

HOME SCHOOLING

The Massachusetts General Laws require the School Committee 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 between ages 6-16 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 Superintendent 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 or designee 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 designee deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal may be:

1. The number of hours of instruction of the proposed curriculum;
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 teaching manuals to be used by the parents;
4. Periodic assessment of the children to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards.

5. Failure of a home educator to abide in good faith by the procedures outlined may result in the School Committee taking action under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, sections 2 and/or 4, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. CHINS proceedings pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 119, section 21, will not be invoked for any child involved in an approved home education program.

6. Home schoolers are not issued diplomas by the Harvard Public School District.

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 availability and approval of the Superintendent.

LEGAL REFS: Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court case entitled Care and Protection of Charles, 399 Mass. 324 (1987).

[M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 1](#)

Approved: