



DR. ANTHONY AZAR
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DIGHTON~REHOBOTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
2700 REGIONAL ROAD
NORTH DIGHTON, MA 02764
(508) 252-5000; (508) 252-5024 FAX LINE
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KRISTIN DONAHUE
SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Home Schooling Procedure

In accordance with the Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 76, Section 1, the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District has established the following procedure relative to home schooling.

1. Prior to the academic year, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must file a written request of intent to take advantage of home schooling. The request should include the following: parent's name and address, student's name and grade for the upcoming school year, the course of study and curriculum to be utilized, the person providing the instruction along with his/her qualifications, the number of hours that instruction will be provided, and what method will be used to assess student progress.
2. The application will be reviewed by the Assistant Superintendent.
3. The Assistant Superintendent will recommend approval of the home schooling plan to the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District's School Committee.
4. Once approved, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive a letter of approval for home schooling from the Assistant Superintendent.
5. This procedure must be followed whether submitting an initial request for home schooling to continue home schooling for an addition year(s).
6. At the end of each school year, the parents must provide an update on the student's progress for that year.

The mission of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District, in partnership with parents and the community, is to provide students with the tools, including technology, to acquire knowledge, apply skills, critically analyze information and issues, and develop social responsibility.

Dighton-Rehoboth does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other legally protected group.



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APPLICATION FOR HOME SCHOOLING

Student's Name: _____

Grade as of September: _____

Age: _____ Sex: M ___ F ___

Name of School Student Would Be Attending: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: Home: _____ Work: _____

Person Providing Instruction: _____

Qualifications: _____

Subject Areas to Be Covered: _____

Curriculum to Be Utilized: (Please include textbook titles and lesson plans. If additional space is needed, please provide the information on a separate sheet of paper)

Number of Days and Hours of Instruction: _____

Method of Evaluation of Progress:

 Parent/Guardian Signature

 Date

 Approval of School Department

 Date

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State Law Covering Home Schooling

Compulsory Attendance: Annotated Laws of Massachusetts Chapter 76, 1, (Lawyers' Co-op. 1978).

Ages: 6 to 16 years of age

Days: number of days required by board of education, i.e., 180 days. Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 71, 1, 4 (Law. Co-op. 1978); Mass. Regs. Code tit. 603, - 27.01 (1986).

Subjects: orthography, reading, writing, English language and grammar, geography, arithmetic, drawing, music, history and constitution of United States, duties of citizenship, health (including CPR), physical education, and good behavior. Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 71, I (Law. Co-op. 1978).

Home School Statutes: None.

Alternative Statutes Allowing for Home Schools: Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 76, I (Law. Co-op. 1978). A "child who is otherwise being instructed in a manner *approved in advance* by the superintendent or the school committee".

- a) Approval standards say "school committees shall approve a private school when satisfied that the instruction in all the studies required by law equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town, but shall not withhold such approval on account of religious teaching. Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 76, I.
- b) A Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts case, ***Care and Protection of Charles***, 399 Mass. 324, 333-34, 504 N.E.2d 592, 598-99 (1987), ruled that parents have a right to educate their children at home, but it must be reconciled with the state interest in the education of its citizenry. According to ***Care and Protection of Charles***, the school committee must give parents an opportunity to explain their home school plan and present witnesses on their behalf. The school has the right to inquire in four areas:
 - 1) The school committee may examine the competency of the parents to teach their children, but may not require certification, advanced degrees or college degrees.
 - 2) The school committee must have access to textbooks and lesson plans, but "only to determine the types of subjects to be taught and the grade level of the instruction for comparison purposes with the curriculum of the public schools. The school committee or superintendent may "not dictate the manner in which the subjects will be taught." 504 N.E.2d at 602.

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- 3) Also, information on the number of hours and days (180) of instruction may be requested.
- 4) The school committee may require periodic standardized testing; the school authorities may decide where and with what test testing will be done, "in consultation with the parents. "Other means of evaluating the progress of the children, such as progress reports or home visits, may be substituted for the formal testing process, but only "subject to the approval of the parents." 504 N.E.2d at 601-02.

If a home school is rejected after seeking approval, the burden of proof shifts to the school authorities to show that the proposed home school instruction fails to equal "in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town." 399 Mass. at 338, 504 N.E.2d at 601. Home education is a "right protected by the Fourteenth Amendment." (598). The object of the statute is "that all children shall be educated, not that they shall be educated in any particular way." (600).

Teacher Qualifications: None

Standardized Tests: Optional. A neutral party should administer a test decided on by school authorities, at a place determined in consultation with the parents. (See 4 above).

The Home School Legal Defense Association, a tax-exempt legal foundation, is dedicated to preserving the right of parents to teach their children at home in all 50 states. For an annual membership fee of \$100, HSLDA will counsel member-families on how to handle school officials. Approximately 90% of all contacts with school districts and truant officers are resolved by HSLDA attorneys without going to court. If a member-family must go to court, HSLDA will hire a local attorney familiar with the constitutional defenses and education law and pay all attorney fees.

An investment in HSLDA is an investment in protecting the right of parents to teach their own children in each of the 50 states. For more information on how your family can join HSLDA, call or write to: HSLDA, PO Box 159, Paeonian Springs, VA 22129

NOTE: This is not intended to be and does not constitute the giving of legal advice

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