committee of a MIAA public school member institution has adopted a policy regarding participation of Home Educated students on the high school teams.
2. The local building administrator has indicated such on the annual MIAA membership form and included all home schoolers in the annual MIAA enrollment report.
3. The Educational Plan for the home-educated student has been approved by the public school superintendent or his/her designee.
4. The building-level administrator has determined appropriate high school grade level placement (9-12) for each home educated student in conjunction with chronological age, and educational plan.
5. The student resides in the school district that serves the high school and must be living with his/her parents or legal guardians in the family residence. In multiple school districts, a home-educated student must be assigned to the school of record in the same manner as other students.
6. The building-level administrator is satisfied that the student meets the guidelines for athletic participation required for all other students as defined in the current Blue Book. This should include, but not be limited to, those rules governing transfers, academic eligibility, age requirements, and the number of consecutive seasons of athletic eligibility beyond grade eight.
7. MIAA requirements relative to academic eligibility must be reviewed by the building-level administrator at the same times that all other student athletes are to be certified as academically eligible.
8. If the building-level administrator determines that all eligibility standards detailed above have been met, the building-level administrator may declare the student immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic competition. The rights, privileges, and responsibilities associated with all other student athletes attending MIAA member schools will apply to home educated students who have satisfied the requirements above.