

611 - HOME SCHOOLING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and provide guidelines in accordance with state law for parents who wish to have their children receive education in a home school that is an alternative to an accredited public or private school.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Compulsory Instruction law (Minn. Stat. §120A.22) provides that the parent or guardian of the child is primarily responsible for assuring that the child acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship. (Minn. Stat. §120A.22, subd. 1).

III. CONDITIONS FOR HOMESCHOOLING

The person in charge of a home school and the District must provide instruction and meet the requirements specified in Minn. Stat. §120A.22.

IV. IMMUNIZATION

The parent or guardian of a home schooled child shall submit statements as required by Minn. Stat. §121A.15, subds. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 12 on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form, to the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides by October 1 of the first year of home schooling in Minnesota and the Grade 7 year. (Minn. Stat. §121A.15, subd. 8).

V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, STANDARD TESTS

Upon formal request, as required by law, the District will provide textbooks (including a teacher's edition, guide or other materials that accompany a textbook when the edition, guide or materials are packaged physically or electronically with textbooks for student use), individualized instructional or cooperative learning materials (including teacher materials that accompany pupil materials), software or other educational technology and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home schooled child as provided in Minn. Stat. §123B.42 and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 3540. The District is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§123B.40-123B.48. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the District will, at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, make the electronic component accessible to a resident student provided that

the District does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

VI. PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES

Upon formal request, as required by law, the District will provide pupil support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home schooled child as provided by Minn. Stat. §123B.44 and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 3540. The District is not required to expend an amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§123B.40-123B.48 for any of these purposes.

VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Resident students who receive instruction in a home school (in which five or fewer students receive instruction) may fully participate in extracurricular activities of the District on the same basis as other public school students. (Minn. Stat. §§123B.36, subd. 1 and 123B.49, subd. 4).

VIII. SHARED TIME PROGRAM

Enrollment in class offerings of the school district.

- A. A home schooled child who is a resident of the school district may enroll in classes in the school district as a shared time pupil on the same basis as other nonpublic school students. The provisions of this policy shall not be determinative of whether the school district allows the enrollment of any pupils on a shared-time basis.
- B. The school district may limit enrollment of shared-time pupils in such classes based on the capacity of a program, class, grade level or school building. The school board and administration retain sole discretion and control over scheduling of all classes and assignment of shared time pupils to classes.

IX. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Activities

- 1. Minnesota State High School League-sponsored activities (in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school or the home school students are not residents of the district)

A home school that is a member of the Minnesota State High School League may request that the school district enter into a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as provided in Minnesota State High School League Bylaw 403.00. The approval of such an arrangement shall be at the discretion of the school board.

- a. The home school must become a member of the Minnesota State High School League in accordance with the rules of the Minnesota State High School League.
 - b. The home school is solely responsible for any costs or fees associated with its application for and/or subsequent membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
 - c. The home school is responsible for any and all costs associated with its participation in a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as well as any school district activity fees associated with the Minnesota State High School League activity.
2. Non-Minnesota State High School League activities in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school.

A home-schooled child may participate in non-Minnesota State High School League activities offered by the school district upon application and approval from the school board to participate in the activity and the payment of any activity fees associated with the activity. However, home school students may not be charged higher activity fees than other public school students. An approval shall be granted at the discretion of the school board.

B. Transportation Services

1. The school district may provide nonpublic nonregular transportation services to a home-schooled child.
2. The school board of the school district retains sole discretion and control and management of scheduling routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children and any other matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. §120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. §120A.24 (Reporting)

Minn. Stat. §120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Immunizations)
Minn. Stat. §123B.42 (Textbooks, Individual Instruction Material, Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. §123B.44 (Pupil Support Services)
Minn. Stat. §123B.49 (Extracurricular Activities)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident/Optioned In Students)
Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 510 (School Activities)
Policy 535 (Shared Time)

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Alexandria Public Schools - No. 206
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