

HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY
HOME EDUCATION

The Hopkinton School Committee recognizes and respects the right of parents and or guardians to educate their child(ren) at home. The Committee appreciates the personal and cultural uniqueness of each family and desires to ensure that the process by which school officials approve and review home education programs is both lawful and equitable.

Parent(s) or guardian(s) planning to undertake a home education program for their six- through sixteen- year old child(ren) shall inform the Superintendent by completing the *Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education* (one per child) and submitting it to the Superintendent's Office. Incomplete applications will not be approved.

At the time of submission, the home educator should schedule an appointment with the Superintendent's Office. The purpose of this meeting will be to ensure that home educators and school administrators have a mutual understanding concerning the methods that will be used to assess student educational progress.

After initial approval, the parent or guardian need only provide an annual statement of intent to continue the home education program. This statement, along with the agreed- upon assessment(s) must be submitted annually, by August 31, to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

Home education programs will be considered in an equitable, objective, and timely manner. Factors that may be considered by the Superintendent in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal are:

1. The educational program including subjects and instructional materials. In order to meet the specific educational needs of their child(ren), the parent(s) or guardian(s) may adjust the material to achieve the goals of the educational program without further notification to the Superintendent's office.
2. The number of instructional hours to be provided in each subject.
3. The competency of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to teach the child(ren). Home educators need not be licensed as teachers.
4. A mutually agreeable method of assessment, which corresponds to the type of educational program being followed and may include standardized testing.

A student who is being educated in a home-based program within the Hopkinton Public School District shall have access to public school activities of an extra-curricular nature. Home-educated students participating in extra-curricular activities are subject to the same participation fees, state and local regulations, and district policies and procedures as enrolled students. Extra-curricular is defined as programs and activities that take place outside of the regular school educational

program, are ungraded and receive no academic credit. Examples would include, but not limited to: Open seats in Virtual High School or TEC, school assemblies/enrichment, and after school clubs.

If a student who has been educated at home under an approved program wishes to enroll in the Hopkinton Public Schools, the decisions on course credit and grade placement are to be made by the Superintendent on the basis of the home study course content and assessments of the student’s academic progress. A student, with the approval of the School Committee, may be awarded a high school diploma if he or she has satisfied the Department of Education’s competency requirements and has met the District’s educational standards for graduation.

First Reading	November 15, 2007, September 10, 2015
Second Reading	December 6, 2007, September 24, 2015
Third Reading	December 6, 2007, October 22, 2015
Adopted	December 6, 2007, October 22, 2015
Policy Amended	
Legal References	M.G.L. 69:1D; 76:1, Care and Protection of Charles – MASS. Supreme Judicial Court 399 Mass.324 (1987)
Policy Cross Reference	HHS/HMS Program of Studies, HPS School Handbooks, HPS Athletic Handbook, MIAA Policy Manual
Procedure Reference	IHBG-E1 Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Studies IHBG-E2 Information about access to school programs