

HOME SCHOOLING

The Wareham Public Schools recognizes and respects the right of parent(s)/guardian(s) to educate their children outside of a school setting as provided by General Laws Chapter 76, Section 1. The law requires, however, that a child being educated outside of school must also be instructed in a manner approved, in advance, by the Superintendent or the School Committee. The Wareham Public Schools does not approve home education programs for anything less than a full time instructional program.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) planning to undertake a home school program for their child(ren) between their sixth and sixteenth birth date shall inform the Superintendent by completing the *Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education* form within fourteen days. This form is to be resubmitted annually before the school year begins.

Home education programs shall 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. Evidence that the proposed home education plan provides as structured learning time that equals in thoroughness and efficiency that of the Wareham Public Schoolsⁱ
2. 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 any diplomas or degrees.
3. An overview of the educational program that is to include subjects, instructional hours, school year calendar and daily schedule.
4. A description of curricula to be followed and the instructional materials and/or technology to be used. In order to meet the specific educational needs of their child(ren), the parent(s)/guardian(s) may adjust the materials to achieve the goals of the educational program without further notification to the Superintendent.
5. A mutually agreeable method of assessment, which corresponds to the type of educational program to be followed, may include one or more of the following:
 - a. daily logs, journals, progress reports, portfolios, or data work samples
 - b. independent report made by someone acceptable to both the Superintendent and parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - c. standardized test results
 - d. any other method agreed to by both the Superintendent and home educator(s)

A student being home schooled within the district shall be informed of, and have access to, public school activities of either an academic or extracurricular nature. Arrangements for such

participation are to be in accordance with the generally accepted scheduling procedures of the schools.

Failure of a home educator to abide in good faith by the procedures outlined above may result in the School Committee taking action under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, Section 2 and/or 4, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. CHINS (Child in Need of Services) proceedings pursuant to the Massachusetts General Law Chapter 119, Section 21, will not be invoked for any child pursuing a home education program.

***Legal References: M.G.L. Chapter 76, Sections 1, 2, and 4
Care and Protection of Charles & others, 399 Mass. 324 (1987)***

ⁱ *Care and Protection of Charles & others*, 399 Mass. 324 (1987): “Furthermore, G.L.c.76 s.1, specifically provides that” “For the purposes of this section, 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...”

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