

**NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS****HOME EDUCATION**

The Newburyport Public Schools recognizes and respects the right of parents or guardians to educate their child(ren) at home. The Newburyport School System 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 child(ren) between their sixth and sixteenth birthday shall inform the Superintendent by completing the Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education form and submitting it to the Superintendent's Office. At the time of submission, the home educator should schedule an appointment with the Superintendent. The purpose of this meeting will be to help ensure that the application is complete and that there is a mutual understanding of home educators and school administration concerning the methods that will be used to assess student educational progress. The home educator will also be informed about the possibilities for the home educated child to participate in non-core academic school programs, including extra-curricula activities. Information will also be provided in regard to borrowing surplus instructional materials from the schools and obtaining information about the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and local curriculum and program documents.

*A Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education* must be completed for each child in a family. After initial approval, the parent need only provide an annual statement of intent to continue the home education program. This statement, along with the agreed upon assessment 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. An overview of the educational program that includes 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. A statement concerning instructional hours that will be followed.
3. A mutually agreeable method of assessment which corresponds to the type of educational 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 parent(s) or guardian(s)
  - c) Standardized test results

- d) Consultations with the Superintendent or appropriate school principal
- e) Any other method agreed to by both the Superintendent and home educator(s).

Documentation must be provided to support a conclusion by the school administration that the above criteria are sufficiently met. Incomplete applications will not be approved.

The Newburyport Public Schools is ready to assist home educators by providing information about the District's curriculum and materials, by loaning surplus instructional materials, and by advising home educators about resources available through the Massachusetts Department of Education, including state *Curriculum Frameworks*.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the District shall be allowed to participate in activities of an extra-curricular nature consistent with state regulations and with the approval of the responsible school Principal. Home-educated students participating in interscholastic athletics must meet all requirements of the M.I.A.A. and must submit regular documentation of academic progress to the Principal that exceeds what is required to maintain a home school program in good standing. The plan for quarterly assessment of academic progress as required by M.I.A.A. must be approved by the Principal prior to a home-educated student's participation on an interscholastic team or in try-outs for an interscholastic team.

Read: School Committee Business meeting 1-22-07