

HOME EDUCATION

The Mansfield School Committee recognizes the right of parents or guardians to have a home education alternative to public school for their child. Parents/guardians have the right to propose a home education alternative, and the Superintendent has the right, under Section 1 of Ch. 76 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to approve or disapprove. Such approval must be obtained prior to implementation.

Parents/guardians planning to undertake a home education program for their child(ren) between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays will inform the Superintendent by completing the “Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education” form (one per child) and submitting it to the Assistant Superintendent or designee.

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

1. The academic background, life experiences and/or other qualities of those who will be instructing the child(ren), as they relate to the educational program. Home educators need not be certified teachers nor have diplomas or degrees.
2. An overview of the educational program that includes subjects to be taught and instructional materials to be used. In order to meet the specific educational needs of their child(ren), parent(s) or guardians(s) may adjust the material to achieve the goals of the educational program without further notification to the Superintendent’s office.
3. Statement concerning instructional hours to be followed.
4. A mutually agreeable method of assessment which corresponds to the type of education program being followed and may include one or more of the following:
 - a. Daily logs, journals, progress reports, portfolios or dated work samples;
 - b. An independent report made by someone acceptable to both the Superintendent and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the home schooled child(ren);
 - c. Standardized test results;
 - d. Consultation with the Superintendent or appropriate school principal;
 - e. Any other method agreed to by both the Superintendent and home educator(s).

A student being educated in a home-based program within the district, who requests access to public school activities of either a curricular or extra-curricular nature, will be afforded the opportunity to participate. Arrangements for such participation are to be in accordance with the generally accepted scheduling and eligibility procedures of the schools. A home education student’s participation in public school curricular activities will be specifically outlined in the proposed home education program approved by the District. That portion of the public school time will be counted towards the school’s total pupil enrollment for the academic year, and all provisions of public school procedures and policies will apply to the participating student during this time. 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

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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.

Students who participate in a home education program for all of grades 9-12 will not be eligible for a Mansfield High School Diploma.

Revised: September 12, 2016

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [69:1D](#); [76:1](#), Care and Protection of Charles
Care and Protections of Charles - MASS. Supreme Judicial Court 399
Mass. 324 (1987)