

MORRISVILLE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOME SCHOOLING

ADOPTED: 4/25/07

REVISED: 9/24/08

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authority SC 1327, 1327.1 Title 22 Sec. 11.31a 2. Delegation of Responsibility SC 1327 3. Definitions SC 1327.1 4. Guidelines 	<p style="text-align: center;">137. HOME SCHOOLING</p> <p>The Board recognizes that parents have a legal right to provide home schooling for their children. Such programs must meet educational requirements established by the Department of Education and the district.</p> <p>The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring that the educational program is being delivered to the student in compliance with law, and this policy. The following guidelines are established for home schooling.</p> <p>Home Education Program - a program conducted in compliance with law by the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child. A home education program shall not be considered a nonpublic school under the provisions of law.</p> <p>Supervisor - the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child who is responsible for providing instruction, provided that such person has a high school diploma or its equivalent.</p> <p>Hearing Examiner - shall not be an officer, employee or agent of the Department of Education or of the school district or intermediate unit of residence of the child in the home education program.</p> <p>Appropriate Education - a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required by law and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.</p> <p><u>Educational Requirements</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Elementary and Secondary Grades (1-12)</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The child/children shall receive an appropriate education which shall mean a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required in this policy and, in which, the student demonstrates
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<p>SC 1327</p>	<p>sustained progress in the overall program. This program shall be conducted by the parent or guardian or such person having legal custody of the child or children.</p> <p>2. <u>Students With A Disability</u></p> <p>a. A home education program shall meet compulsory attendance requirements for a student with a disability only when the program addresses the specific needs of the student and is approved by a teacher with a valid education certificate from the Commonwealth to teach special education, or a licensed clinical or certified school psychologist. Written notice of such approval must be submitted with the required affidavit.</p> <p>b. The supervisor may request that the school district or intermediate unit of the residence provide services that address the specific needs of a student with a disability. When the provision of services is agreed to by the supervisor and the school district or intermediate unit, all services shall be provided in the public schools or in a private school licensed to provide such programs and services.</p> <p>3. <u>Required Days/Hours</u></p> <p>a. A student who is enrolled in a home education program shall be deemed to have met the requirements if the program provides a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction, or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction per year at the elementary level, or nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year at the secondary level.</p> <p>4. <u>Curriculum</u></p> <p>a. At the elementary school level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires; health and physiology; physical education; music; and art.</p> <p>b. At the secondary school level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include language, literature, speech and composition; science; geography; social studies, to include civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; mathematics, to include general</p>
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<p>Title 22 Chapter 4</p> <p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p>mathematics, algebra and geometry; art; music; physical education; health; and safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires.</p> <p>Such courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor of the home education program, economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age-appropriate courses required by the State Board of Education.</p> <p>c. The following minimum courses in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) are established as a requirement for graduation in a home education program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Four (4) years of English.2) Three (3) years of mathematics.3) Three (3) years of science.4) Three (3) years of social studies.5) Two (2) years of art and humanities. <p>The school district is under no obligation to award a diploma or acknowledge completion of a student's education in a home education program.</p> <p>5. <u>Instructional Materials</u></p> <p>a. The district shall, at the request of the supervisor, lend to the home education program copies of the school's planned courses, textbooks, and other curriculum material appropriate to the student's age and grade level.</p> <p>6. <u>Requirements Of Supervisor</u></p> <p>a. In order to demonstrate that appropriate education is occurring, the supervisor of the home education program shall provide and maintain on file, documentation for each student enrolled in the home education program including, but not limited to, a portfolio of records, materials and tests, as required by Section 1327.1, which have been completed by the student.</p>
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<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p>7. <u>Evaluation Requirements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A teacher or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the elementary level or secondary level shall meet the requirements established in law. b. An annual written evaluation of the student's educational progress as determined by a licensed clinical or school psychologist, a teacher certified by the Commonwealth, or by a nonpublic school teacher or administrator is required. c. The evaluation shall also be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio and shall certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring. At the request of the supervisor, persons with other qualifications may conduct the evaluation with the prior consent of the district's Superintendent. In no event shall the evaluator be the supervisor or his/her spouse. d. If the Superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that, at any time during the school year, appropriate education may not be occurring in the home education program, s/he may require documentation pertaining to the portfolio to be submitted to the district by certified mail with return receipt requested within fifteen (15) days, and the evaluation to be submitted within thirty (30) days. e. If the Superintendent or designee determines, based on documentation, that appropriate education is not occurring, s/he shall send a letter to the supervisor stating that in his/her opinion appropriate education is not occurring in the home education program and shall return all documentation, specifying what aspect(s) of the documentation are inadequate. f. The supervisor of the program shall have twenty (20) days from receipt of the certified letter to submit additional documentation demonstrating that appropriate education is taking place. If documentation is not submitted within that time, the home education program shall be out of compliance; and the student shall be promptly enrolled in the public or a nonpublic school. <p>8. <u>Right Of Hearing</u></p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board shall provide a proper hearing by a duly qualified and impartial hearing examiner within thirty (30) days. The examiner shall render a decision within fifteen (15) days of the hearing, except that s/he may require

the establishment of a remedial education plan, mutually agreed to by the Superintendent and supervisor of the home education program, which shall continue the home education program. The decision of the examiner may be appealed by either the supervisor or the Superintendent to the Secretary of Education or Commonwealth Court.

- b. If the hearing examiner finds that the documentation does not indicate that appropriate education is taking place in the home education program, the home education program shall be out of compliance; and the student shall be promptly enrolled in a public or nonpublic school.

9. Health Services

- a. The student may participate in health service programs or other health-related services offered or sponsored by the district.

Request For Home Schooling

1. Parent Responsibility

- a. A notarized affidavit of the parent or guardian or other person having legal custody of the child or children must be filed prior to the commencement of the home education program and annually thereafter on August 1 with the district's Superintendent which sets forth:
 - 1) The name of the supervisor of the home education program who shall be responsible for the provision of instruction.
 - 2) The name and age of each child who shall participate in the home education program.
 - 3) The address and telephone number of the home education program site.
 - 4) That such subjects as required by law are offered in the English language.
 - 5) An outline of proposed education objectives by subject area.
 - 6) The child's immunization record or exemption card, and that the child has received the health and medical services required for students of the child's age or grade level.

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7) That the home education program shall comply with the provisions of this section and that the notarized affidavit shall be satisfactory evidence thereof.

b. The affidavit shall contain a certification to be signed by the supervisor that the supervisor, all adults living in the home and persons having legal custody of the child or children in the home education program, have not been convicted of criminal offenses within five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the affidavit.

Return To Regular Program

1. When a student leaves a home education program and requests placement in a regular school program, the level of placement will be based upon several evaluations of student progress. These evaluative measures may include, but are not limited to, achievement tests and other standardized tests, performance on school prepared exams and tests and evaluation of student's academic work by district personnel.
2. The district, through the Superintendent, maintains the right and authority to make all decisions pertaining to student placement.

Selective Home School Program

1. Students enrolled in a home education program, in compliance with Section 1327.1 of the School Code, are permitted to take one (1) course each semester in any district school. It is the opinion of the Board that such an opportunity can be beneficial to the student enrolled in the home school education program. Under no circumstances may a student enrolled in a home education program take more than one (1) course each semester in any district school.

Transfers

1. When a home education program is relocating to another school district, the supervisor is responsible to follow the requirements of law.

Credit and Graduation

1. The school district is under no obligation to award a diploma or acknowledge completion of a student's education in a home education program.