

AVON GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOME EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

ADOPTED: AUGUST 24, 2006

REVISED:

<p>1. Authority SC 1327, 1327.1 Title 22 Sec. 11.31a</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1327.1</p> <p>3. Guidelines SC 1327.1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">137. HOME EDUCATION PROGRAMS</p> <p>Home education programs for students residing in the school district shall be conducted in accordance with state law and regulations.</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>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>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><u>Eligibility/Affidavits</u></p> <p>A notarized affidavit of the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of the child shall be filed prior to commencement of the home education program and annually thereafter on August 1 with the Superintendent. The affidavit shall set forth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name of the supervisor of the home education program who will be responsible for the provision of instruction. 2. The name and age of each child who will participate in the home education program.
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<p>Pol. 203, 209</p>	<p>3. The address and telephone number of the home education program site.</p> <p>4. That subjects required by law are offered in the English language, including an outline of proposed education objectives by subject area.</p> <p>5. Evidence that the child has been immunized and has received the health and medical services required for students of the child's age or grade level in accordance with the provisions of the School Code.</p>
<p>SC 111</p>	<p>6. Certification signed by the supervisor that the supervisor, all adults in the home and persons having legal custody of a child in the home education program have not been convicted of criminal offenses as enumerated in the School Code.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Transfers</u></p> <p>When a home education program is relocating to another school district, the supervisor is responsible to follow the requirements of law.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Program</u></p> <p>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>At the elementary 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>At the secondary 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 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>Title 22 Chapter 4</p>	<p>Courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor: economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age appropriate courses as contained in State Board of Education regulations.</p>

<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Requirements Of Supervisor</u></p> <p>In order to demonstrate that appropriate education is occurring, the supervisor shall provide and maintain on file for each student enrolled in the home education program a portfolio of records and materials.</p> <p>The portfolio shall consist of a log, made contemporaneously with the instruction, that designates by title the reading materials used; samples of any writings; worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the student; and in grades three, five and eight results of nationally normed standardized achievement tests in reading, language arts and mathematics or results of statewide tests administered in these grade levels.</p> <p>The supervisor shall ensure that the nationally normed standardized tests or the statewide tests are not administered by the child's parent/guardian.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Evaluation Requirements</u></p> <p>A teacher or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the elementary level or secondary level shall meet the requirements established in law.</p> <p>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 a nonpublic school teacher or administrator is required. 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 Superintendent. In no event shall the evaluator be the supervisor or his/her spouse.</p> <p>Documentation required by this policy shall be provided to the district Superintendent or designee at the conclusion of each school year. The Superintendent shall determine whether the child is receiving appropriate education, as defined in this policy and law, as a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.</p> <p>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.</p>

<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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> <p><u>Right Of Hearing</u></p> <p>The Board shall provide for 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Loan Of Instructional Materials</u></p> <p>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 materials appropriate to the student's age and grade level.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Graduation Requirements</u></p> <p>The following minimum courses in grades 9 through 12 are established as a requirement for graduation in a home education program: four (4) years of English; three (3) years of mathematics; three (3) years of science; three (3) years of social studies; two (2) years of arts and humanities. Home educated students will not receive an Avon Grove School District diploma.</p>

<p>SC 1327</p>	<p><u>Students With A Disability</u></p> <p>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>The supervisor may request that the school district or intermediate unit of residence provide services that address the specific needs of a student with a disability.</p> <p>When the provision of services is agreed to by both 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>SC 511, 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Participation In District Programs:</u></p> <p>A child who is enrolled in a home education program may participate in any activity that is subject to the provisions of section 511 of the School Code including, but not limited to, clubs, musical ensembles, athletics and theatrical productions, provided that the child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in Avon Grove School District;b. meets the try-out criteria, or their equivalent, for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in Avon Grove School District.c. complies with all policies, rules, guidelines and regulations of the School Board and Superintendent relating to the activity. <p>Said guidelines and regulations shall include the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Regular academic eligibility determinations similar to those required of the students within the Avon Grove School District.b. Compliance with the Disciplinary Policy and with directions and requirements of all teachers, coaches or administrators involved with the programs.c. Transportation to and from the schools for home educated students shall be the sole responsibility and expense of the home educated students.

- d. Home educated students shall come to school buildings solely for the purpose of participating in the programs and will leave the school building and property promptly when the program or event is completed, except to the extent of times when the public is generally admitted to school district property or buildings.
- e. Home educated students may only participate in programs offered in the school located in the attendance areas that home educated students would attend if they were enrolled in the Avon Grove School District and programs which are eligible for their similar grade level, except where programs which are located in other school buildings are otherwise open to Avon Grove Area School District students from schools located in the same attendance areas where the Home educated students reside.

For purposes of this section, interscholastic athletics is an activity and participation therein includes all activities related to competitive sports contests, games, events or exhibitions.

Where the activity requires completion of a physical examination or medical test as a condition of participation and where Avon Grove Area School District offers such physical examination or medical test to students enrolled in the school district, a child who is enrolled in a home education program may access such physical examination or medical test by notifying the Avon Grove administration in this regard. Dates of any such physical examinations or tests which are offered by Avon Grove Area School District will be published on the Avon Grove Area School District website.

A child who is enrolled in a home education program may not participate in curricular programs that are subject to the provisions of Section 1511 of the Pennsylvania School Code.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. §§1111, 511, 1327, 1327.1, 1511

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Chapter 4, Sec. 11.31a

Avon Grove School District Policies – 203, 209