

HOME EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

The School Committee recognizes the right of parents to provide a home education alternative to public school for their child. This right is not absolute, but rather subject to reasonable regulation by the school district. Parents have the right to propose a home education alternative and the School Committee or Superintendent has the right, under Section I of Chapter 76 of Massachusetts General Laws, to approve or disapprove such plan. Such approval must be obtained in advance of its implementation. The application to provide home instruction must be renewed and approved annually.

In evaluating a proposed home education alternative, the school district will consider the following factors:

- The competency of the teachers. Though certification is not required, the presence or absence of the requirements that would lead to certification may be considered.
- The teaching of subjects required by state law, Chapter 71, Sections 1, 2, and 3, or regulations; and the manner in which they are taught so as to impart comparable knowledge as that in the local schools.
- The number of hours and days devoted to teaching to meet the time on learning requirements of the state.
- The adequacy of the texts, materials, methods and programs being used.
- The availability of periodic tests and measurement of the child's educational growth.

To be approved, any proposed home education alternative must include a periodic evaluation of the child's progress under guidelines and standards set by the School Committee to measure whether adequate educational progress has been made. Documentation of evaluation will be required at the end of each academic year.

A student who is being educated a home is not entitled to any special services from the Westfield Public Schools, including services contained in an Individual Education Plan or 504 Plan, in accordance with this policy. Should a parent subsequently choose to re-enroll a child previously eligible for special services in the Westfield Public Schools, a review meeting should be conducted with Special Services prior to the child's return to public school.

Adopted: March 21, 1989

Revised: December 19, 1994

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LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:1, 71:2, 71:3, 71:4, 71:38, 76:1, 76:2, 119:1-39;
Care and Protection of Charles, 399 Mass. 324