

***Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District
School Administrative Unit #63***

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Bryan K. Lane
Superintendent of Schools

Ned Pratt
Director of Student Support Services

Robert Mullin
Business Administrator

TO: The WLC School Board
FROM: Bryan Lane
DATE: 9/8/2020
RE: Policy IHBG- Home Education Instruction

My office received a complaint from Stephen Berwick, Ombudsmen, for the NH Department of Education. The complaint from an unnamed citizen was that the District's policy for Home School Instruction was not in compliance with RSA 193-A:5. The complaint is warranted.

The RSA was modified in 2012 to remove the requirement of an evaluation procedure for students choosing home schooling as their education plan. The District's policy was reviewed in 2013, but the modifications to the policy did not reflect the current state RSA. It is unclear to me why adjustments were not made but they were not.

In order to rectify this situation and satisfy the complaint, I am recommending the following motion:

Recommend a motion for the board to remove the section of policy IHBG labeled "Evaluation Procedures" in its' entirety in order to be in compliance with RSA 195 A:5 and to waive the second reading.

IHBG - HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION

Category: R

See also JEA, JG, JH

Eligibility

The Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board recognizes the right of parents to pursue home education within the parameters RSA 193-A and other applicable state laws and regulations.

Enrollment Procedures

Any parent commencing a home education program for a child who withdraws from the School District shall notify the New Hampshire Department of Education, the superintendent, or a non-public school within five (5) business days of commencing 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 notice is provided to the superintendent, he/she will acknowledge receipt of notification within fourteen (14) days.

State attendance laws and District attendance policies shall apply to all students within the District until the commissioner of education and the superintendent, of a non-public school receives notice from a student's parent/guardian of the commencement of a home education program, consistent with the requirements of RSA 193-A:5.

Evaluation Procedures

Consistent with HB 1571:

- Parents are required to keep a portfolio of student work. Such portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years from the date of ending instruction.
- Parents shall provide for an annual evaluation. A certified teacher or a teacher currently in a nonpublic school who is selected by the parent shall evaluate the child's education progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the parent or child.
- The child shall take any national student achievement test.
- The child shall take a state student assessment test used by the resident district.
- The child shall be evaluated using any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent and the commissioner of education, resident district superintendent or nonpublic school principal.
- The parent shall maintain a copy of the evaluation.

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 superintendent for an evaluation to determine appropriate placement in the District's program. Placements will be consistent with the School Board policy governing student placements (NHSBA Sample Policy JG) and are subject to the

same appeal process.

Parents should be attentive that when re-enrolling a student, there may be discrepancies between the home schooling level of achievement and the scope and sequence of the District's curriculum.

Graduation/Diplomas

The School Board will not award certificates or diplomas to home educated student. Students must enter the regular school program and complete all necessary graduation requirements of the District and the state to be eligible for a certificate or diploma.

Participation in School Curricular and Co-curricular Activities

Consistent with RSA 193:1-c, any regulations developed by the superintendent shall not be more restrictive for non-public or home educated pupils than they are for students enrolled in the District.

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, Procedures for the Operation of Home Education Programs

Appendix IHBG-R

Revised: April 2010

Reviewed: July 2004

Revised: July 2005, February 2006, May 2006, August 2006, September 2008

Original Adoption Date: Oct. 12, 2010

First Reading: October 26, 2011

Second Reading: November 8, 2011

Final Adoption: November 8, 2011

Reviewed: August 13, 2013

Revised: August 27, 2013

TITLE XV EDUCATION

CHAPTER 193-A HOME EDUCATION

Section 193-A:5

193-A:5 Notification and Other Procedural Requirements. –

A parent may provide home education to a child or children at home, subject to the following requirements:

- I. Any parent commencing a home education program for a child, for a child who withdraws from a public school, or for a child who moves into a school district shall notify the commissioner of the department of education, resident district superintendent, or principal of a nonpublic school of such within 5 business days of commencing the program.
- II. Notification made by the parent pursuant to paragraph I shall include a list of the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children who are participating in the home education program.
- III. Written notice of termination of a home education program shall be filed by the parent with the commissioner of education, and, in addition, the resident district superintendent or nonpublic school principal within 15 days of said termination.
- IV. The commissioner of education, resident district superintendent, or nonpublic school principal shall acknowledge receipt of notification within 14 days of such receipt.

Source. 1990, 279:3. 1996, 222:1. 2006, 13:2, 3. 2008, 344:1. 2012, 203:2, eff. Aug. 12, 2012; 227:1, eff. June 16, 2012.